

A Protective Resistance Against
False Doctrines

Romans 11:25 — Blinded or Hardened?

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Romans 11:25

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; **that blindness in part is happened to Israel**, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. (KJV)

Greek text: ...ὅτι πώρωσις ἀπὸ μέρους τῷ Ἰσραὴλ ...
...hoti pōrōsis apo merous tō Israēl ...

Hebrew text: ...כִּי קִשְׁי מִקְצָתִי בָּא עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל ...
...ki q'shiy miqtzati va al-Yisrael...

For **a hardness** in part has come upon Israel.

Lesson Thesis

The word translated "blindness" in the KJV is actually **hardness**.

Greek: πώρωσις — *pōrōsis*.

Blindness in Greek is τύφλωση — *typhlōsei*.

This hardness is not a punishment but a **protective mechanism** against **false doctrines** that arose in Christianity.

Torah finished and no longer necessary

Dietary laws no longer valid

Church replaces Israel

This typical Christian, English translation supports **Replacement Theology**, which contradicts Paul's teaching here in Romans 11.

Lexical Word Study

Term	Greek	Strong's	Lexical Meaning	Correct Translation
Hardness	πῶρωσις	G4457	Callousness, dullness, insensitivity	Hardness
Blindness	τυφλόωσις	G5185	Inability to see	Blindness

Sources: BDAG, Thayer's Lexicon

Biblical Usage of πωρωσις

Mark 3:5: Yeshua grieves over the **hardness of hearts**

Ephesians 4:18: Gentiles are alienated due to their **callous hearts**

Conclusion:

“Pōrōsis” refers to an *emotional/spiritual insensitivity*, not a physical or metaphorical blindness.

Context of Romans 11

Rom. 11:1 – “Has God cast away His people? **The Almighty forbid!**”
In Hebrew we would say, "Chas v'shalom!"

Rom. 11:18 – Gentile believers are warned **not to boast** against the natural branches.

Rom. 11:28 – Israel is still **beloved** for the patriarchs' sake.

Gen. 17:7; Psa. 105:10 The Almighty's covenant with Israel is everlasting.

Lev. 26:40-42; Deut. 30:1-5 – If Israel repents of their sins, they will be restored.

God's covenant with Israel is irrevocable and eternal. Repentance brings restoration, not replacement.

Historical Theology — Rise of Replacement Theology

Ignatius of Antioch (110 CE): “It is absurd to profess Christ Jesus and to Judaize. For Christianity did not believe in Judaism, but Judaism in Christianity.”

Justin Martyr (150 CE): “But if you observe them, hoping to receive some good from them, and place your hope in them, and thus deny that this man [Messiah] is Christ... you will not be saved.”

Council of Nicaea (325 CE): "Let us then have nothing in common with the Jews, who are our adversaries. Avoiding all contact with that evil way..."

"We desire, dearest brethren, to separate ourselves from the detestable company of the Jews, for it is truly shameful for us to hear them boast that without their direction we could not keep this feast."

Impact

Romans 11:25 misread as blindness supports **supersessionism** (Replacement Theology).

True meaning shows Israel's role is **preserved**, not replaced.

Rabbinic Resistance to False Doctrine

Avot 3:11: One who interprets Torah falsely has no share in the world to come.

Sanhedrin 107b: Caution toward false messianic claims.

Toledot Yeshu: Jewish polemical reaction to distorted versions of Yeshua.

Conclusion

Israel's "hardness" was **discernment**, not disbelief.

Theological Implication

God used this hardness to **preserve the covenant**.

The Gentiles are called to **humility and Torah alignment**, not pride.

They become grafted into Israel upon obedience to The Almighty. Torah says they become as if they were native born.

Romans 11:25 teaches **unity in truth**, not replacement.

Moral Application

Avoid arrogance: **Rom. 11:18**

Reaffirm Israel's place: **Rom. 11:29**

Restore Torah foundation to the Besorah (Gospel)

Discussion Questions for After Oneg

How does this understanding change our reading of Romans 11?

In what ways has the Church misunderstood this passage?

How do we guard against false teachings in our own day?

Closing Reflection Psalm 119:18

“Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things from Your Torah.”

Let us walk in humility and clarity, guarding the truth given to both Jew and Gentile in Messiah Yeshua.

Shalom uV'rakah

HaSof