

~HONEY, HONEYCOMB (306)

[Hebrew, *no'pheth*, flowing honey or, *devash'*, comb honey, Greek, *me'li*, *a'gri-os*]

.. The Honeycomb

.. Honey

.. Illustrative Use

.. Honey Of Fruits

.. A Land Of Milk And Honey

• Bee honey is a sweet, viscid fluid manufactured by bees. Honey is referred to in the Hebrew Scriptures by the words *no'pheth*, flowing **honey**, or comb **honey** and *devash'*. This latter word may refer not only to bee honey but also to the syrup of fruits.

• No grain offering that you will present to Yehowah should be made a leavened thing, because you must make no sourdough and no **honey** at all smoke as an offering made by fire to Yehowah. (Leviticus 2:11) Footnote

• In the Greek Scriptures *me'li* is used, along with the adjective *a'gri-os*, wild, to denote the **honey** of wild bees.

.. The Honeycomb

• The **honeycomb** is a marvel of engineering, it reveals the Creators unparalleled wisdom and ability in putting such engineering and construction instinct in the **honeybee**.

• The hexagonal shape of the cells is ideal for holding the maximum quantity of honey with a minimum of beeswax, the material of which the cell walls are made.

• When a comb is being built, beeswax is made by special glands in the bees body. It oozes through pores in the body, forming small white flakes.

• Using its legs, the bee moves the flakes to its jaws. It then chews the wax and places it in the part of the **honeycomb** being constructed.

• The walls of the comb are only one third of a millimeter, 1/80th inch, thick but can support 30 times their weight.

- Honeybees build their nests in a variety of places, including trees, rocks, and, in one case, even in the carcass of a dead animal, which evidently was no longer carrion but had been dried out by the sun. This was the lions carcass from which Samson ate **honey**.
- Now after a while he went on back to take her home. Meantime he turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion, and there, there was a swarm of bees in the lions corpse, and **honey**. (**Judges 14:8**)
- So he scraped it out into his palms and walked on, eating as he walked. When he rejoined his father and his mother, he at once gave them some, and they began to eat. And he did not tell them that it was out of the corpse of the lion that he had scraped the honey. (**Judges 14:9**)

.. Honey

- Bee **honey** is made from the nectar obtained from flowers and fruit. In the process of gathering the nectar and depositing it in the **honeycomb**, certain chemicals from the bees body are added.
- Some of the water evaporates from the nectar, and the chemicals transform the nectar into **honey**. The color and flavor of **honey** vary according to the source of nectar. **Honey** is easily assimilated by the body and quickly converted into energy.
- Most of the Bible's references to the **honey** of bees is to wild **honey**, such as John the Baptizer ate in the wilderness.
- In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea. (**Matthew 3:1**)
- But this very John had his clothing of camels hair and a leather girdle around his loins, his food too was insect locusts and **wild honey**. (**Matthew 3:4**)
- The energy-giving property of **honey** is illustrated in the case of King Saul's son Jonathan who, exhausted from battle, tasted some **honey**. Immediately his eyes **began to beam**.
- And all those of the land came into the woods, when **honey** happened to be over all the surface of the field. (**1 Samuel 14:25**)

- When the people came into the woods, why, look! There was a dripping of **honey**, but there was no one putting his hand to his mouth, because the people were afraid of the oath. (**1 Samuel 14:26**)
- As for Jonathan, he had not been listening when his father put the people under an oath, so he stretched out the tip of the rod that was in his hand and dipped it into the **honeycomb** and drew his hand back to his mouth, and his eyes began to beam. (**1 Samuel 14:27**)
- At this one of the people answered and said; Your father solemnly put the people under oath, saying; Cursed is the man that eats bread today! And the people began to get tired. (**1 Samuel 14:28**)
- However, Jonathan said; My father has brought ostracism upon the land. See, please, how my eyes have beamed because I tasted this little bit of **honey**. (**1 Samuel 14:29**)
- How much more so if the people had but eaten today from the spoil of their enemies that they found! For now the slaughter upon the Philistines has not been great. (**1 Samuel 14:30**)
- This energy food is listed among the provisions God supplied for his people in the wilderness. There, where few trees existed, the people were able to get honey to eat, out of a crag, that is, from the **honeycombs** that the bees built in rocky places.
- He kept making him ride upon earth's high places, so that he ate the produce of the field. And he kept making him suck **honey** out of a crag, and oil out of a flinty rock. (**Deuteronomy 32:13**)

.. Illustrative Use

- The curative properties of **honey** are compared to pleasant sayings and wisdom, not only because of its sweetness and fine taste but also because of its health-giving qualities.
- Pleasant sayings are healthful spiritually, just as **honey** is good for the physical body. The writer of Proverbs says:
- Pleasant sayings are a **honeycomb**, sweet to the soul and a

healing to the bones. (**Proverbs 16:24**)

