

# Psalms 119:103

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

## Analysis

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**How sweet are thy words unto my taste!** (מִה־נִמְלֶצוּ לִי אִמְרָתֶךָ mah-nimletzu lekhikki imratekha)—Malats (be sweet, pleasant) describes sensory pleasure. Chek (palate, taste) makes theology visceral. **Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!** (מִדֶּבֶשׁ לִי מִדֶּבֶשׁ לִי midevash lefi)—Honey, the ancient world's premier sweetener, serves as metaphor for Scripture's delight. Imrah (word, utterance, promise) emphasizes God's spoken revelation.

This fulfills Psalm 19:10: "More to be desired are they than gold... sweeter also than honey." Ezekiel ate a scroll that tasted like honey (Ezekiel 3:3); John's apocalyptic scroll was "sweet as honey" in his mouth (Revelation 10:9-10). The psalmist's experience transcends duty—God's Word becomes spiritual delicacy, savored not endured. This is Augustine's *frui* (enjoy) versus *uti* (use)—loving Scripture for itself, as communion with its Author.

## Historical Context

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In a pre-industrial diet, honey was rare luxury (Judges 14:8-9; 1 Samuel 14:25-27). Comparing Scripture to honey elevated it above life's choicest pleasures. The metaphor also connects to Promised Land descriptions: "flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:8)—God's Word as foretaste of ultimate blessing.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. If someone examined your life, would they conclude you find Scripture sweeter than entertainment, comfort food, or other pleasures?
2. What practices help you taste Scripture's sweetness rather than merely analyzing it intellectually?

## Interlinear Text

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מֶה	נִמְלֵץ ו	לְ חִפִּי	אִמְרֶתְךָ	מִדְּבַר שֶׁ	לִפִּי:
H4100	How sweet	unto my taste	are thy words	yea sweeter than honey	to my mouth
	H4452	H2441	H565	H1706	H6310

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 8:11** (Parallel theme): For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

**Psalms 19:10** (Parallel theme): More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

**Psalms 63:5** (Parallel theme): My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:

**Job 23:12** (Word): Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

**Proverbs 3:17** (Parallel theme): Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

**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.

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