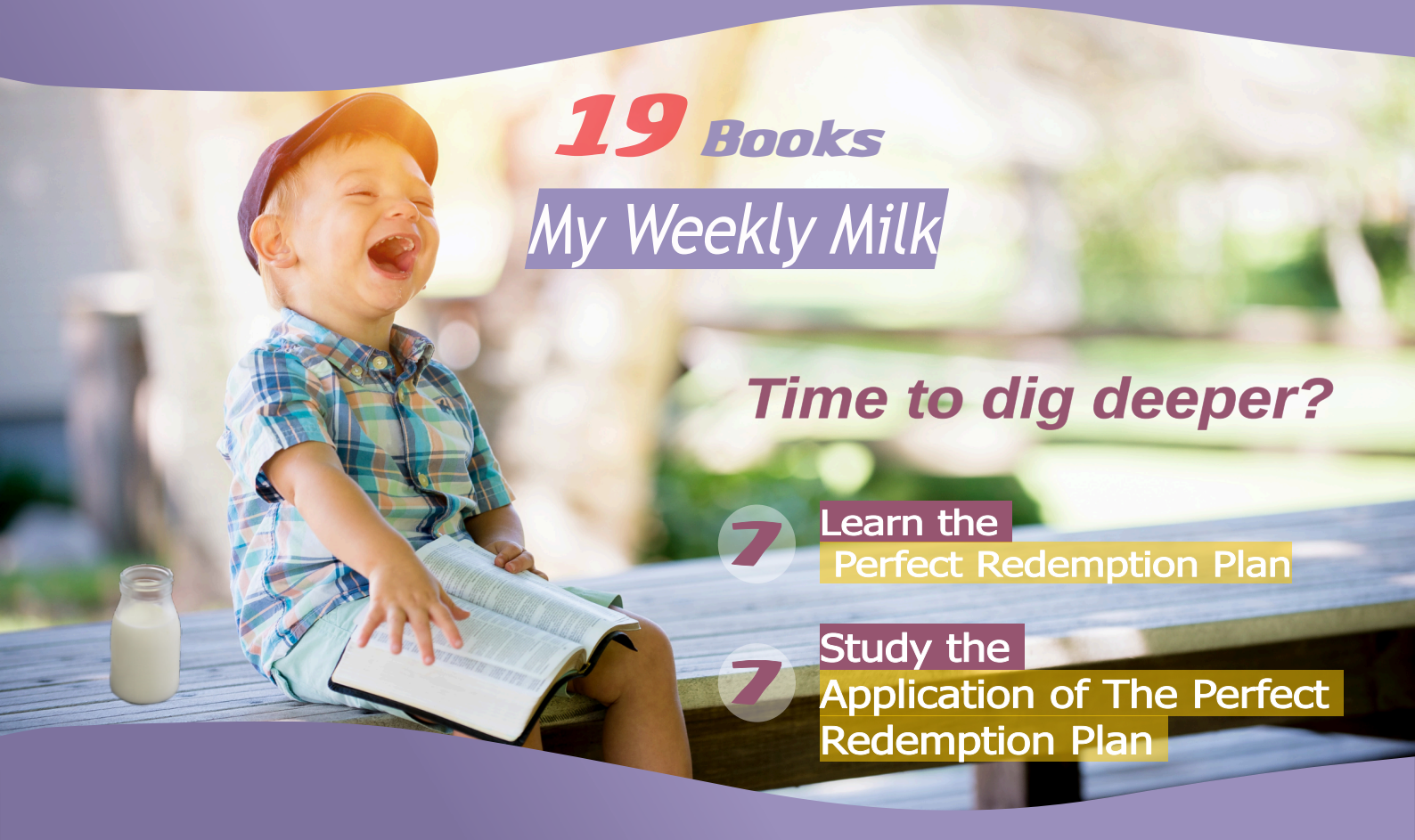


19 my weekly Milk Series

You are the Salt of the World

HOP HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS FAN



19 Books

My Weekly Milk

Time to dig deeper?

