

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

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Matt. 5:13 Christ said -- you are the salt of the earth

When a believer studies the Bible, he recognizes that salt pictures two opposite symbols. Sometimes, it is a symbol of destruction and desolation. At other times, it is a symbol of preservation and seasoning.

We know from the context that Christ's reference to salt in Matthew 5 was a positive reference about seasoning.

SALT -- AS A GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

<u>salt sea</u>	<u>city of salt</u>	<u>valley of salt</u>
Gen. 14:3	Josh. 15:62	2 Sam. 8:13
Num. 34:3:12		2 Kings 14:7
Deut. 3:17		1 Chron. 18:12
Josh. 3:16		2 Chron. 25:11
Josh. 12:3		Psalm 60 (subtitle)
Josh. 15:2,5		
Josh. 18:19		

SALT -- SYMBOL OF DESTRUCTION AND DESOLATION

Deut. 29:23	warning to Israel -- brimstone and salt
Judges 9:45	Abimelech -- beat down the city of Shechem and sowed it with salt
2 Kings 2:19-22	Elisha -- threw salt in the water -- since the salt would not heal the water, this was an action to show a true miracle from God
Job 39:6	barren land = salt places
Psalm 107:34	barrenness = saltiness
Jer. 17:6	parched places in the wilderness -- in a salt land
Ezek. 47:11	land shall not be healed -- given to salt
Zeph. 2:9	salt pits -- perpetual desolation
Luke 17:32	remember Lot's wife -- pillar of salt -- (from Genesis 19:26)
Gen. 19:12-15	the angels instructed Lot and family to leave
16	Lot lingered
26	Lot's wife looked back

SALT -- SYMBOL OF PRESERVATION AND SEASONING

Job 6:6 Job asked -- can that which is unsavory be eaten without salt?

Ezek. 16:4 prophecy about Jerusalem -- contrasting the birth of a child -- their skin was not rubbed in salt -- (which was done as a positive custom)

Lev. 2:13 seasoned with salt -- salt of the covenant -- with all your offerings, you shall offer salt

Num. 18:19 covenant of salt

2 Chron. 13:5 covenant of salt

Ezra 6:9 burnt offerings of the God of heaven -- wheat, salt, wine and oil

Ezra 7:22 Artaxerxes gave provisions to Ezra -- 100 talents of silver, 100 measures of wheat, 100 baths of wine, 100 baths of oil and all the salt they needed

Ezek. 43:24 you shall offer the animals unto God and the priests shall cast salt upon them

Matt. 5:13 Jesus said --

- * You are the salt of the earth.
- * But if salt no longer tastes like salt, how can it make food salty? All it is good for is to be thrown out and walked on.

Luke 14:34-35 Jesus said --

- * Salt is good.
- * But if it no longer tastes like salt, how can it be made to taste salty again? It is no longer good for the soil or even for the manure pile. People simply throw it out.
- * If you have ears, pay attention.

Mark 9:49-50 Jesus said --

- * Everyone must be salted with fire.
- * Every sacrifice shall be salted with salt.
- * Salt is good.
- * But if it no longer tastes like salt, how can it be made salty again?
- * Have salt among you and live at peace with each other.

James 3:9-10 mouths that bless God and curse men

 11-12 can a fountain yield salt water & fresh water?

 13-18 contrast -- bitterness and peace

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