

## **“Honey Out of the Rock”**

### **Psalm 81:16**

Introduction: This is another psalm of Asaph, who was one of David’s three chief musicians. There is no distinction as to when it was written, but we do know that it retells the early history of Israel. As we read the psalm we see the key theme is missed opportunities because of Israel’s sins. Notice a brief outline of the chapter:

1. The Song of Israel vs. 1-3
2. The Statute of Israel v. 4
3. The Sustainer of Israel vs. 5-7
4. The Standard of Israel vs. 8-10
5. The Straying of Israel vs. 11-12
6. The Suffering of Israel vs. 13-16

Body: Think of it: the eternal God, the creator of heaven and earth, the most glorious, exciting, dynamic person in the universe, actually wanting to bless us with so many things. However, we poor creatures of clay, busy with our business, our pleasures, our studies, and our families do not find the time to worship and adore the God of heaven. Missed opportunities is the theme of this chapter, and one of those is honey out of the rock. What does it mean to have honey out of a rock?

- There was water out of a rock. Exodus 17:6- *“Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.”*
- But honey?
- Judges 14:8- *“And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcase of the lion: and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcase of the lion.”*
- Deuteronomy 32:13- *“He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock”*

#### I. The Contrast of the Honey out of the Rock

- A. Honey is perhaps the sweetest thing that nature can produce while a rock is one of the hardest things in nature.
- B. Here we have sweetness coming out of hardness.
- C. Isaiah 43:2- *“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”*
- D. It is the fire of suffering which will bring forth the gold of godliness.
- E. God won’t put you to it if He can’t get you through it.
- F. It takes darkness to be aware of the light.
- G. A ship in a port is safe, but that is not what ships are built for.

- II. The Contradiction of the Honey out of the Rock
- A. God can make a sweet thing out of a hard thing.
  - B. Jeremiah 32:17- *“Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee”*
  - C. You are going to have hard places in life; you are going to run up against the rocks. But don’t be discouraged, God will give us honey out of the rock!
  - D. How to tell when you are about to have a bad day:
    1. You call Suicide Prevention and they put you on hold.
    2. You wake up face down on the pavement.
    3. Your birthday cake collapses from the weight of the candles.
    4. The bird singing outside your window is a buzzard
    5. You wake up and your braces are locked together.
    6. Your income tax check bounces.
    7. You put both contact lenses in the same eye.
    8. You wake up to the soothing sound of running water...and remember that you just bought a waterbed.
    9. You call your wife and tell her that you would like to eat out tonight and when you get home there is a sandwich on the front porch.
    10. You discover that your children’s idea of humor is putting crazy glue in your Preparation H.
  - E. We can experience sweetness out of the hard experiences of life.
  - F. Why does God not remove the rocks out of our life? Because He cannot show us how sweet He is if He does.
  - G. You can never learn that Christ is all you need until Christ is all you have.
  - H. Think about Joseph:
    1. Hated by his brothers
    2. Sold into Egypt as a slave
    3. In the prison for thirteen years
    4. Yet he found honey coming out of the rock!
  - I. Many of the psalms that David wrote that blesses our hearts today was during some of the hardest times in his life. In many of those psalms there are three parts: tears, trust, and triumph.
    1. His trials are replaced by triumph
    2. His sighing becomes his singing
    3. Yet he found honey coming out of the rock!
  - J. Think about the apostle Paul
    1. II Corinthians 11:23-28
    2. II Timothy 4:10, 14-17
    3. Yet he found honey coming out of the rock!
    4. Philippians 4:4- *“Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”*
- III. The Confidence of the Honey out of the Rock
- A. If God said it, I will believe it! If God said He would bring honey out of a rock, then I will believe it!
  - B. Only God can turn a mess into a message, a test into a testimony, a trial into a triumph, and a victim into a victory.

- C. Have you ever considered the difficulties that Jesus faced when He lived on the earth?
1. He was born into a poor home and never owned anything.
  2. Whenever Jesus tried to do good, somebody tried to turn it into evil.
  3. If He stopped to forgive a sinner He was called the friend of publicans and sinners.
  4. If He ate a meal with a friend He was called a glutton and a drunkard.
  5. He spoke the truth and was called a liar.
  6. He moved in the power of God and the religious leaders said that it was of the devil.
  7. Jesus faced the rocks of life, but He drew honey out of the rock.
  8. Men took Him outside the city and crucified Him on a rock, then Joseph and Nicodemus took His dead body and put it into a rock, and then after three days Jesus resurrected out of the rock and the came forth honey out of the rock.

Conclusion: Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these, "It might have been." What could have happened in the lives of the children of Israel if they had only listened to the voice of God during hard times (Psalm 81:11)? Right now you may be going through a hard place. You have been faithfully doing your job, yet you are right up against a rock, and the rock will not move. Ask God to give you the honey out of the rock. There is always sweetness out of hardness when you let the Lord have His way.