

INTRODUCTION TO THE SKELETAL SYSTEM

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The skeletal system is made up of many different bones which collectively form the framework of our body. It supports the weight of the body, protects delicate internal organs and is essential for locomotion and manipulative functions. In this way bones can be linked to Laws and Principles as it is the Laws and Principles of a kingdom that give the people support, that protect them from hurt, and which allows them to go about their daily business in an orderly way. Laws and Principles form the framework for any society as without them it would be chaos and the society will disintegrate, just as our body would fall apart without the strong framework of the skeletal system.

The way YaHWaH has created our skeleton is wonderful. It is extremely strong, yet light. Composed of bones, cartilage, joints and ligaments it accounts for about 20% of the body mass. Bones make up the bulk of the skeleton. Cartilage is found only in isolated areas such as the nose, parts of the ribs and the joints. Ligaments connect bones and function to reinforce joints, allowing required movements and restricting movements in the wrong direction. Joints provide the mobility of the skeleton, without impairing its strength.

The Number of Bones

The skeletal system is made up of 206 bones and is divided into two categories;

- Axial Skeleton - has 80 bones and includes the bones of the skull, vertebral column and rib cage.
- Appendicular Skeleton - has 126 bones and includes the 120 bones of the upper and lower limbs and the 6 bones forming the girdles (shoulder and hip bones).

Just like the skeleton, the Laws of YaHWaH, the 10 Commandments, are divided into 2 categories. The first 4 commandments are all about our relationship to YaHWaH, while the last 6 commandments teach us about our relationships with our fellow man. This is a 40%-60% division.

There is an easy way to remember the number of bones in the body. Each limb has 30 bones. There are four limbs, just as there are four sides to the sanctuary. On each side of the sanctuary are camped 3 tribes, $3 \times 10 = 30$ bones in each limb. Times 30 by 4 and you have 120 bones, making up part of the Appendicular Skeleton. 120 is 60% of 200. Forty percent of 200 is 80 ($200 - 120$), and it is 80 bones that make up the Axial Skeleton. Then we have left the 6 bones that form the girdles to make a total of 206 bones.

As we will learn in this study, and in following studies on the nervous system, the head

contains the throne room area of YaHWaH, so it is appropriate that the bones of the Axial Skeleton correspond, in this analogy, with the 4 commandments outlining our relationship with YaHWaH.

Bone Classification

Bones are classified according to their shape as long, short, flat and irregular bones. In addition to these four major classes, there is also another group of bones called the sesamoid bones. By some, this group of bones are regarded as short bones. So, in total there are four major groups and one minor group of bones, bringing us to a total of five groups. I will discuss the significance of these numbers after I have given a description of each of these categories of bones.

All the bones are made up of different proportions of two basic types of bone tissue, compact and spongy bone. Compact bone is dense and looks smooth and homogenous, while spongy bone is composed of small needle-like or flat pieces of bone called trabaculae, literally 'little beams' and has a good deal of open space. The trabaculae form a network, the spaces of which are filled with bone marrow in living bones.

- Long bones are bones that are longer than that they are wide. All the bones of the limbs fit into this category with the exception of the patella (kneecap), and those of the wrist and ankle. So even the three bones that make the framework for each finger are long bones because, although they are relatively small, they are longer than they are wide. The function of these bones is mainly to sustain the weight of the trunk of the body and to give the power of locomotion. The long bones consist of a shaft and two extremities. The shaft is a hollow cylinder which is contracted and narrowed to allow space for the bellies of muscles that run along them. The walls of the shaft are made of compact bone of great thickness in the middle but becoming thinner towards the extremities. There is little spongy bone in the shaft but the bone is hollowed out in the centre to form the medullary canal which, in adults, contains fat (yellow marrow). The extremities are generally somewhat expanded so that easy connections with other bones can be made as well as to provide muscle attachment sites. At the extremities the bone is made primarily of spongy tissue with only a thin compact bone outer layer. Long bones are not straight, but curved, the curve generally taking place in two directions, giving the bone extra strength.
- Short bones are roughly cube like in shape. These bones can be found in the wrist (carpals) and ankles (tarsals). Each wrist and ankle contains eight of these bones that are connected together by ligaments. This provides strength and limited motion. These bones are formed mainly of spongy tissue, with only their thin outer layer being compact.
- Sesamoid bones are a special type of short bone that are embedded within a tendon (for example, the patella or kneecap) or a joint capsule. The number of these bones vary from person to person. They are made of cartilage in early life

but ossify as the person ages. They develop in tendons which exert a great amount of pressure on the parts over which they glide and as a result some clearly act to alter the direction of pull of a tendon, while the function of others is not known.