7 Learn the Perfect Redemption Plan

7 Study the Application of The Perfect Redemption Plan

Contents

CONTENTS

1. Salt is used to season food. 1

2.The covenant of salt for offering 2

3. Salt preserves and cures. 2

4. The Will of God, the Work of God 3

5. Salt melts the ice. 4

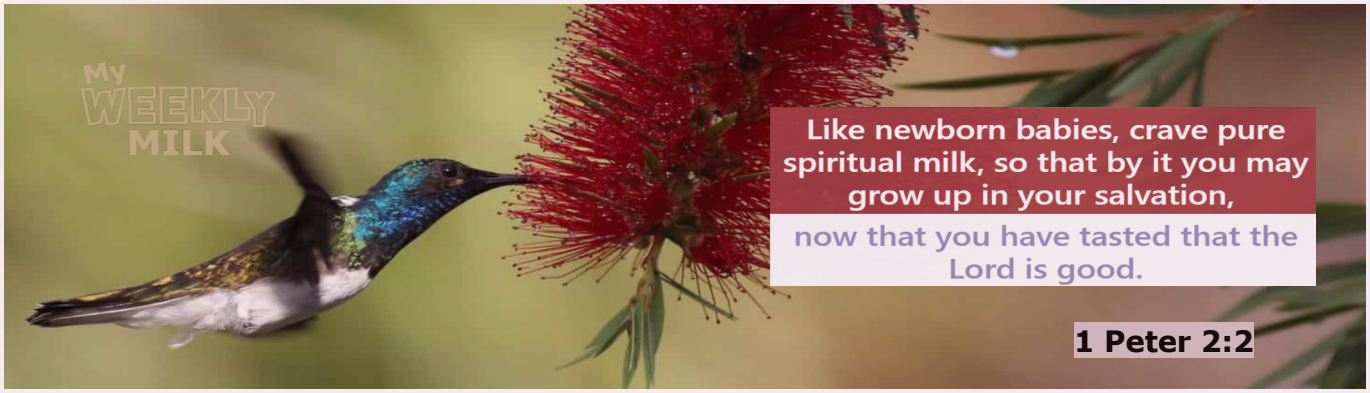
6. Perpetual Covenant: God provides for his priests and servants. 5

7. Perpetual covenant: God gave the Kingdom of Israel to David. 5

8. Salt is a token of loyalty and protection. 6

9. Salt is a token of truthfulness and loyalty. 8

10. Salt a token that the marriage is a perpetual covenant. 9



Introduction to My Weekly Milk - Bible Studies

Where one can be fed with the milk of the word of God, be stirred up in the spirit and filled with spiritual strength to face the challenges we might encounter during the week and come out victorious.

We should forward this "My weekly milk" to as many people as we think it might bless.



Remember the Bible has the final authority, therefore brethren, whatever you read in this letter, be like the Christians of Berea who went back and checked in the scriptures if it was so.

These Bible studies are written and recorded for everyone who wants to learn the true Word of God in order to build themselves up in faith, enabling them to stand and not fall when the storms of life come their way. You will be taught what you receive when you become born again by Jesus' death burial and resurrection and the authority you have been given to fulfil the will of God on earth. And as you learn this, you will realise what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power. You will be a true disciple by the time you have finished them.

We all read and hear the same promises of God contained in the Bible. But the manifestations or fulfilment of them in our life is based on our obedience to the conditions attached to each one of those promises. Unfortunately, some Christians are disobedient and only think they can "claim it and grab it" and they end up frustrated.

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience.

Hebrews 4:1- 2, 6

Truth be told, God can veto your unbelief, provided you obey the conditions attached to the manifestation or fulfilment of that particular promise.

For what if some did not believe (including myself, yet I obey God's commands in spite of my unbelief)? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. Romans 3:3-4.

If we are faithless or unbelieving, (provided we obey what God commanded us to do) He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. 2 Timothy 2:13

Some Christians think they can twist God's arm with their sacrifices: long fasts, long prayers on their knees, generous and sacrificial giving of money. All those we ought to do, yet as long as we are disobedient concerning the conditions attached to the fulfilment of that particular promise, our sacrifices are in vain.

So Samuel said: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams - For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king." I Samuel 15:22-23

In the entire Old Testament, the word FAITH is only mentioned TWICE.

--The first time is in Deuteronomy 32:20

And He said: 'I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end will be, For they are a perverse generation, Children in whom is No FAITH.

Here God was referring to the fact that He gave them commands to follow through Moses, and the moment Moses went up onto the mountain, to them it seemed like God had hidden His face, for they could not see Moses physically, so they made a golden calf, thus breaking God's commands. And the moment they had hardship in their wilderness life, they sinned sexually against God, and raised other leaders instead of Moses. God had to send those leaders Dathan, Korah and Abiram to hell in Numbers 16 and 18.

According to Moses, a Child of God has NO FAITH in a particular promise of God, whenever they disobey the commands or instructions of God attached to the fulfilment of that particular promise.

-- The second time is in Habakkuk:

I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am CORRECTED. Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; but the JUST shall live by his FAITH. Habakkuk 2:1-4

Habakkuk was expecting God to give him instructions or commands, and to correct him in his ways and thoughts, as written in Isaiah 55:9-11, so that as he blindly followed those instructions or commands written down, he would see the manifestation or fulfilment of the God given vision.

Therefore according to Habakkuk the just or the righteous has FAITH, or lives by FAITH, whenever they simply obey the commanded instructions and corrections the Lord prescribed, in order to see the fulfilment of that particular promise contained in that vision.

Apart from those two times, no mention of faith is made again in the Old Testament, for they understood that it is simply to do God's word obediently.

That is why Moses told us the secret of having all those blessed promises in our life, saying: - "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God: Deuteronomy 28:1-2

Your confession of the word of God is worth nothing, until you deliberately decide to act on what you have been confessing. You can show God and men that you have faith by what you are doing, not merely by what you are saying.

