

As Sweet As Honey

Certainly, every one of us wants to taste and feel the sweetness of life, and ever joyful Christ's birth. The following passages from the Old Testament will speak to us about Christ's birth.

“Then he said to me, ‘Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.’ So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.” (Ezekiel 3:3)

Every people have lots of question in life; rich or poor, weak or strong, high or low, king or prince, young or old, free or slave. They have simple or the most complex questions, and who will answer them? One may say, “Who can satisfy my soul?” Another will say, “What can I put in my mouth that is sweeter than honey?” “I am hungry, who will feed me? I am thirsty, who will fill me?” “I am weary, who will give me rest? I am down trodden, who will comfort me? “I am sick, who will heal me?” “I am slave, who will set me free?” *Everyone needs a Saviour!*

“Then Isaiah said, ‘hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel (*means God with us*).” (Isaiah 7:13-14)

About 700 years later, this prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled. A baby was born to a virgin called Mary. Mary was found pregnant by the Holy Spirit as the angel of the Lord declared when He appeared to her, **“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the most high will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God.” (Luke 1:35)**

Those who rely and wait patiently for the Lord to fulfil His promises surely they will receive. Because their eyes and ears are opened, and their hearts are attentive to the voice of God. The shepherds were the first who received the good news about the birth of the Saviour. **“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:8-11)**

The Shepherds are the humble, the poor, the hungry, the despised, the downtrodden and the outcast. But these are the kind of people who are waiting patiently for the Lord. And the good news about the birth of Jesus was given first to them. The angel of the Lord said, **“This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:12)** The Saviour was born. Mary and Joseph named the baby Jesus as the angel of the Lord told Joseph in a dream. The shepherds found Him and they worshipped Him.

Christ's birth and what had brought with it is as sweet as honey. But how will the birth of Jesus become real and more meaningful to you?

God said to Prophet Ezekiel: **“Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.” And when he ate it, “it tasted as sweet as honey” in his mouth:**

1. Son of man: As God spoke to Ezekiel; He is also speaking to every one of us today. He is telling us to do a crucial step in our lives.

2. Eat this scroll I am giving you: The scroll is the Word of God written on animal's skin and rolled. Jesus is the Living Word. **“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)** To eat the scroll, is to receive Jesus, the Word of God.

3. And fill your stomach with it: Jesus should enter every room of our lives, and everything in us. Almost every people of the world know Jesus, but not all accept Him in their lives. Others open their door for Him, but they keep Him standing at the door. While others allow Him to enter only a certain rooms, or only in the guest room but not in every room of their houses. To experience the reality of Christ's birth, let the Spirit of God fill your rooms, your lives; your hearts, your minds, your souls, and your spirits. Christ's birth is not only about the birth of Jesus Christ 2000 years ago. But basically, it is the moment when Jesus is truly born in your personal life.

4. So ate it: The act of this prophet eating the scroll represents obedience, humility and simplicity of faith in trusting God's Word and provision.

5. And it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth: This is the experience of Ezekiel after he ingested the scroll. And this is your experience when you receive Jesus willingly and whole-heartedly; as sweet as honey in your mouths. Your life would be meaningful, brighter and sweeter as your days go by with the Lord. This represents the inner joy and peace that submerge you, which the people of the world do not feel and understand. And that is the true meaning of Christ's birth.

Those people who know Jesus by name but do not accept Him as personal Lord and Saviour they celebrate Christ's birth and enjoy for certain days only. Christ's birth for them is to sing carols, exchange gifts, attend banquets or dinner parties, and spend holidays. They are motivated by happiness that is coming from the outside surrounding world, but not from God and the Living Word. The real joy is the portion of those who really receive Jesus. When Jesus is much welcome in our lives, Christ's birth will become our everyday and every moment experience. Christ's birth is when we continuously receive the Word of God, the Word that without it we cannot continue our journey toward eternal life.

A wonderful result of having received the reality of Christ's birth is we grow as Jesus Christ grew: **“And the child grew and become strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.” (Luke 2:40)** We receive wisdom and make right choices: **“He will eat curds and honey when He know enough to reject the wrong and choose the right.” (Isaiah 7:15)** We obtain favour and we proclaim, **“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4)**

My Dear and Beloved: The true Christ's birth is when we eat the scroll from the hand of God, when we ingest the Word of God, when Jesus lay comfortably in our hearts, when we have inner peace and joy, when all our questions are answered, and when we are pampered and filled by the true Spirit of God, serving God, living for Christ and used by Him and for His glory.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to receive your Word and to live according to your Word and will and this will be my joy and my delight. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*