- My son, eat **honey**, for it is good, and let sweet comb **honey** be upon your palate. (**Proverbs 24:13**)
- In the same way, do know wisdom for your soul. If you have found it, then there exists a future, and your own hope will not be cut off. (**Proverbs 24:14**)
- The sweetness and enjoyment of eating **honey** is applied illustratively throughout the Scriptures. Examples are found at;
- So I opened my mouth, and he gradually made me eat this roll. (**Ezekiel 3:2**)
- And he went on to say to me; Son of man, you should cause your own belly to eat, that you may fill your very intestines with this roll that I am giving you. And I began to eat it, and it came to be in my mouth like **honey** for sweetness. (**Ezekiel 3:3**)
- And I went away to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me; Take it and eat it up, and it will make your belly bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey. (**Revelation 10:9**)
- Comb **honey** is often mentioned, for it is considered superior in flavor, sweetness, and richness to honey that has been exposed to the air for a time.
- Emphasizing the goodness and pleasantness of the words spoken by the Shulamite girl, her shepherd lover speaks of them as **comb honey** that keeps dripping from her lips.
- With **comb honey** your lips keep dripping, O my bride. Honey and milk are under your tongue, and the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon. (**Song of Solomon 4:11**)
- Yehowah's judicial decisions are so fine, healthful, and beneficial that they are even sweeter than **honey** and the flowing **honey** of the **combs**.
- The fear of Yehowah is pure, standing forever. The judicial decisions of Yehowah are true. They have proved altogether righteous. (**Psalms 19:9**)

- They are more to be desired than gold, yes, than much refined gold, and sweeter than honey and the **flowing honey** of the combs. (**Psalms 19:10**)
- His sayings are smoother to the palate than **honey** to the mouth.
- How smooth to my palate your sayings have been, more so than **honey** to my mouth! (**Psalms 119:103**)
- While **honey** is good, overeating of it can cause nausea.
- Is it **honey** that you have found? Eat what is sufficient for you, that you may not take too much of it and have to vomit it up. (**Proverbs 25:16**)
- And this eating of too much **honey** is compared to people seeking out their own glory.
- The eating of too much **honey** is not good, and for people to search out their own glory, is it glory? (**Proverbs 25:27**)
- (**Proverbs Chapter 5**) uses the sweetness of comb **honey** to illustrate the temptation to sexual immorality that the strange woman can bring to bear by her appeal to a man with her use of charm and smooth words.
- It constitutes a fine warning to Christians today. As a **honeycomb the lips of a strange woman keep dripping**, and her palate is smoother than oil.
- But the aftereffect from her is as bitter as wormwood, it is as sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet are descending to death, says the wise man. Her smooth, **honey-like** words and actions lead the man right up to the immoral act so that all of a sudden he is going after her, like a bull that comes even to the slaughter.
- For as a **honeycomb** the lips of a strange woman keep dripping, and her palate is smoother than oil. (**Proverbs 5:3**)
- But the aftereffect from her is as bitter as wormwood, it is as sharp as a two-edged sword. (**Proverbs 5:4**)
- Her feet are descending to death. Her very steps take hold on

Sheol itself. (**Proverbs 5:5**)

- She has misled him by the abundance of her persuasiveness. By the smoothness of her lips she seduces him. (**Proverbs 7:21**)
- All of a sudden he is going after her, like a bull that comes even to the slaughter, and just as if fettered for the discipline of a foolish man. (**Proverbs 7:22**)

•• Honey Of Fruits

- The **Hebrew** word *devash* can refer also to the **juice, or syrup, of fruits figs, dates, and so forth**. Often the context enables the reader to determine whether or not bee honey is meant.
- Evidently the syrup of fruits is what is prohibited from being offered on the altar at;
- No grain offering that you will present to Yehowah should be made a leavened thing, because you must make no sourdough and no **honey** at all smoke as an offering made by fire to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 2:11**)
- Because of its tendency to ferment.
- That **bee honey is not meant here** is indicated by the next verse, which included the prohibited **honey** as firstfruits to be offered to Yehowah.
- Since most of the **honey** used by the Israelites was wild **honey**, not a cultivated crop, the **honey** offered as firstfruits when Hezekiah motivated the people to support the priesthood was undoubtedly the juice or syrup of fruits.
- And as soon as the word broke forth, the sons of Israel increased the firstfruits of the grain, new wine, and oil and honey and all the produce of the field, and the tenth of everything they brought in abundantly. (**2 Chronicles 31:5**)

•• A Land Of Milk And Honey

- The description of Palestine as a land flowing with milk and **honey**, often repeated in the Scriptures, is apt, for not only was the

land well supplied with the product of bees **but also with the syrup of fruits.**

- And I am proceeding to go down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a land good and spacious, to a land flowing with milk and **honey**, to the locality of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. (**Exodus 3:8**)
- Hence I said to you; You, for your part, will take possession of their ground, and I, for my part, shall give it to you to take possession of it, a land flowing with milk and **honey**. Yehowah your God I am, who have divided you off from the peoples. (**Leviticus 20:24**)
- And in order, that you may lengthen your days on the soil that Yehowah swore to your forefathers to give to them and their seed, a land flowing with milk and **honey**. (**Deuteronomy 11:9**)
- For the sons of Israel had walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation of the men of war who came out of Egypt that did not listen to the voice of Yehowah had come to its finish, to whom Yehowah swore that he would never let them see the land that Yehowah had sworn to their forefathers to give to us, a land flowing with milk and **honey**. (**Joshua 5:6**)
- The latter is apparently referred to as being an item of trade exchanged for Tyre's merchandise.
- And as for you, O son of man, raise up concerning Tyre a dirge. (**Ezekiel 27:2**)
- Judah and the land of Israel themselves were your traders. For the wheat of Minnith and special foodstuff and **honey** and oil and balsam, your articles of exchange were given. (**Ezekiel 27:17**)

See Also BEE