

2 Corinthians 3:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.

Analysis

But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. Paul shifts from historical exposition to present application. The veil that physically covered Moses' face has become a spiritual veil over Jewish minds: **their minds were blinded** (Greek *epōrōthē* *ta noēmata autōn*, ἐπωρώθη τὰ νοήματα αὐτῶν, literally "their thoughts were hardened"). The verb *pōroō* (πωρόω) means to petrify, harden, or make dull—the same term used of Israel's hardening in Romans 11:7.

Until this day (Greek *achri tēs sēmeron hēmeras*, ἄχρι τῆς σήμερον ἡμέρας) indicates this blindness persisted in Paul's time (and continues). When **the old testament** (Greek *tēs palaias diathēkēs*, τῆς παλαιᾶς διαθήκης, "the old covenant" scriptures) is read in synagogues, **the same vail** remains. Jews read the Torah but cannot see its fulfillment in Christ. However, **which vail is done away in Christ** (Greek *en Christō katargeitai*, ἐν Χριστῷ καταργεῖται)—union with Christ removes the veil, enabling one to see the old covenant's true meaning and goal: Christ Himself.

Historical Context

Paul's contemporaries, both Jewish and Christian, grappled with the relationship between the Mosaic law and the gospel. Many Jews rejected Jesus as Messiah

partly because they expected a conquering king, not a suffering servant. The veil metaphor explains this: they read the scriptures but cannot perceive their Christological meaning without the Spirit's illumination. Paul himself experienced this veil-removal on the Damascus road (Acts 9). The contrast between veiled synagogue reading and unveiled Christian understanding defines two communities: those who see Christ in Scripture and those who don't.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How has your understanding of the Old Testament been transformed by seeing it through the lens of Christ?
2. What "veils"—preconceptions, traditions, or biases—might still be preventing you from fully grasping biblical truth?
3. How can you pray for and witness to those who read Scripture but remain "veiled" to its testimony about Jesus?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλ' ἐπωρώθη τὰ νοήματα αὐτὸς ἕχρι γὰρ τῆς
But were blinded G3588 minds the same until for G3588
G235 G4456 G3540 G846 G891 G1063

σήμερον τὸ αὐτὸς κάλυμμα ἐπὶ τῇ ἀναγνώσει τῆς
this day G3588 the same G846 G2571 in G3588 the reading G3588
G4594 G1909 G320

παλαιᾶς διαθήκης μένει μὴ ἀνακαλυπτόμενον ὅ
of the old testament remaineth untaken away G3739
G3820 G1242 G3306 G3361 G343

τι ἐν Χριστῷ καταργεῖται.
in Christ G5547 G2673

Additional Cross-References

Acts 26:18 (Parallel theme): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Romans 11:25 (Parallel theme): 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.

2 Corinthians 4:6 (References Christ): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 44:18 (Parallel theme): They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.

Acts 16:14 (Parallel theme): And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

Acts 13:15 (Parallel theme): And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

Jeremiah 5:21 (Parallel theme): Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:

Matthew 16:17 (Parallel theme): And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 13:11 (Parallel theme): He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

John 12:40 (Parallel theme): He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.