

Isaiah 7 Butter and Honey

Isa 7:1 And it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up toward Jerusalem to war against it, but could not prevail against it. 2 And it was told the house of David, saying, Syria is confederate with Ephraim. And his heart was moved, and the heart of his people, as the trees of the wood are moved with the wind. 3 Then said the LORD unto Isaiah, Go forth now to meet Ahaz, thou, and Shearjashub thy son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field; 4 And say unto him, Take heed, and be quiet; fear not, neither be fainthearted for the two tails of these smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin with Syria, and of the son of Remaliah. 5 Because Syria, Ephraim, and the son of Remaliah, have taken evil counsel against thee, saying, 6 Let us go up against Judah, and vex it, and let us make a breach therein for us, and set a king in the midst of it, even the son of Tabeal: 7 Thus saith the Lord GOD, It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass. 8 For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin; and within threescore and five years shall Ephraim be broken, that it be not a people. 9 And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is Remaliah's son. If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established. 10 Moreover the LORD spake again unto Ahaz, saying, 11 Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above. 12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD. 13 And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Clarke Lee's Commentary: A prophesy of the coming of Christ, the Messiah, the eternal king to be given from the Davidic lineage in the tribe of Judah.

15 Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good. Clarke Lee's Commentary: Butter is the very good parts of milk, the fatty and sweet parts. It is made by churning or agitating the milk until the good parts are separated and form solid food which we know as butter. Man cannot make actual milk but they do make many different imitations of milk. This is a picture of how man has produced many versions of the word of God but they are all artificial and not the real thing. That is the reason that we stand firm upon the original KJV bible, believing it to be the true translation and not an artificial concoction.

Honey is that sweet substance produced in nature by the honey bees. The honey bees gather the nectar, the sweet or rather sugary parts, from flowers and plants and bring it to the hive where it is transformed into honey. In the gathering of the nectar they also pollinate the plants so that the plants bring forth fruit. This is a picture of house to house, person to person evangelism in action on earth. A picture of; the born again sinner living the Christian life to the full so others may see their good works, and thereby be drawn to Christ.

The honey bees have the God given ability to discern the plants with the sweetest nectar. They will go to those first and the ones with lesser sugar when the sweeter source is not available. Man cannot make actual honey. As with butter, man makes many imitations of honey that are not actually honey. Again producing the same analogy given above for butter.

As we think about these two items of food given, whose source is from God the Creator, we see, in all the imitations, the picture of man trying to produce his own salvation and thereby be his own god, which is contrary to God's written word of truth as seen in many scriptures. Here are a few:

Ac 4:12; 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, 9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; 10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him

doth this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Ro 6:23; 19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. 20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. 21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. 22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eph 2:8; 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Now having this understanding of the two God given products mentioned in the text, here and in verse 22 below, we can see a picture that when Immanuel is born into the world, in incarnation, that by prophesy, God the Father says of God the Son, my Son shall not be an eater of sinful pleasure but shall only be partaker of the things that are directly given from Me to Him. It is a picture of Christ incarnate being a person without sin or guile. He is no imitation but the real thing.

Because his source of food is directly from God, He, Jesus, shall know to refuse evil and sinfulness. We see this demonstrated in the temptation of Jesus after His baptism. As demonstrated in scripture, Jesus always chose the good and right and rejected the evil and sinful. This is an example for us to live by in life as we travel our pilgrimage here below.

