

The Salt Covenant

by Ray DeLea

Numbers 18:19-20 “Everything sanctified and offered by the Israelites to Me, I am giving to you and your sons and your daughters as a perpetual decree. This is a binding agreement for all time—a covenant of salt, made in the presence of Me and preserved for you and your descendants after you.” (VOICE)

You no doubt have heard of the Adamic, Edenic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic, and the New Covenants. But what is this Salt Covenant? From the time of Adam, the most common way the average person could preserve food was using salt. This is likely the reason why God, in His promise to always preserve the priestly tribe of Levi, labeled it a “permanent covenant of salt.”

Salt was considered indestructible in fire. Under ancient Israel’s sacrificial system, it was a critical element in offerings made to the Lord. It was mandatory for all offerings (Leviticus 2:13, Ezekiel 43:24). It symbolized the eternal and indestructible covenant God made with his people. Salt also impedes the action of yeast (leaven) on food. As you are probably well aware, leaven symbolizes sin, a rebellious attitude, and the ability to negatively in-

fluence others (1 Corinthians 5, Galatians 5:9). The Salt Covenant also represent the preservation and maintenance of purity in a world full of corruption. God’s Salt Covenant is an agreement that is meant to endure regardless of the circumstances. It is a symbol of an unbreakable friendship and alliance with God that was meant to be preserved. A Salt Covenant with God is solid, unbreakable and everlasting. So what does that have to do with you? God has made you a king and a priest (Revelation 1:6). You are part of a Royal Priesthood and a people for God’s own possession (1 Peter 2:9). You are a Living Stone being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood (1 Peter 2:5). God has called you one of His priests and ministers (Isaiah 61:6). God will preserve you. God will preserve your family. God will preserve ALL that He has entrusted you with. Building on His Father’s Salt Covenant, Jesus has left you with the Holy Spirit. He has given you the opportunity to be filled, not just once but continually, with the Holy Spirit so that NO leaven creeps in and corrupts what The Father has covenanted to preserve. In a society that is becoming more and more like the days of Noah, that is indeed Good News.



picture of what Jesus looked like on the cross.

Consider, if you will, a few of the descriptive words Jesus’ allowed Himself to be subjected to for your redemption from Psalm 22, Isaiah 52, and Isaiah 53.

Forsaken
Scorned
Despised
Poured out
Out of joint
A heart like wax
Laughed at
Mocked
Dried up
Made an offering for sin
Regarded as a criminal
Rejected
Disfigured
Became a curse for you

Hands and feet pierced
Lots cast for his clothes
No form
No comeliness (royalty)
A Man of sorrows
Acquainted with grief
Acquainted with sickness
Bore your griefs
God bruised Him
God put Him to Grief
God made Him sick
Bore the sin of many
Did not look like a man
Made to be sin for you

Carried your sorrows
Carried your pain
Wounded for you
Bruised for you
Beaten for your healing
Oppressed
Afflicted
Led to slaughter
Suffered without a word
Cut off from the living
A grave with the wicked
Numbered with the transgressor
Did not resemble a human beings
Pierced for your transgressions

Why did God the Father and the Holy Spirit allow God’s only Son to take on human flesh and be subjected to all of what is described in Psalm 22, Isaiah 52, Isaiah 53 and a host of other Scriptures? A one word answer would be love, but that is far too simple. He did more to just seek and save the lost. What could possibly motivate God to send his Son to mankind? It wasn’t because of anything lovely in us. God made it clear that his choice of Israel was not based on them being any better than the nations around them: “It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers” (Deuteronomy 7:7–8). God loves his people because he loves them and chose to make a covenant with them. This is the closest to a direct answer the Bible gives as to why God loved us enough to send Jesus. But we can also make some inferences from other biblical truths. God’s number one priority is to display His glory, He created human beings in His image to reflect that glory (Genesis 1:26–31). Because of our sin we have fallen short of reflecting God’s glory as we should (Romans 3:23). Therefore, God sent His son Jesus as “the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation” (Colossians 1:15). Through His life of perfect obedience, His sacrificial death on the cross for our sins, and His resurrection from the dead, Jesus began to restore the fullness of God’s image in us.

God’s love for us is at some level rooted in our identity as His image-bearers. By sending His son Jesus to dies for our sins, God is working to restore the radiance of His own glory shining in and through us. The apostle John captures this reality well when he writes: “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. We are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. Everyone who hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure” (1 John 3:2–3).

Jesus’s death in our place is of first importance and was in accordance with the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3). His death fulfills the old covenant sacrifices—the sin offering, the Passover lamb, and the scapegoat of the Day of Atonement. He’s the Suffering Servant who was “pierced for our transgressions.” All three persons of the Trinity are fully involved in our redemption: “Christ offered himself through the eternal Spirit to God” (Hebrews 9:14). The Father is the architect, the Son the accomplisher, and the Spirit the applier of the atonement. Christ’s death puts beyond all doubt the fact that God loves us. “I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Galatians 6:14).

