

## ~TONGUE (359)

- **An organ of the body playing a prominent role in tasting and in speech.** What is commonly called taste results from reactions of the taste buds **plus** the aroma detected by the sense of smell.
- **More important, the tongue is also essential to speech, because articulation of words requires active maneuvering on its part, which it does with dexterity and remarkable speed.**

### See Also MOUTH (The Palate)

- **In Bible usage, **tongue** often stands for **language**.**
- **From these the population of the isles of the nations was spread about in their lands, each according to its **tongue**, according to their families, by their nations. (**Genesis 10:5**)**
- **Yehowah will raise up against you a nation far away, from the end of the earth, just as an eagle pounces, a nation whose **tongue** you will not understand. (**Deuteronomy 28:49**)**
- **For by those stammering with their lips and by a different **tongue** he will speak to this people. (**Isaiah 28:11**)**
- **And they all became filled with Holy Spirit and started to speak with different **tongues**, just as the spirit was granting them to make utterance. (**Acts of Apostles 2:4**)**
- **And when Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they began speaking with **tongues** and prophesying. (**Acts of Apostles 19:6**)**
- **To yet another operations of powerful works, to another prophesying, to another discernment of inspired utterances, to another different **tongues**, and to another interpretation of tongues. (**1 Corinthians 12:10**)**
- **Or, at times, it refers to a people speaking a certain language.**
- **And they sing a new song, saying; You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because you were slaughtered and with**

your blood you bought persons for God out of every tribe and **tongue** and people and nation. (**Revelation 5:9**)

- After these things I saw, and, look! A great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and **tongues**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, and there were palm branches in their hands. (**Revelation 7:9**)
- And there was granted it to wage war with the holy ones and conquer them, and authority was given it over every tribe and people and **tongue** and nation. (**Revelation 13:7**)
- And as regards their works and their thoughts, I am coming in order to collect all the nations and **tongues** together, and they will have to come and see my glory. (**Isaiah 66:18**)

### **See Also LANGUAGE**

- Jesus half brother James vividly describes the power exercised by the **tongue** and the need for the Christian to exercise great care to use it properly. He points out that failure to bridle the tongue can be a factor in causing ones worship to be futile.
- If any man seems to himself to be a formal worshiper and yet does not bridle his **tongue**, but goes on deceiving his own heart, this man's form of worship is futile. (**James 1:26**)
- He likens the **tongue** to a fire that can destroy a forest. The unbridled tongue can be influenced by destructive forces and can bring about such a great quantity or extent of unrighteousness that it can contaminate the individuals entire life.
- It can be poisonous, spiritually, to oneself and to others. It cannot be tamed by man's own efforts, nor can any imperfect human be completely exempt from stumbling in word.
- For we all stumble many times. If anyone does not stumble in word, this one is a perfect man, able to bridle also his whole body. (**James 3:2**)
- If we put bridles in the mouths of horses for them to obey us, we manage also their whole body. (**James 3:3**)

- Look! Even boats, although they are so big and are driven by hard winds, are steered by a very small rudder to where the inclination of the man at the helm wishes. (**James 3:4**)
- So, too, the **tongue** is a little member and yet makes great brags. Look! How little a fire it takes to set so great a woodland on fire! (**James 3:5**)
- Well, the **tongue** is a fire. The tongue is constituted a world of unrighteousness among our members, for it spots up all the body and sets the wheel of natural life aflame and it is set aflame by Gehenna. (**James 3:6**)
- For every species of wild beast as well as bird and creeping thing and sea creature is to be tamed and has been tamed by humankind. (**James 3:7**)
- But the **tongue**, not one of mankind can get it tamed. An unruly injurious thing, it is full of death-dealing poison. (**James 3:8**)
- But the taming of this unruly organ of the imperfect human flesh is not impossible for the Christian, for by Yehowah's undeserved kindness through Christ a person can bridle his **tongue** and can make over his personality.
- Out of the same mouth come forth blessing and cursing. It is not proper, my brothers, for these things to go on occurring this way. (**James 3:10**)
- A fountain does not cause the sweet and the bitter to bubble out of the same opening, does it? (**James 3:11**)
- My brothers, a fig tree cannot produce olives or a vine figs, can it? Neither can salt water produce sweet water. (**James 3:12**)
- Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show out of his fine conduct his works with a mildness that belongs to wisdom. (**James 3:13**)
- But if you have bitter jealousy and contentiousness in your hearts, do not be bragging and lying against the truth. (**James 3:14**)
- This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is the

earthly, animal, demonic. (James 3:15)