But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. James 2:18

We show God and people our faith by our works or obedience to the word of God.

Faith is not a feeling or an emotion. In fact you can be crying, trembling and fearful as you are obeying that particular command or instruction from God that conditioned the manifestation of that promise. That's why throughout the Bible God says 366 times - fear not, do not be afraid: for each day of the year God says to you - trust Me, I am not a liar, fear not - only obey and I the Lord will be faithful to watch over My word and perform it Jeremiah 1:12.

FAITH is simple, it has to do with obeying God's word concerning a particular promise. As you read the Bible and the thousands of promises contained in it, you will start noticing a small word: IF- Either before the promise or just after the promise that is the condition to fulfil. Go and obey it and God will do the same thing in your life, stop deceiving yourself, claiming the promise when you do not obey the conditions, nor intend to obey them at any time.

You will also start noticing a second small word : WHEN. You will discover that as far as God is concerned those blessings are already yours, all His promises in Christ Jesus He has already said yes and so be it in your life.
2 Corinthians1:20.

God is not trying to make up His mind to give them to you, He already gave them to you. They will be manifested or fulfilled on earth in your life, when you start obeying God's word, to meet the requirements attached to each one of those promises.

That is the purpose of the My Weekly Milk Bible studies, we tell you your part to play to see the manifestation of the promises of God in your life, so that you stop living a frustrated Christian life, thinking that God has some favourite children. No, He has no favourite according to Acts 10:34-35.

Presented to you by
Gery Malanda

HOPFAN FOR ALL NATIONS HOUSE OF PRAYER





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You are the Salt of the World



Our scriptures are the following:

Matthew 5:13 You are the salt of the earth: but if the salt loses its savour or flavour, how shall it be salted or seasoned? It is then good for nothing, but to be thrown out, and trampled underfoot by men.

Mark 9:49 For everyone shall be salted or seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted or seasoned with salt.

Mark 9:50 Salt is good: but if the salt loses its saltness or flavour, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.

Luke 14:34Salt is good: but if the salt has lost its savour, how shall it be seasoned?

Luke 14:35 It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He, who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer every man.

We have all heard countless times about this phrase: we are the salt of the earth. But what is the understanding that the disciples had when they heard it from the mouth of Jesus? One thing we must understand: Jesus and his disciples did not live in the 21st century. We must put ourselves in the shoes of the people of the 1st century, and understand this saying according to their everyday life and their customs.

1. Salt is used to season food.

We use salt to render food palatable or agreeable to the taste. But the question we ask is: agreeable to the taste of whom? The answer is simple, to God's taste first, before men's taste. If the food is not agreeable to the taste of God, but agreeable to the taste of men; we discard men's taste and stick with God's taste.

But what kind of food are we talking about here? Jesus said, my food is to do the will of the Father who sent me and to finish His work (John 4:34). This is the food that is agreeable to the taste of God or savoury to God. Isaac who represents the Father said: make me a savoury food such as I love, that my soul may bless you (Genesis 27:4). When he had received that savoury food, then he blessed Jacob. Jesus also, when He had done the will of God, and finished his work; for He said on the cross it is finished. God glorified him with the glory he had before the world existed.

Just like Jacob brought the savoury food to Isaac his father, Jesus too, by doing the will of the Father and finishing his work, had salt in his food. It was a savoury food just like the Father loves it. Jesus did not salt or season his food to be agreeable to the taste of men, but of God. Even when Peter told him not to

go to the cross, He rebuked him sharply: get behind me Satan! For the Christ ought to have suffered these things and then enter into his glory (Luke 24:26). Let us do the will of God who sent us, and finish his work, because as the Father sent Jesus into the world, so Jesus sent us into the world, to be the salt of the world just like him (John 17:18). Let us have salt in ourselves by so doing.

2.The covenant of salt for offering

The covenant of salt designates a perpetual covenant between two parties. The first time it is mentioned in the bible is in Leviticus 2:13, it is written: and every oblation (anything offered or presented in worship or sacred service) of your meat offering, you shall season with salt; neither shall you suffer or allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your meat offering: with all your offerings you shall offer salt.

We are to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable or fully agreeable to God, which is our reasonable service (Romans 12:1). In other words, Paul was telling the church that whatever they do with their body, and in the service of God, must be fully agreeable to the taste of God, it must be a savoury food to God. We are always trying to please God, not men. If we do things that are agreeable to God; our sacrifices and services have salt in them, and they are agreeable to God. Just like they were told that salt should not lack in their oblation, we should always do things God's way.

The reason why God called it a covenant of salt: was to send us a message that it was a perpetual covenant. Forever it will be God's standard. If it were so for our fathers in the faith, God is expecting us to have salt in us today. Everything we do must be agreeable to God.