16 For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings. 17 The LORD shall bring upon thee, and upon thy people, and upon thy father's house, days that have not come, from the day that Ephraim departed from Judah; even the king of Assyria. 18 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall hiss for the fly that is in the uttermost part of the rivers of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria. 19 And they shall come, and shall rest all of them in the desolate valleys, and in the holes of the rocks, and upon all thorns, and upon all bushes. 20 In the same day shall the Lord shave with a razor that is hired, namely, by them beyond the river, by the king of Assyria, the head, and the hair of the feet: and it shall also consume the beard. 21 And it shall come to pass in that day, that a man shall nourish a young cow, and two sheep; 22 And it shall come to pass, for the abundance of milk that they shall give he shall eat butter: for butter and honey shall every one eat that is left in the land. Clarke Lee's Commentary: We have here a prophetic picture of our own situation in time on earth, in this age of salvation by grace. How? As demonstrated by the scripture here, God is going to send the evil nations to consume the whole land and it is going to be a desolate wilderness. Yet, in the midst of this desolation there will be a remnant left that shall be nourished by the gifts of food from God that are not imitations.

We point out to all; there is necessity of action by the eater for each of these foods. Butter is made by a process. Milk must be milked out and gathered. It must be put into a container and then churned or agitated until the good and solid parts of the milk are separated. The remnant milk is then drained away and the butter is pressed and stored and ready to eat. Honey must be gathered to be eaten, just as the children of Israel had to gather the manna, bread from heaven, which God supplied for their sustenance, when they came out of Egypt until they reached the Promised Land.

Thus we see the picture that in our pilgrimage as children of God, we must work at having food to eat. Jesus told us that his word is our bread of life, because He is the Bread of Life. Thus we understand that if we want to know to refuse the evil and choose the good, we must apply ourselves to know God's word of truth that we are not drawn into sin through ignorance.

Remember when Jesus was tempted after his baptism and forty days of fasting? Remember what his answer was to every temptation presented? It was the Word of God, scripture. This then gives us the scenes of life in this the age of salvation by grace.

God has provided for us His word of truth, pure and unadulterated, in the form of the written word in the King James, original translation, bible. For us to feed thereon, we must read and study this word, just as is required to be partakers of the butter and honey in these texts. This is further set in context in verse 25 below.

23 And it shall come to pass in that day, that every place shall be, where there were a thousand vines at a thousand silverlings, it shall even be for briers and thorns. Clarke Lee's Commentary: In what day? In the age, established by the coming of Immanuel, Jesus Christ incarnate, of salvation by grace. The prophetic picture that Christ will be born into this world; a world that has forgotten that there is a God by and large. Just look around you today and see the proliferation of sin and sinfulness and ungodliness. We live in a wilderness that has been given over to our enemy and it is a wilderness of thorns and briers. Thus, we see the warfare between the spiritual man and the fleshly man in our own selves.

24 With arrows and with bows shall men come thither; because all the land shall become briers and thorns. Clarke Lee's Commentary: We see here that the men of the earth will come forth armed to protect themselves and bring destruction upon others in the wilderness of sin. We see man today going about not caring for his fellow man, in self-preservation and self-will, striving only to satisfy the lust of his own flesh. Gathering unto himself the things of this world that are corruptible and immoral.

25 And on all hills that shall be digged with the mattock, there shall not come thither the fear of briers and thorns: but it shall be for the sending forth of oxen, and for the treading of lesser cattle.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: However, we see today, in this age of salvation by grace, that there is hope for the people of God. How? Notice that the hills that are digged with the mattock are not thorn and brier infested. Rather, they are places for the cattle to feed and produce the milk that will yield butter. If the land is fruitful for the cattle, it will also be fruitful for the honey bee and there will be the production of honey. Both of these are the God given sources of food for the life of a child of God. It produces for us this prophetic picture:

When a person is born again there is work required if they are to eat. Their food, figuratively, is butter and honey. God has provided this for them in the bible. It is made manifest by the Holy Spirit providing understanding of the need for that food, and what is required to get it. God produced it and made it available to us in the form of the written word and the preached gospel of Jesus Christ.

For us to be partakers of either of these sources of butter and honey, we must put forth effort and exercise ourselves in faith, and in humble obedience to God.

We certainly live in a wilderness of sin, in this life, and have great need of the God given things that sustain and preserve our life. Praise the Lord for the provision he has made for us. Praise the Lord for the understanding to discern between good and evil. Praise the Lord for salvation by grace.

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