

LAND OF MILK AND HONEY

Exod. 3:8 *"So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with **milk and honey**, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite."*



This phrase, "land of milk and honey", is used many times in scripture, but what does it really mean? This is a Hebrew idiom referring to the milk of goats and beef, and the syrup of dates, which is called date honey. (Exod. 3:8, 33:3, Lev. 20:24, Num. 14:8, Deut. 6:3, 26:9). It is in reference to a promised land of plenty. A fertile land, able to support agriculture. Milk from a clean animal is considered kosher. Honey on the other hand is created by an unclean animal, yet is considered kosher. The classic teaching found in the rabbinical literature is that bees do not produce honey, but simply transport the nectar of flowers and store it as honey in their hives. They claim the honey "dvash" is part of the date or fig tree, not part of the bee that carries it. Modern science, however, recognizes that bees actually do produce the honey, processing nectar in their bodies with enzymes. To argue for honey's acceptance, one early rabbi cites God's own use of it in His praise of Canaan. We also have the story of Johnathan who ate honey when he wasn't supposed to after a battle. The milk being referred to here can be goats, cows or mothers milk, "chalav", its' all symbolic of fruition and abundance of something healthy.

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