3. Salt preserves and cures.

We live in a corrupt world, even when there is no corruption in us but the corruption outside can affect us. Let us think of meat in the market: though it has just been slaughtered, the flies come and alight on it, hence depositing bacteria and viruses collected from other dead meats in putrefaction on it. And we know that putrefaction is greatly accelerated by heat and moisture (moderate degrees of wetness).

Men of old did not have refrigerators to preserve their meat, fish or vegetables. The meat, the fish or vegetables, that they could not eat that day, they would salt them to dry them. Salt has the property of removing water out of food. By removing the water, it stops the putrefaction process. The more salt we add onto the food, the more the drainage process is accelerated. The heat and the moisture that was accelerated by putrefaction or corruption of the food, is stopped when salt is added to the food. Thus, the food is preserved, and if the putrefaction had started, it is stopped when the salt is added.

In the same manner when we have salt in us, the water which can be equated to the words of the world, or the ways of the world, are taken out of us. The corruption or putrefaction that was in us, because of the ways of the world, is stopped.

On dunghills, refuse (rubbish) and refuse dumps, salt was thrown to stop the putrefaction. Salt would drain water out of them, hence stopping the putrefaction. We have established that the savoury food, or

seasoned food or salted food, is to do the will of God who sent us, and to finish His work. But how can we do the will of God, if we do not know it? How can we finish His work, if we do not know what his work is?

4. The Will of God, the Work of God

In John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, this is the work of God, that you believe on him whom he has sent. Before doing any work for God, we must do the first work, which is to believe in his son Jesus, whom he has sent. We believe in God, we must also believe in Jesus. If a person is not born again, he has not yet done the first work of God. The first work is repentance toward God the Father, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21). If one has done it, then he has done the first work of God.

But where can we find the will of God? The will of God can be found in the bible, that is why it is called the Old and the New Testaments. A testament is the will of a deceased person. Hence Jesus died to give us this will of the Father. There are no short cuts to knowing the Father's will, but to read it first. If we want to do the will of the Father and to finish his work; we must start by reading it, and believing in Jesus. For all that is contained in the will of the Father, talks about Jesus, and we can only have a revelation of that will, when we come to Christ (John 5:39; 2 Corinthians 3:15-16).

The will of God or word of God, can be likened to the salt in us, the more of the will of God we have in us, the less corruption or putrefaction we will experience. That is why Jesus told us to have salt in ourselves (Mark 9:50). The word of God in us will act like the salt on the meat. Jesus said, my flesh is meat indeed (John 6:55). In the same manner our flesh is meat, that we present as a living sacrifice to God.

We must have salt in us, the word of God abiding in us, to stop the corruption or putrefaction that is trying to affect us. If we have that word abiding is us, then we can live it out: do the will of the Father who sent us and finish the work. Whatever Jesus tells us to do we do it (John 2:5; John 15:14). For He will not speak or teach of Himself; but as the Father speaks to Him and teaches Him, He delivers it to us (John 8:26-28). Thus what Jesus commands us to do, never contradicts the will of God or violates the will of the Father, contained in the bible.

Just like in the natural, the more salt we put onto the meat, the faster the putrefaction is stopped. If we put salt before the putrefaction even starts, the meat will never experience it; on the contrary it will be preserved for a long period of time. In the same way, let us have the word of God in us, before any corruption starts heading our way. If we already have the salt in us (the word of God abiding richly in us) when the flies which carry that corruption alight on us, it will not affect us because we are already dry and full of salt. The ways of the world that once were in us, have already been drained out of our flesh.

The water that comes out of the meat when salt is added, can be equated to the ways of the world. We know that it is the combination of moisture and heat that accelerates the putrefaction. The introduction of salt eliminates the moisture in the meat, thus decelerates the decay of the flesh or its corruption. But when we couple the word of God in us with our faith or belief in Jesus: the bright and morning star, the Sun of Righteousness (Revelation 22:16, Malachi 4:2), He causes all the moisture to evaporate and the meat becomes dry, full of salt, no corruption can affect us anymore. For as Jesus is so are we in this world, since His flesh was meat indeed, and he had salt in

himself, so are we when we believe in Christ (1 John 4:17).

We are the salt of the world now that we are in Christ; the same life that was in Christ, is now in us through the Holy Spirit, whom the Father gave us. When He died, we died with him to our sinful nature, to our corruption; our old man was crucified with Him (Romans 6:6). When He rose from the dead, we were resurrected with him; our corrupted body was buried, and the one we have is full of the spirit of God, to live victorious, a life above sin and corruption, through Christ Jesus.

Now that we are just like Jesus in this world, the salt of the world, we are to stop the putrefaction of this world. The world around us is like a dunghill or refuse, it is full of rubbish. The prayers and the worships of the saints are sometimes tasteless to God, since they do not season those sacrifices with salt, or they do not have salt in themselves. Before God receives the prayers, sacrifices, offerings, praises and worships of a person, that person must first be accepted by God. In other words that person must have salt in himself, his flesh must be salted.