- Flat bones are thin, flattened and usually a bit curved. Their main function is that of protection of underlying structures or to provide a broad surface for muscular attachment. The flat bones include most of the skull bones, i.e. the occipital, parietal, frontal, nasal, lacrimal and vomer, as well as the sternum, ribs, scapula and the hip bone comprised of the ilium, ischium and pubis. These bones are composed of two thin layers of compact bone with a layer of spongy bone in between varying in thickness depending on the bone. In the skull, the outer layer of the compact bone is thick and tough whilst the inner layer is thinner, denser and more brittle.
- Irregular bones are those that do not fit into the previous groups because of their funny shape. The bones included in this group are some of the skull bones, i.e. temporal, sphenoid, zygomatic, maxillae, palatine and inferior nasal concha, as well as the vertebrae, sacrum, coccyx and hyoid bone. Like those of the other groups, these bones follow the same structural make up and are comprised mainly of spongy bone encased by thin layers of compact bone.

Now that we have learnt about the five different classes of bones, why is this number, the number five (or four plus one - four major groups of bones and one minor) so significant? In Scripture, five is the number of *grace*; four is the number of *material completeness*, hence it is the *world number*; and one represents the fact that there is one YaHWaH and in Him there is a *sufficiency* that requires no other and an *independence* which admits no other, we must begin with YaHWaH.

2 Corinthians 3:5; *'Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of Elohim.'*

E. W. Bullinger in his book, 'Number in Scripture' has something very interesting to say about the number five;

'If four is the number of the world, then it represents man's weakness, and helplessness, and vanity, as we have seen. But four *plus* one (4+1=5) is significant of Divine strength added to and made perfect in that weakness; of omnipotence combined with the impotence of earth; of Divine *favour* uninfluenced and invincible.'

Is it possible for flesh man of this earth to keep all the Laws and Principles of YaHWaH perfectly? If so we could enter into life eternal without any Divine help. The numbers tell us the answer to this question. We need that Divine strength to be added to and made perfect in our weakness, we need that Divine favour which is invincible, we need YaHWaH if we are to keep His Laws perfectly, we cannot do it of ourselves.

One of the ways Webster defines grace is as follows;

Favorable influence of God; divine influence or the influence of the spirit, in renewing the heart and restraining from sin.

Influence means 'a flowing in, into or on' and relates here to the 'Spiritual power, or the immediate power of YaHWaH on the mind'. This influence of YaHWaH is needed for the renewal of the heart and the ability to restrain from sin. That is the reason why there has to be five classes of bones. We can do nothing of ourselves and this includes the fact that of ourselves we are not able to keep all the Laws perfectly. Our victory over this world, leading to life eternal, requires the Divine part.

Philippians 4:13; *'I can do all things through Messiah which strengtheneth me.'*

1 John 5:4-5, 20; *'For whatsoever is born of Elohim overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Yahshua is the Son of Elohim?... And we know that the Son of Elohim is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Yahshua Messiah. This is the true Elohim, and eternal life.'*

As we look further into this number five we see that the fifth book of the Scriptures is Deuteronomy. The Hebrew title of this book is *Haddebarim* or 'The Words'. It is a book in which much of the original law given at Mount Sinai is expounded on. It tells the children of Israel the importance of OBEDIENCE. So here once again we see a connection between the Laws and the bones.

Law and Grace

Paul, in the book of Romans talks a lot about Law and Grace. Many interpret these writings to say that the law has been done away and we no longer have to keep it as we now live under grace.

Romans 6:14; *'For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.'*

If it were true, that the law no longer has to be kept, it must give us a free license to sin (as sin is the transgression of the law) and this would contradict not only Moses who, as we saw in the last paragraph, exhorted the children of Israel in the book of Deuteronomy to obedience of the Law, but it would also contradict the writings of Paul as seen in the very next verse of Romans 6.

Romans 6:15; *'What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? Let it not be.'*

So what does it mean then when Paul said *'For sin shall have no dominion over you'*? Romans 6:10-11 gives us the answer.

Romans 6:10-11; *'For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto Elohim. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto*

sin, but alive unto Elohim through Messiah Yahshua our Master.'

Sin no longer has dominion over us because Yahshua died for the remission of our sins. In so doing he has paid the debt we owe, as all sin is reckoned as a debt, and now that the debt is paid we are redeemed and live under grace.

