

Proverbs 27:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

Analysis

The 'full soul' (Hebrew 'saba'—satisfied, satiated) despises honeycomb, but to the hungry every bitter thing is sweet. Satisfaction breeds contempt for blessings; deprivation makes even poor things seem good. This warns against taking God's blessings for granted. Reformed theology recognizes our tendency toward ingratitude when blessed. Israel despised manna despite its miraculous provision (Numbers 21:5). Contentment requires recognizing God's goodness regardless of abundance or lack. Gratitude must be cultivated; it doesn't arise automatically from blessing.

Historical Context

Honey was the primary sweetener in ancient Israel, highly valued. Despising honeycomb when full illustrated how satiation breeds ingratitude for even the best things God provides.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Do you take God's blessings for granted when satisfied, only appreciating them when lacking?
2. How can you cultivate gratitude even in abundance?
3. What does this proverb teach about the relationship between satisfaction and spiritual danger?

Interlinear Text

פֶּשׁ	שֶׁ בָּעָה	תָּב וּס	נֹ פֶת	וְ פֶשׁ	רְ עָבָה	כָּל
soul	The full	loatheth	an honeycomb	soul	but to the hungry	H3605
H5315	H7649	H947	H5317	H5315	H7457	
מֵר	מִתּוֹק:					
every bitter thing	is sweet					
H4751	H4966					

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 21:5 (Parallel theme): And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.