

Proverbs 24:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the
honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste:

Analysis

'My son, eat thou honey, because it is good'—wisdom is compared to honey's sweetness and nourishment. The verse delights in honey's pleasure and benefit, then applies the metaphor to wisdom (v. 14). Just as honey tastes sweet and provides energy, wisdom delights the soul and strengthens life. This positive framing contrasts with warnings about folly's bitterness. Wisdom isn't merely duty but delight, not just beneficial but pleasurable. Those who taste wisdom find it sweet; the truly wise person craves it like honey. This echoes Psalm 19:10 and 119:103 about God's Word being sweeter than honey. Cultivate appetite for wisdom by tasting its goodness; experience will create desire for more.

Historical Context

Honey was the primary sweetener in ancient Israel, making it a natural metaphor for life's best pleasures. The Promised Land flowed with milk and honey, symbolizing abundance and blessing.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Do you find wisdom and God's Word sweet and delightful, or burdensome?
2. How can you cultivate greater appetite for biblical wisdom?

Interlinear Text

אֵכֶל	בֶּן י	דָּב שׁ	כִּי	ט וֹב	וְנָפֶת
eat	My son	thou honey	H3588	because it is good	and the honeycomb
H398	H1121	H1706		H2896	H5317
וְהָיָה	עַל	חֶפְצְךָ:			
which is sweet	H5921	to thy taste			
H4966		H2441			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 7:15 (Good): Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

Song of Solomon 5:1: I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.

Proverbs 25:16 (Parallel theme): Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it.