Matthew 6:12; *'And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.'*

In coming into a covenant with YaHWaH, by allowing the blood of His Son Yahshua to cleanse us from uncleanness, we come under His covering and we become His servant. By accepting Him we move from being a servant of the flesh to being a servant of YaHWaH. This transition is explained in the following verses.

Romans 6:18-23; 'Being then made free from sin, ye become the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as you have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants of Elohim, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of Elohim is eternal life through Messiah Yahshua our Master.'

Being free from sin and now servants of YaHWaH still does not mean we are free to do as we please. In the following verse we will see that we are either servants of sin (transgression of the law) unto death or of obedience (to the law) unto righteousness.

Romans 6:16; *'Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?'*

There are plenty of other verses in the Scriptures that show us that the Law forms an integral part of entering into Life. Yahshua Himself only ever did the will of His Father when He walked on this earth, and if we are to experience the love of YaHWaH we are to keep His commandments.

Matthew 19:17; *'And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is Elohim: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.'*

1 John 5:3; *'For this is the love of Elohim, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.'*

So now we see that grace embodies the law and does not separate us from it. This is why all the bones (laws) of our body are divided into five (grace) classes. Law and grace go hand in hand.

Elisha's Bones

There are many times that bones are mentioned in the Scriptures. One of them is in 2 Kings, where we read of a man who was resurrected after he touched the bones of Elisha.

2 Kings 13:21; *'And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.'*

Elisha was a prophet and lived all his life by the Laws and Principles of YaHWaH. As the dead man touched these bones (Laws and Principles) of Elisha, he was revived. What a wonderful illustration of the fact that the Word of YaHWaH, His Laws and Principles, lead to Life! This is witnessed many times over in the Scriptures.

Deuteronomy 6:24-25; *'And YaHWaH commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear YaHWaH our Elohim, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day. And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before YaHWaH our Elohim, as he has commanded us.'*

Just as one of the functions of the skeletal system is to protect the fragile internal organs, so too are YaHWaH's Laws set up to protect us and preserve us alive. Without them we would die as it is the breaking of the law, or rejecting of it, that causes death.

Romans 6:23; *'For the wages of sin is death...'*

1 John 3:4; *'Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.'*

Purpose of the Law

If, as we have seen, the Law gives us life, why is it then, that when Israel heard the Laws of YaHWaH spoken in His own voice at Mount Sinai, that they were afraid unto death?

Exodus 20:18-19; *'And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not Elohim speak with us, lest we die.'*

The death spoken of here is the death of the flesh. Hearing and obeying go hand in hand. When we truly hear YaHWaH's voice we will obey. The result of our obedience will be death to our flesh and life to the Spirit within us. If we have not heard his voice, or not fully, we will only obey that part which we have heard. Israel had heard YaHWaH's voice and they thought they were going to die and thus were afraid. From now on, Moses would go up to the Mount and hear from YaHWaH and then tell the people what he had heard. This death of the flesh is the whole purpose of the Feast of Pentecost. Because Moses continued to hear from YaHWaH he had a foretaste of the next step, that of glorification at the Feast of Tabernacles. This was manifested when he returned from the

mount with his face shining.

Exodus 34:29; *'And it came to pass, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.'*

Moses experienced this glorification on his eighth trip up the mountain, just as glorification takes place on the eighth day of Tabernacles. It is also interesting to note that this foretaste of Tabernacles occurred as Moses had received and was holding the two tables of stone, on which was written the Divine Law. Here we see that the Law is intimately linked with glorification, as a full understanding of the Law results in YaHWaH's character being put in our minds and written on our hearts.

Hebrews 8:10; *'For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days saith YaHWaH; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people.'*

From this example we have seen that hearing YaHWaH's Laws will cause death to the flesh so that the flesh may be replaced with His Spirit, His very image radiating from our being. When this is experienced in its fullness it results in life forevermore as the veil of our flesh is being lifted allowing us to see face to face our true identity in Him. Moses had a foretaste of this very experience.

John 5:24; *'Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

1 Corinthians 13:12; *'For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

The flesh and the Spirit can not coexist. By hearing the Law of YaHWaH, and by being moulded by it in obedience, we are becoming more like Him. YaHWaH's Laws are a description of His character, so by taking on His Laws we take on His character and become like Him. YaHWaH is Life.

