

*“Ought ye not to know that the LORD God of Israel gave the Kingdom over Israel to David for ever, even to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt”*. The use of this term a covenant by salt underlines the importance of what has taken place. The exchange of salt grounds the proceedings in seriousness. Salt is necessary for people to eat, without it they will suffer and become sick, it is not found easily. The European salt mines run by the Celts was a source of great wealth. Salt was used in tanning as well as in their diet.

Common table salt is made up of Sodium Chloride and Potassium is often added as it is deficient in the diets of many people. Sodium is necessary for nerve signals including in the brain, you cannot think without it. It is also necessary in muscular contractions, regulating blood pressure and maintaining fluid balance. Too much salt in suspension will draw out the water from cells by the process of osmosis. That is why we cannot drink sea water to survive. Literally too much of a good thing. It is recognised that there are many minerals in sea water not just regular salt.

Salt in chemistry is anything formed through acid base neutralisation. Thus hydrochloric acid and ammonia when mixed together form salt and water. The salt formed is dependent on the acid and base which is used. Two extreme agents are neutralised by being turned into salt and water. Many chemical reactions used this process.

All elements have their uses, even radioactive chemicals are now used as a source of power, whereas before they just killed organic life, either quickly or slowly.

The Bible is not a chemical manual, but it does stay true to real science, not science falsely so called.

The covenant which God made with the man David is important. The promises made to King David form part of the gospel. Before the kingship was promised to him, the need for a special hero/leader was recognised and anticipated right from Eden. The God of Israel signalled him out from the tribe of Judah to be the sire of the Lion leader of God's people. From his sons would arise the Messiah, the seed of the woman who would crush the seed of the serpent in his head.

Numbers 18v19 There is another occasion where a covenant of salt is mentioned. In this context it is the tribe of Levi which had such a covenant cut with them. The two sides of the King/Priest hierarchy were kept apart into two distinct lines until the Only Begotten Son was made. Before that Judah had the line of kings and Levi the line of priests.

In Leviticus 2v13 it details that every meat/meal offering should be accompanied with salt. Salt is the basic mineral which is added to food to enhance taste and preserve its shelf life. When the offering was to be given to God, salt was required. It highlighted that although God was not hungry and never actually ate what was offered that the intention of the offering was to provide living sustenance. God is the author of life and needs no food from us, or anything else either, but He delights to see His children awake and aware to the issues of life. That they have taken notice of what He has put into place to keep them alive. This reciprocation is an acknowledgement of His balancing provision towards them, and that they are dependant of salt to live.

Colossians 4v6 *“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man”*. The idea behind this is to give thought to the entire digestion of what is being said not just the blunt substance of the headline idea. How we prepare food carefully to make it more palatable is not to be avoided but is a requirement. We don't just say to a child your mother is going to die get on with it! We consider how best to communicate the dire circumstances, seeking to empathise with the awkwardness and unpleasantness of the evil situation.

Our speech should also be based on the value and importance of what is life and death rather than the superficial distractions of human whim and entertainment.

Luke 14v24 *“Salt is good; but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned?”* How can salt lose its savour? The taste of salt goes when the salt is spread too thinly, or has already been used up. Like all things created it is a finite resource. This reminds us that meals we have prepared have a limited shelf life and will need to be remade regularly to feed others or the same people over and over again. We cannot just eat once and we are sated for ever. We are leaky vessels which cannot hold on to the treasure we have been granted without diligent application.

Mark 9v49,50 *“For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice is to be salted with salt. Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltiness, wherewith shall ye season it. Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.”* The obtaining of salt can be both an exothermic or endothermic reaction. Normal table salt is slightly endothermic so the water is cooled when the salt is deposited. This means to reverse it energy will be expelled but first the reaction needs energy to set off the reaction. The association of fire with salt is scientifically accurate. Salt will only burn once the correct high temperature is first reached. We are power kegs which can explode if pushed too far! Fire is a refining tool; it burns off the dross and allows the purity of the core to be seen. We need adversity to refine us, but not too much so we explode!

Matthew 5v13 *“Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is therefore good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”* Everything has purpose even the strong taste of salt which is unpleasant on its own but enhancing other foods and flavours when handled wisely has its place in the skills of the master chef.

If we fulfil no purpose to others what good are we? Let us provide them the salt of the true covenant, the promises to David and Levi bound together in God's grace. Jeremiah 33 v20 – 22. Let us craft our words carefully to allow others to see the enhancement to their taste, as God has made us in a particular way, not the bitterness of plain salt.