

Sweet Reward: Mithcah

*W*hat do people mean when they say, “you should take a well-deserved rest”? They mean that, after standing strong through great tests, trials, and tribulations, or after working very hard and completing a tremendous job, the victor has earned some rest and recuperation time. A “well deserved rest” is not something offered to a lazy man. It signifies having passed through a battle and having heroically come out victoriously.

*And they removed from Tarah, and pitched in Mithcah,
Numbers 33:28.*



Consider the account of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, pfc. Desmond Doss. Not only did Desmond display fortitude, heroism, and courage by going above and beyond the call of duty; he also held an unwavering, no compromise adherence to principle. Perhaps, what made his Medal of Honor decoration especially exceptional was the fact that Desmond Doss completed his emeritus deeds, while firmly maintaining his conviction as a conscientious objector.

A committed Christian, Doss firmly believed that it was wrong to kill another human. He had no problem dying for his country, but he refused to carry a gun or take a life, even to save his own. This belief-system was plainly revealed upon pfc. Doss's enlistment.

As one might imagine, entering the military with such convictions made Desmond a target of derision and even persecution, at first. At the exhausting end of Desmond's first day in boot camp, he took out

his Bible and knelt down to pray at his bedside. Seeing this, his fellow recruits responded with a flurry of name-calling and obscenities and threw boots at him in ridicule. Not only was he a “religious nut” in their eyes, he was also considered a coward and “not a team player” because of his convictions.

His commanding officers were worried that, in the heat of battle, American lives might be lost because of his unwillingness to use a gun. So, they made Doss a medic. This was considered to be a lesser position, given to one they deemed less courageous than the average soldier.

About nine months later, Doss and his unit were in the Pacific. Trying to gain the high ground advantage, they had climbed up a steep cliff onto a plateau. Suddenly, the Japanese opened fire upon them. Dozens of men were killed and wounded. The shooting was so intense that the Americans had to pull back, leaving the dead and wounded behind. Everyone able to do so, escaped over the cliff, except for one lone medic: Desmond Doss.

Under constant enemy fire, Doss treated the wounded, many of whom had once been among his tormentors. He made a stretcher tied to ropes and, one by one, lowered the wounded over the side of the cliff to safety. Doss worked throughout the afternoon and evening treating and lowering the injured soldiers. When Doss finally came over the side of the cliff, he had single-handedly saved seventy men. Men, who some months earlier, had ridiculed him and thrown boots at him as he prayed, now owed their lives to him. Over the next several days, Desmond Doss risked his life again and again to save lives.

Sometime later, Doss was treating the wounded on a beach when shrapnel struck him in his legs. He was being carried to safety when he ordered the men carrying him to put him down and place another man on the stretcher who was in worse condition. While Doss lay on the ground waiting for another stretcher, a sniper shot him, shattering his arm. Rather than risk someone else’s safety to help him, he tied his shattered arm to a gunstock and crawled 300 yards over rough terrain to an aid station.

After he was taken to a hospital, he discovered that he had lost his Bible somewhere on the battlefield. It was precious to him. His wife had given it to him prior to the war; but, even more importantly, it was *Yahweh's* Holy Word! He sent back word to his fellow soldiers requesting that, if they found his lost Bible, would they please send it to him. Upon hearing of his lost Bible, his entire battalion got on their hands and knees and sifted their fingers through sand, mud, and water until one of them finally found it. They dried and cleaned it as best they could and sent it to him. This act of love and devotion demonstrated, more than words, the enormous change in their appreciation and respect for pfc. Doss.

When this crisis was ended and the danger past, for his heroism on the battlefield, pfc. Desmond Doss was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military award. As U.S. President, Harry Truman, pinned the medal upon Doss's uniform, he said, "I would rather have that medal than be President."



Desmond Doss's display of courage had earned him the respect of his formerly antagonistic fellow soldiers, the gratitude of his country, and the laud of his president. To further honor him, a monument was later erected on the plateau where he saved seventy men from death. His was a job well

done. Desmond could then enjoy the well-deserved rest which accompanies an outstanding performance, and had glorified *Yahweh*.¹²⁰

MESSAGE OF *MITHCAH*

Mithcah was a camp name referring to **faithful** Israel's well-deserved rest. While many had fallen and sinned, there were a faithful few in Israel who had stood loyal to *Yahweh*. At this encampment, they found a well-deserved rest, following an outstanding performance,

which had glorified *Yahweh*. Theirs was a pattern much like ours: sin, repent, victory and defeat. Here they were apparently resting in submission to the Heavenly Father.

