

Tuesday 16th November 2021

Ezekiel 3: 1 – 3 *“And he said to me, ‘Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the house of Israel.’ So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. 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.”*

Revelation 10: 9 *“So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me ‘Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.’”*

Life is a mixture of despair and joy, ups and downs, good and bad times. Nobody escapes these fluctuations. Why can't life be constantly pleasant?

Ezekiel was called to be a prophet by God for the Jewish exiles in Babylonia where they had been taken as slaves after being conquered. Ezekiel's people thought that their exile would be short and they were puzzled as to why God had allowed them to be defeated. Ezekiel put them right by relaying from his visions God's wrath at their straying from His ways.

The analogy of a scroll, on which was written the people's misdemeanours and sinfulness contrasted with the sweetness of redemption for those who repent, is taken up by John who refers to the sourness of sin and the sweetness of life with the Lord.

We, too need to attend to God to avoid *“...lament, mourning and woe.”* Ezekiel 2: 10(part)