John 14:6-7; *'Yahshua saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.*

Yahshua's Bones

Whenever I ponder on perfectly hearing and obeying YaHWaH, the first thing I think of is the life of Yahshua. Is there any mention in the Scriptures about the state of His bones? Strangely enough there is, let us investigate.

John 19:33,36; *'But when they came to Yahshua, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs... For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.*

None of Yahshua's bones were broken, as opposed to the thieves He was crucified with,
John 19:32; *'Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.*'

Yahshua had lived a sinless life. He had not broken any of the Laws of YaHWaH and therefore none of His bones could have been broken. As we will learn later in this skeletal system study, our legs represent our walk, or our ways. Yahshua's ways were perfect before YaHWaH. The thieves, on the other hand, had their legs broken. This shows us that their ways, or their walk, had not been straight before YaHWaH as they had sinned.

The sinless life of Yahshua, our Passover Lamb, was prophesied of well before He physically walked on this earth. When Israel partook of the first Passover Lamb strict instructions were given as to the handling of the bones, that none should be broken.

Exodus 12:46; *'In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall you break a bone thereof.*'

David also spoke of the bones of Yahshua in the Psalms.

Psalms 34:20; *'He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.'*

I find it truly amazing how YaHWaH has woven into the Scriptures a witness to us that Yahshua was the fulfilment of that spotless Lamb, sacrificed for us so that we too may be cleansed and dwell with our Heavenly Father.

Dead Men's Bones

In Matthew there is another mention of bones.

Matthew 23:27; *'Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.'*

The people spoken of in this verse seem outwardly to be good people, but the laws and principles they followed were not of YaHWaH. As we have learnt in this study, YaHWaH's Laws bring life and righteousness, however, the people spoken of in this verse are full of dead men's bones and uncleanness. The laws and principles of man lead to death.

Proverbs 14:12; *'There is a way which seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.'*

The people spoken of in Matthew are called hypocrites as they claim, by their outward appearance, to be followers of YaHWaH but in reality they are followers of man. Let us ensure that we are of a single heart towards YaHWaH, desiring only His Laws in our

lives.

Valley of Dry Bones

Probably the most well known passage of Scripture which talks about bones is Ezekiel 37:1-14. In this passage we read that the prophet Ezekiel had a vision about a valley of dry bones which came together to form an exceeding great army.

As I was reading this passage, YaHWaH gave me some thoughts which I like to share here.

The bones were very dry.

Ezekiel 37:2; *'... there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.'*

This dryness is due to the lack of the presence of the Word of YaHWaH, which would normally invigorate the bones. In Proverbs we read that whilst a merry heart doeth good, a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Proverbs 17:22; *'A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.'*

A heart that is merry is one that is following the Laws of YaHWaH. This is shown in Proverbs as it talks of the benefits of Wisdom.

Proverbs 3:18; *'She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.'*

According to Webster, wisdom is defined as follows;

In *Scripture theology*, wisdom is true religion; godliness; piety; the knowledge and fear of God, and sincere and uniform obedience to his commands.

A broken spirit, on the other hand, has the opposite effect of a merry heart and thus is the result of one separated from YaHWaH and His Laws, this is what dries the bones. The word 'broken', in Proverbs 17:22, is Strong's 5218, naka, meaning *afflicted*:- broken, stricken, wounded.

Afflicted, according to Webster means;

Affected with continued or often repeated pain, either of body or mind; suffering grief or distress, of any kind...

When our spirit is thus broken, we reject the Laws of YaHWaH in our lives continually, and as a result hurt our mind and body and dry our bones. The hurt that results from the rejection of YaHWaH's Laws, is illustrated many times over in the Scriptures, in relation to the house of Israel who, as we will see later, are represented in these dry bones of

Ezekiel's vision.

2 Kings 17:14-15, 20; *'Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in YaHWaH their Elohim. And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom YaHWaH had charged them, that they should not like them... And YaHWaH rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight.'*

This is opposite to the 'broken spirit' spoken of in Psalm 51;

Psalm 51:17; *'The sacrifices of Elohim are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O Elohim, thou wilt not despise.'*

Here the word 'broken' is Strong's 7665, shabar; a prim. Root; to *burst* (lit. or fig): - break (down, off, in pieces, up), broken (-hearted), bring to the birth, crush, destroy, hurt, quench.

This shows the word 'broken' in a repentant form, where we 'break down' in front of YaHWaH as we realise our many sins towards Him. It is this form of 'broken spirit' which YaHWaH will not despise, and this form will strengthen our bones, as it shows we are embracing His Law.

