

# Acts 13:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

## Analysis

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Paul pronounced judgment: 'the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season.' This miraculous judgment paralleled Paul's Damascus road blinding - divine irony using the same judgment Paul experienced. The temporary nature ('for a season') suggests mercy - opportunity for repentance. The phrase 'hand of the Lord' indicates divine agency in judgment. Reformed theology affirms God's prerogative to judge opposers of His gospel through miraculous signs when He wills. The immediate fulfillment authenticated Paul's apostolic authority.

## Historical Context

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This miracle circa AD 47-48 on Cyprus was Paul's first recorded miracle. The judgment's resemblance to Paul's own blinding shows God's redemptive purpose even in judgment - Elymas's blindness might lead to spiritual sight as Paul's had. The proconsul's faith (v.12) resulted from seeing God's power.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

### Study Questions

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1. How does God's judgment sometimes mirror His redemptive purposes?
2. Why did God authenticate apostolic ministry through miraculous signs?
3. What does temporary rather than permanent judgment teach about God's mercy?

### Interlinear Text

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καὶ νῦν ἰδού, χεὶρ τοῦ κυρίου ἐπ' σέ καὶ  
And now behold the hand of the Lord is upon thee And  
G2532 G3568 G2400 G5495 G3588 G2962 G1909 G4571 G2532

ἔσῃ τυφλὸς μὴ βλέπων τὸν ἥλιον ἄχρι καιροