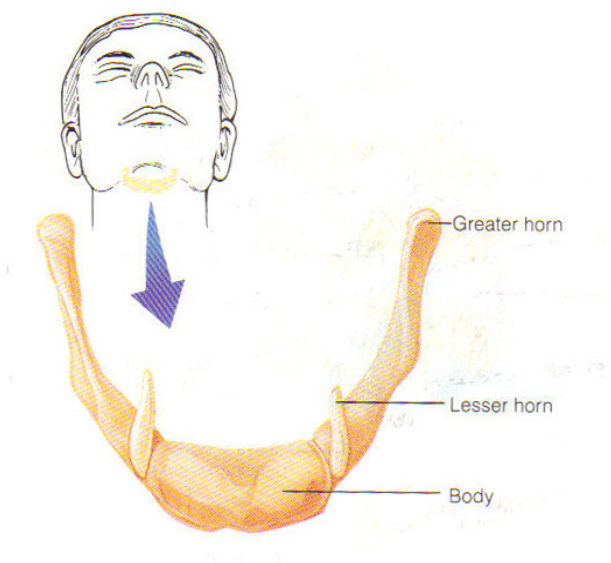


# The Hyoid Bone of Separation

Fanny Beerepoot

The hyoid bone is unique in that it is the only bone in the body that does not articulate directly with any other bone. It lays suspended in the mid neck region and is attached by ligaments to the styloid processes of the temporal bones. The positioning of the Hyoid bone is seen in the below illustration taken from Elaine N. Marieb's 'Human Anatomy and Physiology' Second Edition.



The fact that this bone is 'separate' from any other bone in the body shows that the principle represented here is the principle of Separation.

2 Corinthians 6:17; *'Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith YaHWaH, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.'*

The main function of the hyoid bone is that it supports the tongue and provides attachment sites to its numerous muscles. This bone is therefore essential for our ability to speak and swallow.

The anatomy of the hyoid bone is also of interest. It is composed of five parts, a body, two greater horns and two lesser horns. Five is the number of redemption and grace.

In this paper we will investigate in more detail the wonders of this seemingly insignificant and often forgotten bone and thus, we will find out, that the most humble and hidden away things are often of great importance!

## Separation

When we think of separation in the Spiritual sense we think of setting ourselves apart from all that is carnal or of the earth. This is necessary for us to become re-united with YaHWaH in Spirit. We see this principle illustrated many times in the Scriptures, such as;

- Noah and his family were separated in the Ark with the result that they were saved whilst all the ungodly were destroyed.
- Moses was sent into the land of Midian, separated from his people before he could, in union with Father, lead Israel out of Egypt and towards the promised land.
- Joseph was separated from his brethren and sent into Egypt with the final result being that through his actions, in union with YaHWaH, many were saved alive during the famine.
- Yahshua separated himself from the disciples and went up into the mountain to pray just before the hour of His crucifixion which would lead to His re-union with Father.

The list could go on and on. But we see that in order for restoration to occur, there must first be a separation. This separation is necessary to draw us closer to YaHWaH so that we may understand His way. Moses tried to deliver his people on his own strength at first by killing an Egyptian who was beating one of the Hebrews (Exodus 2:12). It was this action that led Moses to flee into Midian to be separated for a while so that YaHWaH could prepare him for the work of leading the people out. Joseph, similarly, tried on his own strength to come to a position of power over his brethren and as a result was led into Egypt to be humbled by Father through many afflictions before he was ready to do a great work for His Glory.

So we see that separation is necessary for us to be humbled, leading to a glorifying of Father and not ourselves. When we see His sovereignty we will be fully united with Him. This is a strange thing for our carnal minds to comprehend, namely, that it is through separation that we become united, through death that we find life, through sorrow that we find joy and so on.

Israel, as a nation, is formed of many SEPARATE people, however, we will be united into ONE BODY as the Scriptures relate;

1 Corinthians 12:12; *'For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is the Messiah.'*

This bringing together of a nation is for the purpose of uniting her, as symbolic of the Bride, with her Husband, our Heavenly Father.

