

~BONES (442)

[Hebrew, *e'tsem*, Greek, *o-ste'on*]

.. Faith-Strengthening Attestations

.. Uncleaness

.. Figurative Usage

.. Prophetic Usage

- Composed of living tissues, bones **form a strong framework in the bodies of vertebrates**. Too complicated in construction to be fully understood by scientists, man is woven together with a skeleton of more than 200 bones and their connecting sinews.
- With skin and flesh you proceeded to clothe me and with **bones** and sinews to weave me together. (**Job 10:11**)
- Just as you are not aware of what is the way of the spirit in the **bones** in the belly of her that is pregnant, in like manner you do not know the work of the true God, who does all things. (**Ecclesiastes 11:5**)
- Pound for pound, **bone is stronger than steel**, and its **construction is comparable to reinforced concrete**. In fact, in describing Behemoth, Yehowah says;
 - Here, now, is Behemoth that I have made as well as you. Green grass it eats just as a bull does. (**Job 40:15**)
 - Its **bones are tubes of copper**. Its strong bones are like wrought-iron rods. (**Job 40:18**)
- The description aptly fits the hippopotamus, the **bones** of whose short, powerful legs and heavily built hips support his massive weight of from 2,300 to 3,600 kilograms (5,000 to 8,000 pounds)
- The common **Hebrew** word for **bone** is *e'tsem*.
- Then the man said; This is at last **bone** of my **bones** and flesh of my flesh. This one will be called Woman, because from man this one was taken. (**Genesis 2:23**)
- A synonym is *ge'rem*.

- By patience a commander is induced, and a mild tongue itself can break a **bone**. (**Proverbs 25:15**)
- **O-ste'on** is the **Greek** term.
- In fact, these things took place in order for the scripture to be fulfilled: Not a **bone** of his will be crushed. (**John 19:36**)
- Eve, the first woman, was formed from a rib taken from Adam. This was appropriate in view of the fact that **bones** are the body's foundation, are wholly made up of living cells, and are blood-cell producers. Adam could truly say of Eve; This is at last **bone** of my **bones** and flesh of my flesh. She was the closest possible relative of Adam.
- And Yehowah God proceeded to build the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman and to bring her to the man. (**Genesis 2:22**)
- Then the man said; This is at last **bone** of my **bones** and flesh of my flesh. This one will be called Woman, because from man this one was taken. (**Genesis 2:23**)
- A like expression is used several times in the Scriptures to denote close kinship.
- After that Laban said to him; You are indeed my **bone** and my flesh. So he dwelt with him a full month. (**Genesis 29:14**)
- Speak, please, in the hearing of all the landowners of Shechem, Which is better for you, for seventy men, all the sons of Jerubbaal, to rule over you or for one man to rule over you? And you must remember that your **bone** and your flesh I am. (**Judges 9:2**)
- In time all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, Look! We ourselves are your **bone** and your flesh. (**2 Samuel 5:1**)
- My brothers you are, my **bone** and my flesh you are. So why should you become the last one's to bring the king back? (**2 Samuel 19:12**)
- In time all the Israelites collected themselves together to David at Hebron, saying; Look! We are your **bone** and your flesh. (**1**

Chronicles 11:1)

· Faith-Strengthening Attestations

- Joseph knew that it would be some time before God would lead Israel up out of Egypt and establish them in Canaan. In faith, as a testimony to Israel, he commanded that his **bones** be taken up when Israel went out.
- Hence Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying; God will without fail turn his attention to you. Accordingly you must take my **bones** up out of here. (**Genesis 50:25**)
- By faith Joseph, nearing his end, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and he gave a command concerning his **bones**. (**Hebrews 11:22**)
- Israel kept this in mind, and Moses followed out the injunction when he led Israel up out of Egypt.
- And Moses was taking Joseph's **bones** with him, because he had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying; God will without fail turn his attention to you, and you must take my **bones** up out of here with you. (**Exodus 13:19**)
- Joseph's **bones** were finally buried in Shechem in the tract that Jacob had bought.
- And Joseph's **bones**, which the sons of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried in Shechem in the tract of the field that Jacob had acquired from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, for a hundred pieces of money, and it came to belong to the sons of Joseph as an inheritance. (**Joshua 24:32**)
- A miracle, posthumously performed in connection with Elisha, was the immediate raising to life of a man whose dead body was thrown into Elisha's burial place and touched his **bones**. This was proof that it was God's power, not Elisha's, that performed the miracles Elisha had accomplished, and it was a powerful attestation or a seal of God as to the genuineness of his faithful prophet.
- After that Elisha died and they buried him. And there were marauding bands of the Moabites that regularly came into the land at the coming in of the year. (**2 Kings 13:20**)

- And it came about that as they were burying a man, why, here they saw the marauding band. At once they threw the man into Elisha's burial place and went off. When the man touched the **bones** of Elisha, he immediately came to life and stood upon his feet. (**2 Kings 13:21**)
- After Jesus resurrection he appeared to some of his disciples, who thought they were beholding a spirit. To reassure them Jesus said; Feel me and see, because a spirit does not have flesh and **bones** just as you behold that I have.
- See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Feel me and see, because a spirit does not have flesh and **bones** just as you behold that I have. (**Luke 24:39**)
- Jesus not saying he was flesh and blood has caused some to say that he had a spiritualized body of flesh and **bones** with no blood. There is no foundation for this argument, for the disciples could see that he had **bones** and flesh, but no blood was running from his body for him to call to their attention.
- Jesus thereby provided evidence by the mouth of 11 apostles and others assembled with them on that occasion that he was truly resurrected to life and that the disciples were suffering no hallucination in declaring his resurrection.