Mithcah, Israel's twenty-fourth encampment since leaving Egypt, was a camp of "sweet reward" and "rest."¹²¹ For those, like Caleb and Joshua, who had faithfully endured the crushing of leaving Canaan's borders and the undeserved return to the dangers in the mountains and the plateaus, the sweet experience at *Mithcah* was a well-deserved rest. These godly men had loyally served *Yahweh* and had nobly accepted Heaven's corporate punishment with submission and faith. Like Desmond Doss, who enjoyed the peace of knowing he had done his best to glorify *Yahweh* and stand with honor, the needed rest at *Mithcah* would have been a special time of peace for the faithful few.



For the majority of the Children of Israel, however, the restful retreat of *Mithcah* wasn't so much well-deserved as it was a loving gift granted by a gracious Heavenly Father. The weary congregation had done a lot of "pitching" on this journey. Even so, *Mithcah* was only their 24th encampment. Israel was only a little over halfway through their wilderness training. In fact, there were to be 42 "pitchings," during Israel's sojourn in the Wilderness,

eighteen of which still remained.

The word, "pitched" means "to encamp for rest or siege,"¹²² as in Psalms 34:7, "*The angel of [Yahweh] encamps round about them that fear Him, and delivers them,*" or in Joshua 10:34 "*And from Lachish Joshua passed unto Eglon, and all Israel with him; and they encamped against it, and fought against it.*" This meaning is also revealed in Joshua 8:11, where Israel's army "pitched" against Ai.

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Yahweh's "pitching" is both for our rest and our defense. Certainly, we want the army of Yahweh surrounding us, giving us security, protection, and rest.

We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which [Yahweh] pitched, and not man, Hebrews 8:1b-2.

Now, in their twenty-fourth camp pitching, the Children of Israel's stayed at the place of "sweetness," or "sweet delights," which offered the refreshment of green pastures and fresh water.¹²³ Wonderfully, even though the people were continually falling to complaint, failing to trust, and rebelling against Him (Deuteronomy 9:24), *Yahweh*, in His love and care, still gave the weary wanderers rest and comfort. In His great mercy, *Yahweh* had sent spectacular miracles to demonstrate His compassion.

What a wonderful Father we follow, Who often gives us loving benefits and blessing, when we better deserve retributive lightning bolts and judgment. As the Bible says, *YAH* tenderly cares for His children, like a good Shepherd watching over His flock. For our ultimate benefit, *Yahweh* brings us into both blessings and hardships, all with one loving goal. He is working to help us learn to humbly submit to His Leading and to consistently follow in full trust.

TWENTY-FOUR IN SCRIPTURE

Consider next, that *Mithcah* was Israel's twenty-fourth encampment. To fully understand *Yahweh's* message and meaning in this camp experience, we must address the significance of this number in Hebrew Gematria.

We are told that both Moses and David constructed all things, connected with the Tabernacle and Temple worship, by direct revelation

from *Yahweh*, and as a copy of Heavenly concepts, Hebrews 8:5; 1 Chronicles 28:12, 19. The wilderness Tabernacle revealed *Yahweh's* Plan for Restoration, being a “shadow-picture in the wilderness.”¹²⁴



Twenty-four is a number with significance to the priesthood. Consider the *twenty-four* courses of priests in the Hebrew temple; these were commissioned from the “**pattern of things shown in the mount.**”¹²⁵

“Twenty-four” represents “priesthood” in Scripture. It is a number which reminds that we are called to be “kings and priests,” serving *Yahweh*. *Yahshua*, our High Priest, carries on “intercession” in the Heavenly Courts. There is only “one mediator between YAH and mankind: the Man (*Yahshua*) Messiah,” 1 Timothy 2:5.

MITHCAH'S SWEETNESS

In the Bible the Hebrew word “*Mithcah*” often is applied to natural things that are sweet to the taste, such as figs in Judges 9:2. Sometimes this word is used to express physical enjoyment, such as the sleep of a laboring man in Ecclesiastes 5:12. Indeed, the word “*Mithcah*” is descriptive of sweet character qualities, we should all seek. The following are seven things that should be “*Mithcah*,” or “sweet,” to us on this journey. The word translated as “sweet” or “sweetness” in these verses is the original Hebrew word *Mithcah*:



1. **True counsel is sweet** (*Mithcah*).