- For where jealousy and contentiousness are, there disorder and every vile thing are. (James 3:16)
- But the wisdom from above is first of all chaste, then peaceable, reasonable, ready to obey, full of mercy and good fruits, not making partial distinctions, not hypocritical. (James 3:17)
- Moreover, the fruit of righteousness has its seed sown under peaceful conditions for those who are making peace. (James 3:18)
- For, he that would love life and see good days, let him restrain his **tongue** from what is bad and his lips from speaking deception. (1 Peter 3:10)
- Do not be lying to one another. Strip off the old personality with its practices. (Colossians 3:9)
- And clothe yourselves with the new personality, which through accurate knowledge is being made new according to the image of the One who created it. (Colossians 3:10)
- Safeguard your **tongue** against what is bad, and your lips against speaking deception. (Psalms 34:13)
- I said; I will guard my ways to keep from sinning with my **tongue**. I will set a muzzle as a guard to my own mouth, as long as anyone wicked is in front of me. (Psalms 39:1)
- In harmony with James description of the **tongue**, the writer of Proverbs says that the calmness of the tongue **can be a tree of life**. On the other hand, a distortion in it can mean, **a breaking down in the spirit**, death and life are in its power.
- The calmness of the **tongue** is a tree of life, but distortion in it means a breaking down in the spirit. (Proverbs 15:4)
- Death and life are in the power of the **tongue**, and he that is loving it will eat its fruitage. (Proverbs 18:21)

- A mild **tongue** itself can break a bone, in that a person hard as bone may be softened by a mild answer and break down in his hardness and opposition.
- By patience a commander is induced, and a mild **tongue** itself can break a bone. (**Proverbs 25:15**)
- In fact, the **tongue** can heal in a spiritual way if it speaks the words of God.
- There exists the one speaking thoughtlessly as with the stabs of a sword, but the **tongue** of the wise ones is a healing. (**Proverbs 12:18**)
- From Yehowah is the answer of the **tongue**, for only he can provide spiritually correct words that result in healing.
- To earthling man belong the arrangements of the heart, but from Yehowah is the answer of the **tongue**. (**Proverbs 16:1**)
- The Scriptures foretold the spiritual healing from Jesus ministry as he spoke God's words, binding up the brokenhearted.
- The spirit of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah is upon me, for the reason that Yehowah has anointed me to tell Good News to the meek ones. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to those taken captive and the wide opening of the eyes even to the prisoners. (**Isaiah 61:1**)
- Yehowah emphasizes how he views the badness of the false **tongue**, listing it as one of the seven things that he hates, placing it alongside hands that are shedding innocent blood.
- There are six things that Yehowah does hate, yes, seven are things detestable to his soul. (**Proverbs 6:16**)
- Lofty eyes, a false **tongue**, and hands that are shedding innocent blood. (**Proverbs 6:17**)
- A heart fabricating hurtful schemes, feet that are in a hurry to run to badness. (**Proverbs 6:18**)
- A false witness that launches forth lies, and anyone sending forth contentions among brothers. (**Proverbs 6:19**)