.. Uncleaness

- Under the Law given through Moses, a person was religiously unclean for seven days if he touched a corpse, a **bone** of a man, or a burial place.
- And everyone who on the open field may touch someone slain with the sword or a corpse or a **bone** of a man or a burial place will be unclean seven days. (**Numbers 19:16**)
- King Josiah fought false worship by filling with human **bones** the places where sacred poles of pagan worship had been and burning on the altars the **bones** from burial places, thus making the altars defiled and unfit for use.
- And he broke the sacred pillars to pieces and went on to cut down the sacred poles and to fill their places with human **bones**.

(2 Kings 23:14)

- When Josiah turned, he got to see the burial places that were there in the mountain. So he sent and took the **bones** from the burial places and burned them upon the altar, that he might make it unfit for worship, according to Yehowah's word that the man of the true God had proclaimed, who proclaimed these things. (2 Kings 23:16)
- And also all the houses of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria that the kings of Israel had built to cause offense Josiah removed, and he went on to do to them according to all the doings that he had done at Bethel. (2 Kings 23:19)
- And the **bones** of priests he burned upon their altars. Thus he cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 34:5)

.. Figurative Usage

- The Bible in its references to **bones** highlights how vital they are literally to the physical health of the individual and figuratively to his spiritual health. The **bones** are the interior supporting framework of the body, and as such are used in the Bible metaphorically to represent one's being, especially as affected by deep feelings and emotions.
- Thus, the **bones** of a fearful individual are said to be filled with dread.
- A dread came over me, and a trembling, and the multitude of my **bones** it filled with dread. (Job 4:14)
- Ones **bones** can shake because of extreme dejection or be hot from dryness because of disease.
- As regards the prophets, my heart has been broken within me. All my **bones** have begun shaking. I have become like a man that is drunk, and like an able-bodied man whom wine has overcome, because of Yehowah and because of his holy words. (Jeremiah 23:9)
- My very skin became black and dropped off me, and my very **bones** became hot from dryness. (Job 30:30)
- The fear of Yehowah is a refreshment to the **bones**.

- May it become a healing to your navel and a refreshment to your bones. (Proverbs 3:8)
- A good report is said to make the bones fat or fill them with marrow, that is, invigorate the whole body.
- The brightness of the eyes makes the heart rejoice, a report that is good makes the bones fat. (Proverbs 15:30)
- Pleasant sayings are a healing to the bones.
- Pleasant sayings are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and a healing to the bones. (Proverbs 16:24)
- On the other hand, negative emotions can have a harmful effect on one's organism. A spirit that is stricken makes the bones dry.
- A heart that is joyful does good as a curer, but a spirit that is stricken makes the bones dry. (Proverbs 17:22)
- A wife that acts shamefully, is said to be to her husband as rottenness in his bones.
- A capable wife is a crown to her owner, but as rottenness in his bones is she that acts shamefully. (Proverbs 12:4)
- The harboring of jealousy toward others can also be destructive to a person physically and spiritually, and so jealousy is rottenness to the bones.
- A calm heart is the life of the fleshly organism, but jealousy is rottenness to the bones. (Proverbs 14:30)
- Because of the strong construction of bones,
- By patience a commander is induced, and a mild tongue itself can break a bone. (Proverbs 25:15)
- Says concerning the power of patience and kind words to overcome stiff, firm opposition. By patience a commander is induced, and a mild tongue itself can break a bone.

.. Prophetic Usage

- **At the institution of the Passover, Yehowah commanded that the lamb, or goat, be roasted whole and you must not break a **bone** in it.**
- **In one house it is to be eaten. You must not take any of the flesh out of the house to some place outside. And you must not break a **bone** in it. (Exodus 12:46)**
- **This was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who is the antitypical Passover sacrifice.**
- **The next day he beheld Jesus coming toward him, and he said, See, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)**
- **Clear away the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, according as you are free from ferment. For, indeed, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. (1 Corinthians 5:7)**
- **Jesus died on the torture stake. The soldiers came around to break the legs of those who were impaled that day, as was the custom in order to hasten death. They broke the legs of the two evildoers. However, they found that Jesus had already died, **so they did not break his legs**, but one jabbed his side with a spear.**
- **Then the Jews, since it was Preparation, in order, that the bodies might not remain upon the torture stakes on the Sabbath; for the day of that Sabbath was a great one, requested Pilate to **have their legs broken** and the bodies taken away. (John 19:31)**
- **The soldiers came, therefore, and **broke the legs of the first man and those of the other man** that had been impaled with him. (John 19:32)**
- **But on coming to Jesus, as they saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. (John 19:33)**
- **Yet one of the soldiers jabbed his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. (John 19:34)**
- **And he that has seen it has borne witness, and his witness is true, and that man knows he tells true things, in order, that you also may believe. (John 19:35)**