At this moment in time we all are separated from YaHWaH but will, at a future date, be reunited with Him. It is very much like the separation of Eve from Adam. The woman was taken out of the man and, through marriage, this breach is removed so the two can again become one flesh. In this way, marriage is a re-union between man and woman, as

they were in the beginning. So it is in our relationship with YaHWaH who is our husband. We will be re-united with Him when the bride (Israel) has made herself ready. I say re-united because our origins are in Him, just as the origin of the woman is in the man.

Isaiah 54:5; *'For thy Maker is thine husband; YaHWaH of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The Elohim of the whole earth shall he be called.'*

1 John 5:1; *'Whosoever believeth that Yahshua is the Messiah is born of Elohim: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.'*

The principle of separation is also seen in the account of Moses and the people of Israel when they were in the wilderness. In order to commune, and thus unite, with YaHWaH they had to go outside the camp.

Exodus 33:7; *'And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that every one which sought YaHWaH went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp.*

Thus the command to 'be ye separate' has many levels;

- Firstly, it leads to a physical re-union of husband and wife.
- Secondly, the whole nation of Israel will be fitted together as the bride.
- Thirdly, when Israel as the bride is ready, she will be re-united with her Maker, her Husband, from whom she came!

What wonderful blessings and promises to look forward to from this one command to 'be ye separate'! This leads us to the indirect connection of the Hyoid bone with the Temporal bones, representing the 'promises of YaHWaH'.

## **The Temporal Bone**

The hyoid bone of separation is suspended from the styloid process of the temporal bones by way of ligaments. Ligaments are flexible bands of fibrous tissue which bind joints together and connect various bones and cartilages.

As we have learnt in Part 1 of the study on the Skull, the temporal bones represent the 'promises of YaHWaH'. Therefore there is an intimate relationship between the promises of YaHWaH and the principle of Separation. Is this link spoken of in the Scriptures? Let's see...

2 Corinthians 6:14-18; *'Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Messiah with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the Dwelling Place of Elohim with idols? for ye are the Dwelling Place of the living*

*Elohim; as Elohim hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith YaHWaH, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith YaHWaH the Almighty.*

The above Scripture passage illustrates the importance of our Separation from all that is not of YaHWaH. When we separate ourselves from all that is 'earthly', Father will receive us, will be a Father unto us and we shall be His sons and daughters. This unity with Father is indeed the most wonderful of all the promises YaHWaH has given to His people and it requires Separation to be fulfilled. How we look forward, with eager anticipation, for this promise to come to full fruition! That this union with YaHWaH is a wonderful PROMISE is explained in the very next verse, where Paul writes;

*2 Corinthians 7:1; 'Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of Elohim.'*

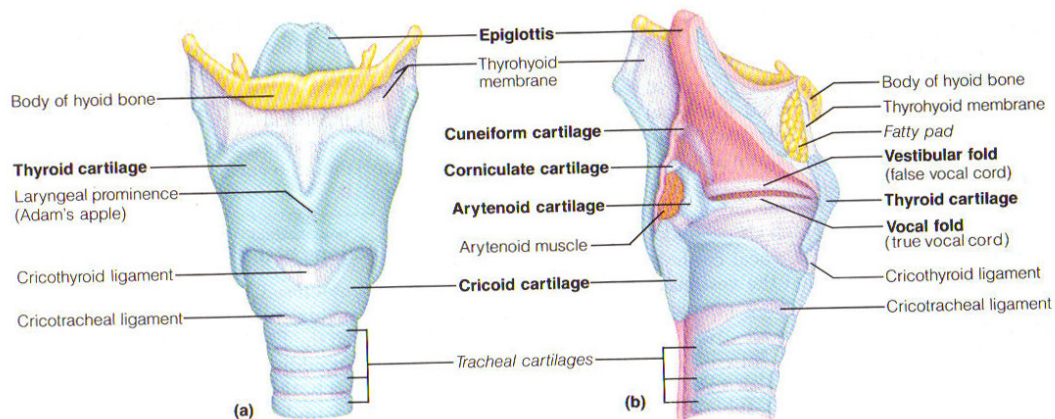
Thus, so far we have seen that we must be separated in order to be re-united and this is indeed the embodiment of the greatest promise YaHWaH has given His people Israel. Now to be separate, is that something that we ourselves can do? Can we in our flesh attain to a full separation from all that is not of YaHWaH? No. In our carnal, flesh state it is impossible for us to separate ourselves fully unto YaHWaH. History has shown this to be true and below are just a few examples that it is indeed Father who separates us and not ourselves.

