

The background of the slide is a black and white photograph of incense smoke. The smoke is captured in various stages of rising, with some wisps curling upwards and others forming more dense, swirling patterns. The lighting highlights the texture and movement of the smoke against the dark background.

Incensed!

Personal Processing
Through Prayer

Preserving the Promise

1. Salt is a life-sustaining, purifying, preserving agent. Just as salt is needful and useful for our daily survival in multiple ways, so it is with prayer.

2. Salt was used as a symbol of covenant relationship. Agreements were sealed using salt; it was a mark of trust.

3. A covenant is the set of conditional promises made to humanity by God, as revealed in Scripture.¹

4. Five divine promises of God's covenant with Israel are:

1. That Israel will be God's special possession,
2. Israel will be a kingdom of priests to God,
3. Israel will be a holy nation,
4. God will fight for Israel and overcome all her enemies, and
5. God will treat Israel with grace and mercy and forgive her sins.²

5. God's covenant promises all depended on certain conditions being fulfilled by the people, as Exodus 19:5 says, "If you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall . . ." experience all these divine blessings.³

6. God's covenant was not limited to the children of Israel. 1 Peter 2:3-9 is a revisit of this covenant for us as New Testament believers.

7. Prayer is a reminder of God's covenant with us in much the same way as salt was a reminder of God's covenant with Israel. When we approach our Father in prayer we are reminded of His promises and remember that we can trust His heart.

8. Our part in this covenant relationship, once we have accepted Jesus, is to worship and reveal Christ as we move through our lives in this world.

9. The use of salt as a purifying and preserving agent is a perfect analogy of the relationship between the natural preserving effects of salt and the spiritual preserving effects of prayer.

10. Prayer will arrest the normal tendencies of our flesh to do evil, enabling us to stay pure.

11. Jesus prayed for His disciples, but at Gethsemane, just before the moment of crisis was about to come, He was insistent that they stay awake, be watchful...and PRAY for themselves!

12. We are a representation of Christ in this world...the salt of the earth. We are to be the visible purifying, preserving presence representing God in the midst of a decaying world.

13. Our attitude towards life and the people we encounter really matters!

14. We are most likely to surrender to proper attitudes and preserving words when we have spent time with God in prayer.

References

1. covenant. Dictionary.com. Dictionary.com Unabridged. Random House, Inc. <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/covenant>(accessed: November 14, 2016).
2. “God’s Covenant Through Moses”
<http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/gods-covenant-through-moses>.
Accessed November 15, 2016.
3. Ibid.