

## Sand on the Sea Shore

*by John Isaac Edwards*

The Scriptures often make reference to the sand which is upon the sea shore. Let's take a look.

1) **Abraham's Seed Multiplied.** God promised the patriarch Abraham, "That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore..." (Gen. 22:17). This promise was repeated to Abraham's grandson, Jacob, as Genesis 32:12 records, "I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude." God fulfilled this seed/sand promise as Hebrews 11:12 teaches, "Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable."

2) **Corn Gathered.** God showed to Pharaoh by dreams that the future would bring seven years of plenty

followed by seven years of severe famine. This came to pass as God revealed. During the seven plentiful years when the earth brought forth by handfuls, "Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number" (Gen. 41:49). God's providence was at work in bringing about His will.

3) **Enemies.** From time to time, the Lord's people, Israel, faced enemies that were innumerable, as the sand upon the sea shore. A good example is when "the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude" (Judg. 7:12). "...lest Israel vaunt themselves..." (Judg. 7:2), the Lord reduced Gideon's army to 300 (Judg. 7:6). They may have thought, as in the case of the five

loaves and two small fishes, "...but what are they among so many?" (Jn. 6:9). As Jonathan said to the young man that bore his armour, "...there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few" (1 Sam. 14:6). By few God gave Israel victory over many. As Paul said, "...If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31).

4) **Wisdom of Solomon.** God gave Solomon a blank check saying, "Ask what I shall give thee" (1 Ki. 3:5). What would you have asked for? Solomon asked for an understanding heart to judge God's people (1 Ki. 3:9). God gave Solomon "...a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee" (1 Ki. 3:12) and God also gave him that which he didn't ask, riches and honor. The magnitude of Solomon's wisdom is described this way: "God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and

largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore” (1 Ki. 4:29).

**5) Grief and Calamity.** Job, who suffered unimaginable loss, said, “Oh that my grief were throughly weighed, and my calamity laid in the balances together! For now it would be heavier than the sand of the sea: therefore my words are swallowed up” (Job 6:2-3). His grief weighed heavy upon him!

**6) Feathered Fowls.** When the Lord brought His people out of Egyptian bondage, He provided for their every need. A good example is when “...the quails came up, and covered the camp...” (Ex. 16:13). The Psalmist made reference to God’s provisions for His wandering people saying, “He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea” (Ps. 78:27). God’s

provisions for His people were very plentiful!

**7) God’s Thoughts.** The Psalmist declared, “How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee” (Ps. 139:17-18). We cannot begin to fathom the thoughts of the omniscient One!

**8) A Fool’s Wrath.** Wisdom literature teaches, “A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool’s wrath is heavier than them both” (Prov. 27:3). The New Testament teaches, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you...” (Eph. 4:31).

**9) God’s Power Band.** The Lord asked His people, “Fear ye not me?...

will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?” (Jer. 5:22). Pretty amazing isn’t it?

**10) Foolish House Builder.** Remember how the Lord represented those who hear but do not do what He says? “And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it” (Mt. 7:26-27).

Next time you find yourself on the sea shore, remember these truths.

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