

Honey

Date Palm Honey

- More commonly used in ancient Israel (bee honey was limited, but date palms were widespread)
- Either made from cooking and mashing dates or from the sap of the palm tree
 - o Significance of palm tree in scripture: going forward into new territory – breakthrough.
 - o Palms in the temple in heaven.

Scriptures That Likely Reference Date Palm Honey

Exodus 3:8 & 13:5 – “a land flowing with milk and honey”

2 Chronicles 31:5 – people bring “honey” as part of their agricultural offerings/sacrifice

Bee Honey

- Contains mostly sugar, but also amino acids, vitamins (like B vitamins and vitamin C), minerals (like potassium, magnesium, and zinc), iron, zinc, and antioxidants.
- Honey never spoils and doesn't need to be refrigerated!

Functions:

- natural sweetener
- anti-inflammatory
- antioxidant
- antibacterial
- antimicrobial
- antiviral (*some studies*)
- anti-fungal
- Uses & Treatments:
 - o cough suppressant
 - o topically: promote healing in wounds and burns (acidity helps the release of oxygen from wounds)
 - o Gastrointestinal issues
 - o Part of oral rehydration therapy
 - o Neurological: Antidepressant, anticonvulsant, anti-anxiety, and prevent memory disorders
 - o Allergen immunotherapy (*though disputed*) – local honey containing pollen to encourage immune tolerance

Bees:

- They collect and pass along nectar from mouth to mouth, bee to bee, adding enzymes along the way, then deposit it into honeycomb cells. Then they fan it until it dries enough to be sealed and saved for later consumption.
- If you are a beekeeper and you want to move your hive, you can only move it fewer than 3 feet OR over 3 miles – anywhere in between, the bees will follow their old flight path, won't find their hive, and will die.
- Strangely, references in scripture describe enemy tactics as being like bees (chasing or swarming) – all except with Samson...

Scriptures That Reference Bee Honey

Judges 14:8-9 – Samson and the lion

8 And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcase of the lion: and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcase of the lion. 9 And he took (*rada*) thereof in his hands (*kap*), and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat: but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcase of the lion.

- Breaking rules and deceiving...
- Rada - have dominion, prevail against, reign, take.

1 Samuel 14:25-30 – Jonathan and the honeycomb

25 And all they of the land came to a wood; and there was honey upon the ground. 26 And when the people were come into the wood, behold, the honey dropped; but no man put his hand to his mouth: for the people feared the oath. 27 But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod (*mate*) that was in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and **his eyes (*ayin*) were enlightened (or)**. 28 Then answered one of the people, and said, Thy father straitly charged the people with an oath, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food this day. And the people were faint. 29 Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey. 30 How much more, if haply the people had **eaten freely (*akal akal*)** to day of the spoil of their enemies which they found? for had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?

- Mate – a branch; figuratively, a tribe; also a rod, whether for chastising (figuratively, correction), ruling (a sceptre), throwing (a lance), or walking (a staff; figuratively, a support of life, e.g. bread): — rod, staff, tribe.
- ôr – to be or make luminous: — x break of day, glorious, kindle, (be, en-, give, show) light (-en, -ened), set on fire, shine.
- âkal – to eat, burn up, consume, devour

Matthew 3:4 – John the Baptist’s diet

And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was **locusts** and **wild honey**.

Isaiah 7:14-15 – Prophecy of Jesus

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign;
Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall call his name Immanuel.

15 **Butter** and **honey** shall he eat,
that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

Other Honey References:

- Exodus 16:31 – *manna tasting like cakes made with honey (date)*
- Psalm 19:10 – *the mishpat of the Lord is sweeter than honey and the honeycomb*
- Psalm 119:103 – *God’s words are sweeter than honey to my mouth*
- Proverbs 16:24 – *Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.*
- Proverbs 24:13 – *instructed to eat honey because it is towb and compares it to wisdom.*
- Proverbs 25:27 – *It is not good to eat much honey (bee honey): so for men to search their own glory (kabod) is not glory (kabod).*
- Song of Solomon 4:11a – *Thy lips, O my spouse, drop (natap) as the honeycomb: honey and milk are under thy tongue;*
 - o *Natap – to speak by inspiration, prophesy.*
- Ezekiel 3:3 – *the taste of the prophetic roll*
- Revelation 10:9 – *the taste of the little book*
- Luke 24:42 – *after Jesus rose from the dead and revealed himself to disciples, they fed him broiled fish and honeycomb.*