- *We took sweet counsel together and walked into the house of YAH in company, Psalms 55:14.*

- *The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning, Proverbs 16:21.*
2. **Meditation on Yahweh is sweet** (*Mithcah*).
 - *My meditation of Him shall be sweet: I will be glad in (Yahweh), Psalms 104:34.*
 3. **The Word should be sweet** (*Mithcah*) **to us.**
 - *How sweet are Thy Words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth, Psalms 119:103.*
 - *Thy Words were found and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart; for I am called by Thy Name, O Yahweh, Elohim of hosts, Jeremiah 15:16.*
 4. **The judgments of Yahweh should be regarded as sweet** (*Mithcah*).
 - *They are considered sweeter than honey in Psalms 19:10. We are to rejoice in His decisions and providence over our welfare and concerns of our lives.:*
 - *His judgments are truly sweet to the one who can pray Not my will, but Thine be done, Luke 22:42.*

The *Mithcah* concepts is continued in the New Testament in the following verses:

5. **There is sweetness in believing.**
 - *Now the Elohim of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, Romans 15:13.*
6. **Communion with Yahweh is sweet** (*Mithcah*).
 - *The grace of the Adonai Yahshua Messiah, and the love of Yahweh, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all, 2 Corinthians 13:14.*
7. **The love of YAH brings us sweetness.**
 - *The love of Yahweh is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, Romams 5:5.¹²⁵*

Some hearty counsel, words of comfort, and songs of assurance united the survivors at *Mithcah*. Soon they would begin their zig-zagging-trek back through the same desert, again toward their inheritance. But for now they rested from their struggle for survival, ever looking for “good fresh water” and “pasture land.”¹²⁶ Will that not be true of those who take this spiritual journey? It is encouraging to remember that the same Heavenly Father Who tests and tries His children, provides them with sweet *Mithcah* moments of rest along the way.

Sometimes, when we experience trials and struggles, it is easy to forget the incredible sweetness of the Word from our Heavenly King. But, if we will remember to delight in Him instead of mentally dwelling on the dangers and trials, we will have found a never failing Source of Honey, in the Rock of our Salvation. We are encouraged to carry the sweet experiences of *Mithcah*, even in the darkest of trials. There is sweet water found in intercession, sweet as honey; and there is Honey in the Rock for you!



O my brother, do you know the Saviour,
Who is wondrous kind and true?
He's the “Rock of your salvation!”
There's Honey in the Rock for you.

Oh, there's Honey in the Rock, my brother,
There's Honey in the Rock for you;
Leave your sins for the Blood to cover,
There's Honey in the Rock for you.

Have you “tasted that *Yahweh* is gracious,”
Do you walk in the way that's new?

Have you drunk from the living Fountain?
There's Honey in the Rock for you.

Do you pray unto *YAH* the Father,
"What wilt Thou have me to do?"
Never fear, He will surely answer,
There's Honey in the Rock for you.

Oh, there's Honey in the Rock, my brother,
There's Honey in the Rock for you;
Leave your sins for the Blood to cover,
There's Honey in the Rock for you.

*Lyrics from the hymn, Honey in the Rock
by Frederick A. Graves (1895)*



SUMMARY OF CHAPTER TEN

- *Mithcah*, Israel's 24th encampment was about enjoying the "sweet reward" of a job well done, and taking a well-deserved "rest."
- Twenty-four is also the number signifying the priesthood in Hebrew Gematria. Thus, the sweetness promised in *Mithcah* is a special promise to *Yahweh*'s faithful interceding priests.
- The experiential "sweetness" of *Mithcah* comes, not in the absence of trial, but in the living awareness of the blessings which *Yahweh* gives His children, sustaining and strengthening them.
- *Yahweh* grants us many ways to taste the sweetness of *Mithcah* as we make the spiritual journey to the Promised Land. His judgments are blessings to the faithful. And communion with Heaven enshrouds the darkest trial in light. *Yahweh*'s Law and Word are sweet.
- For those who walk in *Yahweh*'s Love, faithfully serving as priests of the Most High, *Mithcah* is the promise of Honey in the Rock, sweetness amidst the trials.

*Unless Thy Law had been my delight,
I should have perished in mine afflictionm Psalms 119:92,*