- David describes the wicked as attempting to destroy God's servant with a **tongue** sharpened just like a sword, but he points out that actually God will see to it that they themselves are wounded, for their tongue is against their own selves.
- Who have sharpened their **tongue** just like a sword, who have aimed their arrow, bitter speech. (**Psalms 64:3**)
- But God will shoot at them with an arrow suddenly. Wounds have resulted to them. (**Psalms 64:7**)
- And they cause one to stumble. But their **tongue** is against their own selves. All those looking upon them will shake their head. (**Psalms 64:8**)
- Yehowah promises his people; Any **tongue** at all that will rise up against you in the judgment you will condemn.
- Any weapon whatever that will be formed against you will have no success, and any **tongue** at all that will rise up against you in the judgment you will condemn. This is the hereditary possession of the servants of Yehowah, and their righteousness is from me, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Isaiah 54:17**)
- This is comforting to God's servants, who stick to his Law even though those considered wise in the world may speak great things and say; With our **tongue** we shall prevail.
- Yehowah will cut off all smooth lips, the **tongue** speaking great things. (**Psalms 12:3**)
- Those who have said; With our **tongue** we shall prevail. Our lips are with us. Who will be a master to us? (**Psalms 12:4**)
- Because of the despoiling of the afflicted ones, because of the sighing of the poor ones, I shall at this time arise, says Yehowah. I shall put him in safety from anyone that puffs at him. (**Psalms 12:5**)
- They may keep sticking out the **tongue** and striking with the tongue
- Over whom is it that you have a jolly good time? Against whom

do you keep opening wide the mouth, keep sticking out the **tongue**? Are you not the children of transgression, the seed of falsehood. (**Isaiah 57:4**)

- And they proceeded to say; Come, men, and let us think out against Jeremiah some thoughts, for the Law will not perish from the priest or counsel from the wise one or the word from the prophet. Come and let us strike him with the **tongue**, and let us pay no attention to any of his words. (**Jeremiah 18:18**)
- But their failure is certain.
- The mouth of the righteous one, it bears the fruit of wisdom, but the **tongue** of perverseness will be cut off. (**Proverbs 10:31**)
- Yehowah promised to make **tongues** that formerly were stammering quick in speaking clear things and to cause speechless tongues **to cry out in gladness**.
- And the heart itself of those who are overhasty will consider knowledge, and even the **tongue** of the stammerers will be quick in speaking clear things. (**Isaiah 32:4**)
- At that time the lame one will climb up just as a stag does, and the **tongue** of the speechless one will cry out in gladness. For in the wilderness waters will have burst out, and torrents in the desert plain. (**Isaiah 35:6**)
- When Jesus was on earth, he healed literally speechless persons, or those with some speech impediment.
- And he took him away from the crowd privately and put his fingers into the man's ears and, after spitting, he touched his **tongue**. (**Mark 7:33**)
- And with a look up into heaven he sighed deeply and said to him; Ephphatha, that is; Be opened. (**Mark 7:34**)
- Well, his hearing powers were opened, and the impediment of his **tongue** was loosed, and he began speaking normally. (**Mark 7:35**)
- With that he charged them not to tell anyone, but the more he would charge them, that much more they would proclaim it. (**Mark 7:36**)

- Indeed, they were being astounded in a most extraordinary way and they said; He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the speechless speak. (**Mark 7:37**)
- The time will come when every **tongue** will speak right things, for Yehowah declares that every tongue will swear to him. The apostle Paul reveals that this will be done through Jesus Christ, when he says that every tongue will openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.
- And every **tongue** should openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. (**Philippians 2:11**)
- By my own self I have sworn, out of my own mouth in righteousness the word has gone forth, so that it will not return, that to me every knee will bend down, every **tongue** will swear. (**Isaiah 45:23**)
- For it is written: As I live, says Yehowah, to me every knee will bend down, and every **tongue** will make open acknowledgment to God. (**Romans 14:11**)
- Yehowah symbolically describes himself as having a **tongue** that he will use in his anger, like a devouring fire.
- Look! The name of Yehowah is coming from far away, burning with his anger and with heavy clouds. As for his lips, they have become full of denunciation, and his **tongue** is like a devouring fire. (**Isaiah 30:27**)
- At Pentecost, when Jesus Christ poured out Holy Spirit on some 120 disciples gathered in a room in Jerusalem, that spirit was made manifest audibly by their speaking in different **tongues** and visibly by a tongue as if of fire sitting upon each one of them.
- And **tongues** as if of fire became visible to them and were distributed about, and one sat upon each one of them. (**Acts of Apostles 2:3**)
- And they all became filled with Holy Spirit and started to speak with different **tongues**, just as the spirit was granting them to make utterance. (**Acts of Apostles 2:4**)