Abel and Cain brought offerings to the Lord, God respected Abel and his offering, but did not respect Cain and his offering (Genesis 4:4-5). We can see that the Lord considered with respect, and estimated the person of Abel, before receiving his offering. The Lord also says in Malachi 2:13-14 that He does not regard or respect the offering, of the person who deals treacherously with his wife. God wants to see some salt in our life, like in the life of Abel; we cannot live anyhow, and expect to bribe God with our offering. Israel put salt into their offering, but they failed to understand that it was a token of the salt that was to be in their life.

We are to go back into the world, and give people the salt that is in us, to stop the putrefaction in our churches, at work, in our communities, and in our homes. Give the world a savoury taste, because our flesh has been seasoned with salt; that they too may want to have the salt that is in us.

5. Salt melts the ice.

During winter when the roads are covered with black ice or snow, they put salt on the roads to melt it. The world around us is also in a spiritual winter, people are cold spiritually, and some of them are spiritual icicles, because iniquity and wickedness have abounded in their lives, therefore their love has waxed cold too (Matthew 24:12).

We are to go out there to those, in whom God's kind of love has waxed cold, or even become an icicle, and bring them the salt of the love of God that is in us. For when we became born again, the love of God was shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Spirit of God, who was given to us (Romans 5:5). Not just to cause their icy heart to defrost, but to warm it with the love of God. To let them know about the love of God that will cause them to come out of their winter season.

That they do not have to remain frozen in that state of iniquity, that God so loves them, that He gave His son to die for them, that they should not remain in that condition (John 3:16). They too can experience the warmth of the love of God shed abroad in their hearts, if they care to come to the Father through Jesus. God is pleased with us when we, being the salt of the world, cause some icy people to melt, and experience the warmth of the love of God.

6. Perpetual Covenant: God provides for his priests and servants.

The second time the covenant of salt was mentioned, was in Numbers 18:19, it was a covenant that God made with the Levites to give them the meat of the heave offering, that the children of Israel offered to God. The salt preserves meat for a long time; hence God was telling the Levites, that this covenant that I have made with you, to provide food for you and your children because you serve me; will last as long as the Levitical priesthood exists.

Today you and I brethren are priests and our priesthood is not of the Levitical order, for our High Priest Jesus is not from the tribe of Levi but of Judah. His priesthood is of the order of Melchisedec, and not Aaron (Hebrews 5:10). When we received Christ, we became priests. Our priesthood is from Judah, which means praise and not Levi. We no longer offer sacrifices of bulls and goats, but offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name (Hebrews 13:15).

God is still the same yesterday, today and forever, just as He covenanted to provide for the priests of the Levitical priesthood and their children, He also covenanted with the blood of Jesus, to provide for the new Judaical priesthood. David from the tribe of Judah could say: I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread (Psalm 37:25).

The hired servants of God have enough bread, and to spare, or in excess, and God will not allow us to hunger or famish (Luke 15:17; Proverbs 10:3). But we are not hired servants; we are sons and daughters who are serving our Father. He has better things in store for us than hired servants. He will cause our cup to run over (Psalm 23:5). Furthermore the Lord said: And I will satiate, fill beyond natural desires, the soul of the priests with fatness or abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, says the LORD (Jeremiah 31:14).

It was a covenant between God and His priests, they had to serve Him and intercede for Israel, and God would provide for them. Today as priests of the New Judaical priesthood, we are to serve God and intercede for people around us. God will do His part of the covenant by providing for us like He promised.

7. Perpetual covenant: God gave the Kingdom of Israel to David.

The third time, the covenant of salt was mentioned, was when God said he gave the kingdom of Israel for ever to David in 2 Chronicles 13:5. We will not dwell on that promise long, because it is not the main subject of our study today. But basically, God told David that He gave the kingdom of Israel over to him and his sons forever.

This promise was fulfilled when Jesus, the son of David, who is the king of kings, sat at the right hand of God in heaven, and will be fulfilled on earth when Jesus comes back to rule the world from Jerusalem. But does this promise only concern the natural Israel? David was the type of Jesus, David means Beloved, and God will refer to Jesus as His beloved son, in whom he is well pleased (Matthew 3:17). When Jesus died on the cross; He made the two peoples, the Jews and Gentiles, one new man in his flesh (Ephesians 2:15). He is both King of the Jews and of the Gentiles.

When we are in Christ, we become kings, for he has made us a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). The kingdom and the dominion of our King of kings, Jesus, is without end, it is forever and ever (Isaiah 9:7). We can rest assured that our royalty has no end, no one can take it away from us, it is our birth-right, when we became born again we were born kings. As kings we can decree things and it will be established (Job 22:28). Our words have power because God has made us kings, and where the word of a king is, there is power (Ecclesiastes 8:4). So let us be careful about what we are saying, for all the hosts of heaven are ready to carry out the decrees that proceed forth from our mouth.

