

Sweetness and Bitterness

Revelation 10: 10

John, when he eats the ‘little book’, finds it is as the mighty angel said it would be – sweet as honey in his mouth, but it made his stomach bitter

Sweetness

- Acceptable Offering Noah’s offering and God’s covenant Genesis 8: 20-22
- Bitter made Sweet A ‘tree’ cast into bitter waters to make them sweet (prophetic of Calvary) – *YHWH Ropheka* (the Lord who heals thee) Exodus 15: 22-27
- Offerings to the Lord Aaron’s burnt offering Exodus 29: 15-25
Offerings for Israel Leviticus 1: 9, 13, 17; 2: 2; 3: 5, 16
Grain and Drink Offerings Numbers 15: 3, 7, 10, 13-14
- Incense The Altar of Incense (prayer) Exodus 30 esp. vs. 7 and 34
- Worship David - Israel’s psalmist 2 Samuel 23: 1
- The Judgements of the Lord More precious than gold, sweeter than honey Psalm 19: 10
- Meditation on the Lord It is sweet to the Lord! Psalm 104: 34
- The Words of the Lord Sweet to taste are God’s law and word Psalm 119: 103
- Wisdom and Discretion Sleep will sweet and peaceful Proverbs 3: 19-24
- Accomplished Desire Sweet to the soul Proverbs 13: 19
- Restoration of Israel The mountains will drip with sweet wine Amos 9: 11-15
- The Fragrance of Christ It is what we are to God 2 Corinthians 2: 15
It is the aroma we are to the world 2 Corinthians. 2: 16
- Gifts to Paul Philippians’ gifts to Paul Philippians 4: 18-19

Bitterness

The bitterness of loss, suffering, sin and judgement – as revealed in God’s word

- Lost Blessing Esau’s bitter tears at his lost blessing Genesis 27: 34
- Slavery and Bondage Israelites’ lives made bitter by hardship Exodus 1: 14
- Remembrance of Bondage Bitter herbs eaten at Passover Exodus 12: 8; Numbers 9: 11
- Complaining The bitter waters at Marah Exodus 15: 22-27
- Unfaithfulness Judged Infidelity judged by bitter water Numbers 5: 11-31
- Judgement on Israel The Song of Moses Deuteronomy 32 (esp. vs. 24, 32)
- Unfulfilled Hope Hannah’s longing for a son 1 Samuel 1: 10-11
- Evil Decree Mordecai’s grief at Haman’s decree Esther 4: 1-3
- Suffering & Loss Jobs grief of heart Job 3: 20; 7: 11; 9: 18; 10: 1; 23: 2, etc
- Words like Arrows Bitter words are like arrows Psalm 64: 3
- Immorality’s Consequences Immorality results in bitterness and death Proverbs 5: 1-14
- Foolish Children A parent’s heart grieves Proverbs 17: 25
- Forsaking God Wickedness and backsliding Jeremiah 2: 19; 4: 14-18
- Coming Judgement Heart sorrowing at God’s coming wrath Ezekiel 21: 1-7
- The Day of the Lord in that day – a bitter day Amos 8: 9-14
- Mourning for an Only Son Israel’s mourning for Messiah Zechariah 12: 10-11
- Poison Bitterness poisons and iniquity binds Acts 8: 18-24
- Command to Husbands Do not be bitter towards your wife Colossians 3: 19
- Source of Defilement A Root of Bitterness Hebrews 12: 15
- One’s Heart Revealed A bitter heart is revealed in conduct James 3: 11, 14

A Warning – Against putting bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter Isaiah 5: 20