- Father led Israel out of Egypt so they could be separate. Exodus 6:6-8.
- Father sent His only begotten Son into the world, and thus separated Him from Himself. 1 John 4:9.
- Father separated Noah and his family in the ark. Genesis 7:1.
- Father separates Israel as a chosen people. 1 Kings 8:53.

The list could go on and on. You may yourself recall incidents in history, or indeed your own life, where you see that it is always Father who separates. When you think about this you see that the One who separates is also the One who unites again. We did not separate ourselves from YaHWaH, rather He separated us from Himself, just as He did with Yahshua. Thus, it is through Him that we must look to become re-united.

## **Thyroid Cartilage**

In the diagram below (taken from page 729 of Elaine N. Marieb's 'Human Anatomy and Physiology' Second Edition.), we can see that the hyoid bone is linked to the thyroid cartilage by the thyrohyoid membrane.



This is interesting because the Thyroid Cartilage is that which forms the ‘Adam’s Apple’. As a child I often heard the story of why men had such a ‘bump’ in their necks. Like many other children, I was told that when Adam ate of the forbidden fruit, believed to be an apple, it got stuck in his throat and that was the reason for the ‘bump’, commonly called Adam’s Apple. Now, when I was a child, I did not realise the real significance of this. Although only a ‘folk story’ it does have some lesson for us to learn which perfectly fits in with the anatomy of our body and the principles each part represents. We have just seen that the hyoid bone of SEPARATION is linked to the ADAM’S APPLE. Similarly, in the Scriptural account, we see the result of Adam eating the forbidden fruit was a separation from YaHWaH.

Genesis 3:10; *‘And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.’*

The word ‘hid’ in the above passage is Strong’s 2244, which means to withdraw or hide. Adam and Eve realised they had done something wrong and were ashamed. They understood the consequences of their action would result in a separation from Father. This indeed happened to be the case, as we read further in the account of Genesis that the final judgement was that Father drove Adam and Eve out of the garden lest they should eat of the Tree of Life which represented Himself. Therefore we see in this example also that it was Father who separated Adam and Eve from Himself and not Adam and Eve who separated themselves from Father.

As descendants of Adam and Eve, it is therefore the case that we should look to Father for our healing and unity and not the carnal nature that Adam and Eve now possessed.

How wonderfully is this principle of Separation outlined within our own anatomy!

## **The Horns of the Hyoid**

As we have seen, the hyoid bone has four horns, two greater and two lesser. In the

Scriptures horns are symbolic of Power.

Daniel 8:7; *'And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand.'*

Habakkuk 3:4; *'And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.'*

When Father has separated us unto Himself, He dwells with us and we will have His power, in the form of His Spirit, overshadowing us.

Luke 24:49; *'And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.'*

This is important because, as we have seen, it is only through Father that we have the power to do any thing. We see this also illustrated in the words of Yahshua in that He states that even He can, of His own self, do nothing. He needs the power of Father. This power is given to Him because He seeks not His own will, but that of the Father. So we see, in this sense, that Yahshua is separated unto Father.

John 5:30; *'I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.'*

Yahshua, being one with YaHWaH and as our mediator, strengthens us with the same power that He received from Father.