So now we have seen that the dry bones, in Ezekiel's vision were, at that time, separated from the Word of YaHWaH. But as we will see, they were not to remain so.

The bones were found in the valley.

Ezekiel 37:1; *'The hand of YaHWaH was upon me, and carried me out in the Spirit of YaHWaH, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones.'*

It is in the mountain that YaHWaH dwells and instructs us in His way. There are many examples of this in the Scriptures. The following shows that Yahshua also went into the mountain to commune with Father.

Matthew 14:23; *'And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.'*

Once we have heard from Father that which He had to tell us in the mountain, He sends us back down into the valley to, as it were, play out that which He has told us to do. We see this also in the example of Moses who went up Mount Sinai several times to commune with Father, and each time he had to return back down the mountain to tell the people of Israel what Father had told him.

It is in the mountain tops that we have our 'highs' and in the valleys that we experience

‘discouragements’, ‘disappointments’ and ‘dryness’. But that dryness is necessary, as it causes in us a thirst for more of YaHWaH’s Word, a desire to come a step higher into His presence.

Psalm 24:3; *‘Who shall ascend into the hill of YaHWaH? or who shall stand in his holy place.’*

Psalm 23:4; *‘Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.’*

The bones in the vision represent the whole house of Israel.

Ezekiel 37:11; *‘Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel...’*

This is significant as the Law of YaHWaH was only given to the house of Israel, and as a result it was only Israel that consented and vowed at Mount Sinai to do all that YaHWaH would command them.

Exodus 19:5-8; *‘Now, therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine. And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which YaHWaH commanded him. And all the people answered together, and said, All that YaHWaH hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto YaHWaH.’*

Israel is described as the sheep of His pasture and Yahshua says that His sheep hear His voice.

Psalm 100:3; *‘Know ye that YaHWaH, He is Elohim: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.’*

John 10:27; *‘My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.’*

It is for this reason that the dry bones, in Ezekiel’s vision, on hearing the Word of YaHWaH, were revived. It is only Israel that can hear the Word of YaHWaH and it is only Israel that has promised to do all that YaHWaH commands. It is for this reason that these bones could respond to His voice.

Ezekiel 37:4; *‘Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of YaHWaH.’*

The skeletal system is the framework of the body and is kept orderly, together and in good health by the Words, Laws and Principles of YaHWaH. The bones in Ezekiel’s vision were in the valley laying around in chaos, dry and thirsting for the Word of YaHWaH. Once the bones heard YaHWaH’s voice and command they were invigorated and could move together to form the framework for the muscles to attach to. It is the Law that brings order so that the framework can be built. Without the Law there is chaos.

However, in Ezekiel's vision, the bodies formed were not alive until after the Breath or Spirit was blown into them by the Word of YaHWaH.

Ezekiel 37:10; *'So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceeding great army.'*

This shows us that when we have a body, formed on the framework of the bones/Law, without the Spirit we are still as one that is dead. The Spirit and the Law work together to bring life.

James 2:26; *'.. the body without the spirit is dead...'*

We are commanded to Worship YaHWaH in Spirit and in truth. The truth represents the Word, or Laws of YaHWaH.

John 4:24; *'Elohim is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.'*

John 17:17; *'Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.'*

This also brings us back to the 5 classes of bones which showed that we require the Divine part, the Spirit, to gain victory over this world, over death, leading to life eternal. There is nothing we can physically 'do' to gain this victory.

What a wonderful illustration of the revival of the House of Israel, through the hearing of the Word of YaHWaH, His Law, and the working of His Spirit within us, both functioning together so that we may stand before Him.

On the other hand we read in Jeremiah a different prophecy, one of destruction instead of restoration.

Jeremiah 8:1-3; *'At that time, saith YaHWaH, they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of his princes, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, out of their graves: And they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, and all the host of heaven, whom they have loved, and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped: they shall not be gathered, nor be buried; they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth. And death shall be chosen rather than life by all the residue of them that remain of this evil family, which remain in all the places whither I have driven them, saith YaHWaH of hosts.'*

This account shows that those who serve false gods will not be gathered and revived. The false gods do not have the power to restore life, only the Word of YaHWaH has the ability to revive. How important it therefore is for us to worship YaHWaH, that we may hear His voice clearly, leading to a restoration of life within us.

Bone Marrow

One component of bones that we have not as yet discussed is the bone marrow.

There are two types of bone marrow in adults, red and yellow.