We have dominion over the earth and all the things in it, whatever we bind on earth is bound in heaven, and whatever we loose on earth is loosed in heaven (Matthew 16:19). In other words, if we understand our authority as kings, nothing would be happening to us unless we have approved it. We would rebuke all the storms that are heading our way and loose peace. We would command the mountains to be removed and cast into the sea, and they will obey us, because we are kings, and our words have power. Not our own power, but the delegated power invested in us, by the King of kings.

8. Salt is a token of loyalty and protection.

In the Middle East and India, it was customary and still is in some areas, to welcome people into the home, by offering them salted food. When a visitor was offered bread and salt or butter milk, it signified that the host and the visitor had pledged or covenanted loyalty and protection between them. As long as the visitor is in the house or land of the host, the host had sworn to protect him and to be loyal to him. If there is a danger or an attack: the host is willing to give his own belongings or life, before touching anything that belongs to the visitor.

The visitor will turn all his belongings and treasures to the host while he is under his roof, the host will make sure that nothing is lost and will return everything to the visitor when he is about to depart.

In Genesis 18:8 Abraham offered butter and milk to the two angels and the Lord that came to visit him. We are the salt of the world; we must be loyal and protect people who trust us.

Unfortunately, today in Christendom, when it comes to money, we cannot trust some brethren. If you entrust your belongings or treasures to them, you will never get them back. They borrow from people and they never give it back. They use people's services, and never pay them. God said: I desire loyalty or faithfulness and not sacrifices (Hosea 6:6). We think sometimes that we can bribe God with our offerings, when we have not been loyal or faithful to what we said we should do. God is saying our riches are corrupted or putrefied, as meat without salt undergoes putrefaction, when we keep back by fraud what we owe people who have worked for us or lent us money (James 5:2-4).

As the salt of the world, we must be men and women of our words, our yes must be yes and our no must be no (James 5:12). Loyalty or faithfulness must be part of us. Many unsaved people are put off from the faith, because they met some believers who extorted money from them. They were in business with a believer and the believer did not pay them, or lent money to a believer and the believer is giving excuses not to pay back.

Being the salt of the world, means we must be people of our words. Just like the visitor

who comes into that house, would trust the loyalty and protection of his host, he knows his belongings and treasures are safe with the host. Likewise, people must be able to trust us with their belongings, treasures, and wages, so that it will not be a problem for us to give back what has been committed to our trust.

During the meal it was customary to dip bitter herbs into salted water. They used to have one big dish in the middle, where they were all reclining. Pieces of meat would be in that big dish; each one would be using his bread as a spoon to eat. It was not well seen to eat with your own dish; you were separating yourself from the perpetual covenant or covenant of salt. You were sending a message that I am not with you in that covenant.

Be it a covenant of friendship, or a family covenant, or peace and protection between the two parties. If you do not eat from the same dish, you are not part of the covenant: you are saying I am not your friend, I am not your brother, I am not your sister, I am not at peace with you, I am not loyal to you, I do not think that you are trustworthy, I am not going to protect you and your possessions, I will not be faithful to you, etc.

And sometimes during the meal the host or the master of the house, would leave his bread aside, and take a piece of meat from the big dish with his hand, and put it into the mouth of the visitor or friend. It signified that he loved that person like himself; there is nothing that he will not do for himself, that he cannot do for that visitor or friend. That person was more than a brother to him; he would even give his life for the sake of that visitor or friend. That is why the husband or the wife would feed each other. He or she is saying that he or she so loves his or her spouse even as himself or herself (Ephesians 5:33); that he or she loves his or her spouse as his or her own flesh, that is why he or she nourishes and cherishes it(Ephesians 5:28-29).

Therefore it is written in Mark 14:18-20 and as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you who eats with me shall betray me. And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, is it I? And another said, is it I? And he answered and said unto them, it is one of the twelve, who dips with me in the dish.

Judas was eating with all the others from the same dish; he was pretending to be in a covenant of salt, or a perpetual covenant with Jesus and the other disciples; that he was loyal and truthful with them; pretending that they were safe with him. But he broke that covenant of salt when he betrayed Jesus, when he sold Him for silver; when he led the soldiers to the garden to arrest Jesus.

But Jesus knowing that Judas would break that covenant of salt, did not hate him but still loved him. In John 13: 26-27 Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop or piece of bread, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop, Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, what you do, do quickly.

Jesus fed Judas to let him know that though you have decided to break the covenant of salt by betraying me, by selling me for silver, I will still love you Judas, you will still be my friend, and I am still willing to lay down my life for you. My love for you Judas is unconditional. But Judas failed to respond to the love of Jesus, he went ahead and betrayed Jesus.

Jesus showed us the true example of how to be the salt of the world. He overcame evil with good (Romans 12:21). He fed his enemy Judas, who was hungry, he entrusted Judas with the money of the ministry, even though he knew that Judas was stealing it. Jesus

never broke his covenant of salt with Judas. We should learn from Jesus, and do our part, regardless of what the other party is doing. Let them act like Judas, but we will still love them unconditionally.