- In fact, these things took place in order for the scripture to be fulfilled. Not a **bone** of his will be crushed. ([John 19:36](#))
- He is guarding all the **bones** of that one, not one of them has been broken. ([Psalms 34:20](#))
- Yehowah gave Ezekiel, in Babylon, a vision in which he likened Israel to dry **bones** lying in a valley plain. In the vision, as Ezekiel prophesied to the **bones**, they miraculously came together, and flesh came upon them.
- Then he prophesied to the wind, and it brought breath into their bodies so that they stood up as a great army. Yehowah explained the vision as applying to Israel who, swallowed up in Babylonian exile, were as people whose hope had perished.
- The hand of Yehowah proved to be upon me, so that he brought me forth in the spirit of Yehowah and set me down in the midst of the valley plain, and it was full of **bones**. ([Ezekiel 37:1](#))
- And he had me pass along by them all round about, and, look! There were very many on the surface of the valley plain and, look! They were very dry. ([Ezekiel 37:2](#))
- And he began to say to me; Son of man, can these **bones** come to life? To that I said; Sovereign Lord Yehowah, you yourself well know. ([Ezekiel 37:3](#))
- And he went on to say to me; Prophecy over these **bones**, and you must say to them, O you dry **bones**, hear the word of Yehowah. ([Ezekiel 37:4](#))
- This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said to these **bones**; Here I am bringing into you breath, and you must come to life. ([Ezekiel 37:5](#))
- And I will put upon you sinews and cause to come upon you flesh, and I will overlay upon you skin and put in you breath, and you must come to life, and you will have to know that I am Yehowah. ([Ezekiel 37:6](#))
- And I prophesied just as I had been commanded. And a sound began to occur as soon as I prophesied, and here there was a rattling, and **bones** began to approach, **bone** to its **bone**. ([Ezekiel](#)

37:7)

- And I saw, and, look! Upon them sinews themselves and flesh itself came up and skin began to be overlaid upon them above. But as regards breath, there was none in them. (**Ezekiel 37:8**)
- And he went on saying to me; Prophecy to the wind. Prophecy, O son of man, and you must say to the wind; This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; From the four winds come in, O wind, and blow upon these killed people, that they may come to life. (**Ezekiel 37:9**)
- And I prophesied just as he had commanded me, and the breath proceeded to come into them, and they began to live and stand upon their feet, a very, very great military force. (**Ezekiel 37:10**)
- And he went on to say to me; Son of man, as regards these **bones**, they are the whole house of Israel. Here they are saying; Our **bones** have become dry, and our hope has perished. We have been severed off to ourselves. (**Ezekiel 37:11**)
- Similarly, Jeremiah likened the king of Assyria, who took the ten-tribe kingdom into exile, and Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who carried away Judah, to lions devouring God's people and gnawing on their **bones**.
- Israel is a scattered sheep. Lions themselves have done the dispersing. In the first instance the king of Assyria has devoured him, and in this latter instance Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon has gnawed on his **bones**. (**Jeremiah 50:17**)
- God had permitted this because of Israel's apostasy. But Yehowah was going to remember them and put into them his spirit, which would revive and revitalize them as well as bring them back to be settled in the Promised Land.
- Therefore prophecy, and you must say to them; This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; Here I am opening your burial places, and I will bring you up out of your burial places, O my people, and bring you in upon the soil of Israel. (**Ezekiel 37:12**)
- And you will have to know that I am Yehowah when I open your burial places and when I bring you up out of your burial places, O my people. (**Ezekiel 37:13**)

- **And I will put my spirit in you, and you must come to life, and I will settle you upon your soil, and you will have to know that I myself, Yehowah, have spoken and I have done it, is the utterance of Yehowah. (Ezekiel 37:14)**

- **After Yehowah's destruction of Gog and his hordes who come up in attack against Yehowah's people, there will be continual employment for seven months in marking the places of the **bones** of Gog's crowd and burying them, in order to cleanse the surface of the earth from all uncleanness and defilement.**

- **And there will be men for continual employment whom they will divide off, passing along through the land, burying, with those passing through, those left remaining on the surface of the earth, in order to cleanse it. To the end of seven months they will keep making search. (Ezekiel 39:14)**

- **And those passing through must pass along through the land, and should one actually see the bone of a man he must also build beside it a marker, until those who do the burying will have buried it in the Valley of Gog's Crowd. (Ezekiel 39:15)**

- **And the name of the city will also be Hamonah. And they will have to cleanse the land. (Ezekiel 39:16)**

- **With a reference to bone marrow, Yehowah figuratively describes the rich blessings he will bring to his people when he wipes out death, saying that he will make for them a banquet of well-oiled dishes filled with marrow.**

- **And Yehowah of armies will certainly make for all the peoples, in this mountain, a banquet of well-oiled dishes, a banquet of wine kept on the dregs, of well-oiled dishes filled with marrow, of wine kept on the dregs, filtered. (Isaiah 25:6)**