

# Small Things

Not all oddities have to be giant and life-changing. There are a lot of small oddities in the Bible that are easily passed over but which add character and color. For example, Job was apparently a big fan of adding salt to food:

**Job 6:6:** “Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? or is there any taste in the white of an egg?”

I think that’s a terrific verse of the day. Can’t you see it stitched on pillows or elaborately framed and hung on the wall? That verse definitely belongs in the kitchen! I can just see it now, hanging over the stove: “Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt?”

That verse also tells us that Job believed that the white of an egg was pretty tasteless. (What do you think the odds are that he added salt to it?)

Speaking of food, the book of Proverbs warns us to moderate our intake of honey lest we overdo it and vomit:

**Proverbs 25:16:** “Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, **lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it.**”

I’m pretty sure you will never find a poster with that verse on it.

A number of famous sayings come from the Bible. For example, if you’ve ever said that you escaped by the skin of your teeth, you can thank Job:

**Job 19:20:** “My bone cleaveth to my skin and to

my flesh, and I am escaped with **the skin of my teeth.**"

Job's friend Eliphaz was the first person to ask if someone was older than the hills:

**Job 15:7:** "Art thou the first man that was born? or **wast thou made before the hills?**"

People who say that something is just "a drop in the bucket" can thank Isaiah:

**Isaiah 40:15:** "Behold, the nations are as a **drop of a bucket**, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing."

The idea of a labor of love was first mentioned in one of Paul's letters:

**I Thessalonians 1:3:** "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and **labour of love**, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;"

Speaking of letters, in the book of Jeremiah the Lord mentions a very unusual writing instrument:

**Jeremiah 17:1:** "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and **with the point of a diamond**: it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars;"

Writing with "the point of a diamond" – now there's a modern idea! Apparently that concept was also a "modern idea" a couple thousand years ago. It makes you wonder how many other

“modern” ideas are actually very old – but that is a discussion for another time.