9. Salt is a token of truthfulness and loyalty.

It was customary to rub salt on a newly born baby, indicating that the parents intended to raise him to be truthful and loyal, acknowledging the covenant of salt in the baby's life, or a perpetual covenant: as long as the individual lives, he must be truthful and loyal.

In Ezekiel 16:4 the Lord said: and as for your nativity, on the day you were born, your navel was not cut, neither were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not salted or rubbed with salt at all, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths at all.

The baby being wrapped in swaddling cloths, was also one of their customs, to indicate that the parents had promised to bring up the child to be straight in all his ways. They would wrap the cloths around the baby, in order to make his limbs straight. This was done 15 minutes or 30 minutes after the baby's birth. It tells us that the shepherds came shortly after the birth of Jesus, because the angel told them they will see the baby wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger (Luke 2:12). The parents of Jesus, being Jews where making that promise to bring Jesus up to be straight in all his ways, not like that generation of vipers whose ways were crooked.

The salt was rubbed onto the baby skin to make it smooth, the parents, by so doing, indicated that the ways of the baby shall be smooth ways and not rough ways. The baby, as he grows up, will be a truthful and loyal person, having smooth ways. God had a problem with Israel, they walked by human precepts and not God's (Hosea 5:11). So God told them their navel was not cut, that is the reason they always backslide, they were bent on backsliding from the Lord (Hosea 11:7). Solomon was so disappointed by Israel, that he said the crooked ways of Israel cannot be made straight (Ecclesiastes 1:15).

Brethren, there is a better hope concerning you and I, for our covenant is on better promises. When we were born again: our spiritual navel was cut, we were washed with water to cleanse us, we were spiritually rubbed with salt and we were wrapped in swaddling cloths. One might ask when did all that happen? Once upon a time we were born in sin, with the Adamic sinful nature, we could not help it but sin. Sin had dominion over us; the navel was never cut from the sinful nature of Adam.

We were not cleansed from our blood, were never rubbed with salt and our limbs were never wrapped in swaddling cloths. Hence we could not help it, but to have crooked ways and rough ways; never truthful or loyal to God's ways, will and precepts. Thanks be to God, that Jesus, who has power to make our crooked ways straight, and the rough places smooth, has come into our life. We do not have to be like backsliding Israel, who was bent on backsliding from the Lord.

When we were born again, God translated us from the power of darkness and its dominion over us, into the kingdom of His dear Son Jesus (Colossians 1:13). The navel was cut off; we are no longer fuelled by our old nature or old man or Adamic nature; the old man or sinful nature is dead, and was crucified with Christ; the life that we now live, we live by the power of God (2 Corinthians 13:4). The Holy Spirit, whom the Father sent, when we were born again, who now lives in us, empowers us to live a life without sin, ruling over sin,

having dominion over sin. The new life that we have, is now fuelled by the power of the Holy Spirit, no longer by the Adamic nature.

We have been washed from our blood, which represents our sins which are as scarlet, and are being washed. When we became born again we were washed in the blood of the lamb, Jesus (Revelation 1:5). We became spiritually white as snow, though our sins were as scarlet (Isaiah 1:18). Then God changes our nature, since we have been translated into his kingdom, we are no longer sinners but righteous, for He has imputed His righteousness to us when His Spirit came into us (Romans 4:24).

Now Jesus tells us, we are already clean because of the word that He has spoken to us, when we first believed in him and were born again (John 15:3). Now that we are born, He wants us to just wash our feet because we are already bathed in the blood of Jesus, and are completely clean (John 13:10). The Lord is talking to us about washing of the water by the word of God, which has power to sanctify us and cleanse us (Ephesians 5:26). The feet represents our conversation, this word means a general course of manners, behaviour, morals or conduct. In Philippians 1:27 it is written: let our conversation or conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

The more time we spend in the word of God, the saltier we become, and are able to season other people around us, because they see that our conversation is worthy of the gospel that we are preaching. It is just like, when we give ourselves a face scrub to make it smoother than ever before. By spending more time in the word of God, we are rubbing ourselves with the salt of the word of God, to make our conversation smoother and smoother until we are conformed to the image of Christ, that we see in the gospel. We are not only giving ourselves a face scrub, but a full body scrub, that when people see us they know we are living epistles of Christ, being read by men and angels (2 Corinthians 3:2-3).

We become truthful and loyal believers of Christ, for the Father is seeking those who will worship Him in Spirit and truth (John 4:24). The more we rub ourselves with the salt of the word of God; we give ourselves a full body scrub. People will be able to see Christ in us who is the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). Then we will be able to affect society with our truthfulness and loyalty to God's precept, and not human precepts.

Since we are the salt of the world, God expects us also to be like John the Baptist: to become the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God (Luke 3:4-6). We are now the salt of the world, let us go out there and give the world a full body scrub, to make its crooked paths straight and its rough places smooth. It is our mandate, as salt of the world.

