

Psalms 104:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD.

Analysis

My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD. This verse grounds the previous verse's commitment to lifelong worship in internal delight. "My meditation of him" (ye'erav alav sichi, יַעְרַב עָלָיו שִׁיחִי) uses siach (שִׁיחַ), meaning meditation, contemplation, or musing. This isn't superficial thinking but deep, sustained reflection on God's character, works, and ways. Alav (עָלָיו, "of him") indicates the meditation's object—God Himself, not merely theological concepts or religious ideas.

"Shall be sweet" (ye'erav, יַעְרַב) uses arav (עָרַב), meaning to be pleasing, sweet, or agreeable. The verb appears in contexts of pleasant experiences—sweet honey (Judges 14:14, 18), pleasant words (Proverbs 16:24), or welcomed twilight (erev, evening). Meditating on God brings pleasure, satisfaction, and delight—not burdensome duty but enjoyed privilege.

"I will be glad in the LORD" (anokhi esmach ba-Yahweh, אֲנֹכִי אֶשְׂמַח בַּיהוָה) parallels God's rejoicing in His works (v. 31). Samach (שָׂמַח) means to rejoice, be glad, or delight. Ba-Yahweh (בַּיהוָה, "in the LORD") indicates joy's source and object. This isn't happiness dependent on circumstances but joy rooted in relationship with God, transcending changing conditions.

The verse establishes a vital connection: sustained meditation on God produces sweetness, which generates gladness, which fuels lifelong worship (v. 33). Worship

flows from delight, not drudgery. Those who find God sweet will naturally praise Him continually.

Historical Context

Meditation (siach) was central to Israel's spiritual life. The righteous person meditates on God's law 'day and night' (Psalm 1:2). Joshua was commanded to meditate on the law continually for success (Joshua 1:8). Meditation involved rehearsing God's words, works, and ways—internalizing truth until it shaped affections, thoughts, and behavior.

The concept of finding God 'sweet' echoes throughout Scripture. The psalmist invites, 'O taste and see that the LORD is good' (Psalm 34:8). Jeremiah declares, 'Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart' (Jeremiah 15:16). God Himself is the ultimate satisfaction for human desire.

Gladness 'in the LORD' sustained Israel through exile, persecution, and suffering. When circumstances provided no reason for joy, relationship with God remained. This anticipates Paul's command to 'rejoice in the Lord always' (Philippians 4:4)—not 'rejoice in circumstances' but 'in the Lord,' whose faithfulness transcends situations.

For Christians, meditation is transformed by the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence. The Spirit illuminates Scripture (John 16:13), takes the things of Christ and shows them to believers (John 16:14-15), and produces the fruit of joy (Galatians 5:22). Meditation isn't merely human mental effort but Spirit-enabled encounter with divine truth that generates sweetness and gladness.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How can believers cultivate 'sweet' meditation on God in a culture characterized by distraction, busyness, and superficial engagement?
2. What is the relationship between theological knowledge (understanding God's attributes) and experiential delight ('my meditation shall be sweet')?
3. How does gladness 'in the LORD' differ from circumstantial happiness, and what practices sustain it during suffering or disappointment?

Interlinear Text

יְעֵבֹב	עַל יוֹ	שִׁיחַ י	אֶנֶכְ י	אֲשַׁמֶּחַ	בְּיְהוָה:
of him shall be sweet	H5921	My meditation	H595	I will be glad	in the LORD
H6149		H7879		H8055	H3068

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 1:2 (References Lord): But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Philippians 4:4 (References Lord): Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

Luke 1:47 (Parallel theme): And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Psalms 9:2 (Parallel theme): I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.

Psalms 119:111 (Parallel theme): Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.

Psalms 32:11 (References Lord): Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

Psalms 77:12 (Parallel theme): I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.

Psalms 119:167 (Parallel theme): My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.

Proverbs 24:14 (Parallel theme): So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

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