John 10:30; *'I and my Father are one.'*

Philippians 4:13; *'I have strength to do all, through Messiah who empowers me.'*

It is important at this point also to investigate the link between the hyoid bone and the tongue as the Scriptures say there is great POWER in the tongue.

Proverbs 18:21; *'Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.'*

Read also the account in James 3:1-12 where it likens the tongue to a bit which is put into a horses mouth in order to steer it. Verse two in James states that if we offend not in word then we are a perfect man and able to bridle the whole body. We see this also spoken of in an earlier verse in the book of James.

James 1:26; *'If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.'*

It is not only ourselves that we do good or evil by the correct or incorrect use of our tongues, but it also has an effect on others. The words we speak to another person can

either build him/her up or tear them down. Just think of what a word of encouragement can do to a person as opposed to an angry or spiteful word. Helen Steiner Rice talks also of this principle in her poems. In 'Warm Our Hearts with Thy Love' we read;

Oh, put the summer brightness  
in our closed unseeing eyes  
So in the careworn faces  
that we pass we'll recognize  
The heartbreak and the loneliness,  
the trouble and despair  
That a word of understanding  
would make easier to bear.

James also talks of the fact that we ought not to bless and curse out of the same mouth. This therefore also shows that there should be a separation between 'good' and 'evil'. The question once again is, do we have the power in our carnal state to speak only the good and edifying? Try as we might, sooner or later, if we are led by the flesh, evil words come forth. However, through the power of YaHWaH within us, His Spirit, we may speak that which comes from the Heart, the seat of His dwelling;

Psalm 45:1; *'My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.'*

In this way, the functioning of our Heart (Spirit), as opposed to our mind (carnal intellect), will be married to our tongue and the words we speak will be that of our King YaHWaH. It is therefore through His power, His Spirit, that we can speak that which is edifying and not through our carnal nature. Thus in order to SEPARATE the blessings and cursings that come out of our mouths, we need the Spirit.

The tongue sure has great power to destroy or bring life. May we, as David, petition Father to marry our hearts and tongues so they can in unity serve Him;

Psalm 19:14; *'Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O YaHWaH, my strength, and my redeemer.'*

## **The Hyoid and Swallowing**

As the hyoid is essential for the working of our tongues in speech, it also provides for our ability to swallow. We have seen that in order to speak that which is right there has to be unity with the Spirit. We can not speak edifyingly if we rely on our carnal nature. Is this also applicable to our ability to swallow?

Symbolically, there are two types of food that we can eat. One is the Word of YaHWaH, the other is the word of man. It is interesting that the Scriptures talk of both of these food groups.

Psalm 22:26; *'The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise YaHWaH that*

*seek him: your heart shall live for ever.'*

In this Psalm we see what happens when we eat the Word of YaHWaH. Firstly, those that eat this Word are meek. One of the ways Webster defines the word 'meek' is as follows;

Appropriately, humble, in an evangelical sense; submissive to the divine will; not proud, self sufficient or refractory; not peevish, and apt to complain of divine dispensations. Christ says, "Learn of me, for I am *meek* and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest to your souls." Matt. xi.

It is therefore those who are led by the Spirit, submissive to the divine will, that will eat and be satisfied. The words that come out of their mouth as a result of eating the Word of YaHWaH will be praises, and their heart shall live forever. They indeed will find rest to their souls.

This principle is also outlined in the New Testament and it shows the importance of a singleness of heart towards YaHWaH in order to create unity.

Acts 2:46; *'And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.'*

So, you may ask, what happens when we swallow the word of man?

Micah 6:12-14; *'For the rich men thereof are full of violence, and the inhabitants thereof have spoken lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth. Therefore also will I make thee sick in smiting thee, in making thee desolate because of thy sins. Thou shalt eat, but not be satisfied; and thy casting down shall be in the midst of thee; and thou shalt take hold, but shalt not deliver; and that which thou deliverest will I give up to the sword.'*

Here we see that those eating the words of man are full of violence, their tongue is deceitful and in eating they shall not be satisfied. Furthermore, they shall not find rest but rather Father shall lead them into all sorts of unrest.