10. Salt a token that the marriage is a perpetual covenant.

Among the Messianic Jews and in some parts of India, they still minister the covenant of salt during the wedding ceremony. The bride and the groom will come with their respective small flask containing salt. They will take the two flasks, pour out the salt into a small bag and shake it. One will not be able to differentiate between the salt that the bride brought, and the one the groom brought. It

becomes one bag of salt just like the two become one flesh (Ephesians 5:31).

The covenant of salt between the bride and the groom, indicated that their marriage is a perpetual covenant, that they will protect each other, will be truthful and loyal to each other. And all the other things we have listed above, concerning what it means to be the salt of the world, each of the spouses becomes salt for the world of the other spouse.

But even this covenant, though it is done for the wedding, God was talking about Christ and His church which is His bride (Ephesians 5:32). When we became born again Christ married us (Romans 7:4). We are in that perpetual covenant with Jesus. It is a one way covenant because we are not equal, He is God. He is the one doing everything through us. Even when we think we did something willingly; it is God who works in us, both to will, and to do, for His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13). Everything starts with him and finishes with him, for He is the originator or author, and finisher or perfector of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

Even when we are faithless or do not believe what He promised in His will, He remains faithful for He cannot deny Himself (2 Timothy 2:13). Jesus is the only constant in our life. He will provide for us and protect us. He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). He supplies all our needs, wants, business, employment according to His riches in glory (Philippians 4:19). The very day we walked down that aisle to say: yes I do to Jesus, He decided never to leave us alone again; wherever we go He goes with us. He provides for all our needs, for he that cannot provide for his household is worse than an infidel (1 Timothy 5:8). How good and lovely it is to be married to Jesus!

In the Jewish tradition, after the wedding, the bridegroom goes to his father's estate, and prepares a place for his bride; then returns and takes her to his father's estate where he will live with his bride. Therefore, Jesus told his disciples in John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Our bridegroom Jesus has gone to the Father to prepare a place for us, and will come back to take his bride. It is a perpetual covenant or covenant of salt that he made with us. Now that we know what it means to be the salt of the world, let us live it out and season the entire world. Until our bridegroom comes to take us to our heavenly mansions, let us keep seasoning the world. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:20)

In the olden days salt was used as manure for the land, and was also mixed with dunghill to fertilise the soil. Once we were a tasteless salt, so we could not fertilise our land or society, turn it from a barren land or society to a fruitful land or society. Now, that we are married to Christ. His salt has been mixed with our salt. Now whatever we do, it is fruitful because the salt of Jesus is in us. And God blessed us, and God said unto us: Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth (Genesis 1:28).

Now that we have Jesus' salt in us; our conversation or walk must be worthy of Jesus, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10). Therefore let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer every man (Colossians 4:6).

In the olden days salt was thrown into the oven or into the fiery furnace, to increase the temperature. And after that the salt would have lost all its properties. It was good for nothing, not even for the land as fertiliser. Men threw it out and it was trampled underfoot. But now that we are married to Christ and his salt is in us, no oven or fiery furnace of the enemy can ever destroy our saltness. Israel (both natural and spiritual Israel) is married to God (Hosea 2:16). The three Hebrews Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew that they were married to the Lord.

When the king threw them into the fiery furnace, they did not burn, in other words they did not lose their saltness. And the husband of Israel appeared in the midst of that fire, the Lord Jesus (Daniel 3). Our husband Jesus, whose salt is now in us, promised us that when you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you: when you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon you (Isaiah 43:2). God is with us, and no fire or flood of the enemy, will ever cause us to lose our saltness.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all, and may we become effective in our generation as salt of the world, may we never lose our saltness by divorcing the ultimate salt of the world, Jesus. If we divorce Him, we lose our saltness and become good for nothing, but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men (Matthew 5:13). We become the unprofitable servant, that the Lord casts out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 25:30). That will never be our portion in Jesus' name! We can be confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in us will complete and perform it until the day our Lord Jesus comes (Philippians 1:6)

God Bless you,

Gery Malanda



About Hopfan

We are a group of born again Christians who humble ourselves in prayer to Abba Father in the name of Jesus to prayerfully set people free from oppression – sickness and disease, through signs and wonders, to bring the unbelieving to the light and freedom that is available in JESUS CHRIST! for the salvation of the 50 nations of Europe, starting in Glasgow Scotland.

We publish many teaching materials, which can all be accessed for free online in ebook format and can be purchased at cost online, in print format. We also host a program on TBN called Voice of Healing. Please visit **hopfan-europe.org** for further details

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Your beloved Brother
Gery Malanda.

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16. **It is Well With My Children and Me**
17. **I am Searching for my Lost Donkey!**
18. **He Kept The Good Wine For The End**
19. **Sailing With Jesus**
20. **You are the Salt of the World**

After having read and studied these **19** Foundational Bible topics in the **My Weekly Milk** series, preferably in the order given above, then Dig Deeper and progress with the **Perfect Redemption Plan** series, followed by the **Application of the Perfect Redemption Plan**

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