Red marrow is essential in the manufacture and maturation of red blood cells, most white blood cells and platelets. In adults, red marrow is found chiefly in the bones of the Axial skeleton (cranium, sternum, ribs and vertebral bodies), the girdles, and in the heads of the humerus and femur. In children, red marrow is found in many bones, including also within the shafts of the long bones. As the child ages, the red marrow in the shafts of long bones changes to yellow marrow.

Yellow marrow is found in the shafts of long bones in adults. Yellow marrow consists mainly of fat, but it does have the ability to return to red marrow if an adult becomes very anaemic and needs enhanced red blood cell production.

Hemopoiesis, or blood cell formation, occurs in the red bone marrow. This is significant as it shows us that blood cells, which form an integral component of our blood, are produced within the bones representing the Laws and Principles of YaHWaH, and it is in the blood that Life is found. Without blood, 'life' cannot flow through the body. Here, once again we see a link with the Law and Life.

Leviticus 17:11; *'For the life of the flesh is in the blood...'*

It is also interesting to note that when problems with blood forming tissue is suspected, it is the areas of red bone marrow that are routinely checked, particularly the red marrow within the sternum and the hip bone (iliac crest).

As we will learn later in this study, the sternum represents 'righteousness', and, righteousness, according to Webster is;

Purity of heart and rectitude of life; conformity of heart and life to the divine law.

The hip bone represents the 'providing of stability in our ways'.

So also here we see that righteousness, the stability of our walk, the Law, and Life, which is found in the blood, are all intimately linked. It is within the sternum, representing righteousness, and the hip, representing the stability of our ways, that the ability of the body to produce 'good blood', in which flows life, is tested. If we are found un-righteous (sinful), or unstable in our ways, both a result of the rejection of YaHWaH's Laws, it will have a direct effect on the bone marrow in our bones, and our blood will not be properly formed, resulting in the fact that 'Life' cannot flow through our body, leading inevitably to death.

Bone Marrow in the Scriptures

There are a few passages in the Scriptures which talk of the bone marrow, we will discuss some of these below. Spiritually, bone marrow represents Wisdom.

Solomon tells us in Proverbs that wisdom shall be marrow to the bones.

Proverbs 3:8; *'It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.'*

According to Webster, wisdom is defined as follows;

In *Scripture theology*, wisdom is true religion; godliness; piety; the knowledge and fear of God, and sincere and uniform obedience to his commands.

The word 'marrow' in Proverbs 3:8 is Strongs 8250; from 8248, a *beverage; moisture*, i.e. (fig.) *refreshment*: - drink, *marrow*.

Wisdom will therefore provide moisture to the bones. This brings us back to Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones, which were thirsting for the Word of YaHWaH, and were brought together upon hearing His Word. This obedience to His commands pictured true wisdom, which not only brought the bones together but also provided moisture to the bones. The result of this was the restoration of the bone marrow functioning to produce blood cells, so that blood, in which life is found, could once again be formed and flow through the body.

Another mention in the Scripture of marrow is in Psalm 63. This Psalm talks of David's thirsting for YaHWaH.

Psalm 63:1, 5; *'O Elohim, you are my El; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is... My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips.'*

The word 'marrow' here is Strongs 2459, from an unused root mean. to *be fat; fat*, whether lit. or fig.; hence the *richest* or *choice part*. This thus correlates with the yellow (fat) marrow found in shafts of the long bones in adults.

In Hebrews we also read of the Word of YaHWaH in connection to the bone marrow.

Hebrews 4:12; *'For the word of Elohim is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.'*

The story the marrow has to tell witnesses to the fact that it is the true wisdom, resulting from our obedience to YaHWaH's Word and Law, which stops our bones from drying out, and is essential for the bone marrow to work in forming blood cells so that blood can be produced and life can flow through the body.

Thus we have seen that the link between Laws (bone), Wisdom (marrow) and Life (blood) is intimate both physically and spiritually.

Conclusion

This introduction to the skeletal system has shown the vital importance of YaHWaH's Law to our very existence. Without the Law we would surely die, both physically and spiritually. As we further study into this system we will learn more about the fact that the Laws/bones are not only essential to keep our physical body in tact but, as the Law is a description of the character of YaHWaH, it will also form the framework of what we will become, as we return to our dwelling in Him. It is interesting to note that Yahshua's resurrected body had bones, which He encouraged His disciples to feel. This shows us that even in our resurrected state, the Laws form an important part to our being.

Luke 24:39; 'Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.'