Micah goes on to lament that there is no upright man in the earth and all seems doom and gloom. However, in the next chapter he states that it is because of this condition of 'unrighteousness' that Father will deliver His people (which, in the flesh, are all led by carnal nature) and bring them forth into the light. It is not the people that deliver themselves, but rather YaHWaH that delivers them to be united with Him again!

Micah 7:9; *'I will bear the indignation of YaHWaH, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.'*



So here we see an important fact, namely, that it is Father who leads us into the 'good', but also into the 'evil'. In eating the word of man, Father is desiring to bring us low so that He may raise us up again. So, although the word of man initially leads to our destruction, in the end, when Father reveals to us our inadequacy, this destruction will be turned into life in Him.

## **Israel Commanded to Set Themselves Apart from Other Nations**

Just as we are to be separate spiritually, Father also commands us to be separate physically as a nation. Many times in the Old Testament Israel is commanded to not make covenants with other nations as they would lead Israel astray.

*Exodus 34:12; 'Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee.'*

This law is still valid today. And yet, are we able to keep it? Multiculturalism is destroying all that was once 'Christian' in our society. 'Religion' forms the foundation of any society and once this is destroyed so are the people. This is the reason for the command of keeping ourselves separate nationally, so that we may serve YaHWaH and live.

The fact that we are called to be separate does not mean that we are better than any other nation. Is the birch tree better than a pine? No, each is created perfect and has its own purpose. So it is with the nations of the world. One is not better than another, they are all created by the same Creator, but they each have different purposes. Israel was chosen by Father as a special people not because of anything grand they did or were, indeed they were the fewest of all the people, but He chose them because He loved them. If you think about this deeply you will find it very humbling. The principle of national separation is best outlined in Deuteronomy which talks of Israel's entering into the promised land and how to deal with those that dwelt therein.

*Deuteronomy 7:1-8; 'When YaHWaH thy Elohim shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; And when YaHWaH thy Elohim shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of YaHWaH be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire. For thou art an holy people unto YaHWaH thy Elohim:*

*YaHWaH thy Elohim hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. YaHWaH did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because YaHWaH loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath YaHWaH brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.'*

We know from further accounts that Israel did not fully obey the command to separate themselves from the other nations and as a result, right up unto this very day, these other nations are a thorn in our sides and are leading us astray.

*Judges 2:1-3; 'And an angel of YaHWaH came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swear unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you. And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this? Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you.'*

It is clear, that try as we might, we are unable to keep ourselves separate from other nations nationally. However, as we read in the following verse, it is when YaHWaH restores the judges Israel will be led out of this captivity of their own making. Here, once again, we see that it is YaHWaH who unifies!

*Isaiah 1:26-27; 'And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city. Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.'*

## **Separation and the Number Five**

As we have seen, the hyoid bone is composed of five parts; one body and two greater and two lesser horns. Five is the number of grace and redemption. If we were not separated of YaHWaH in the first place there would be no need of redemption. Thus the two are linked. This redemption is available through Yahshua, who is one with Father. It is through His death and resurrection that we too may be cleansed and re-united with Father.

*Colossians 1:14; 'In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.'*

Indeed, this is the whole purpose of our separation. It is so that we can be brought back into an intimate relationship with Him that He may receive us unto Himself again.

*2 Corinthians 6:17; 'Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith YaHWaH, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.'*

## Conclusion

This brings us to the end of our study on the hyoid bone. So we see that this principle of separation is indeed necessary for us to be restored to unity physically, nationally and spiritually.

As we have learnt, it is Father who separates, and Father who draws us back together in unity. We can do neither out of our own carnal being.

Once Father brings us back into full unity with Himself the restoration of all things can come to pass. How I look forward to that most glorious day!

Confessing that we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth, may we ever look forward to, and embrace that divine promise of re-union, just as our forefathers also did.

Hebrews 11:13; *'These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.'*

Hebrews 11:39-40; *'And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: Elohim having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.'*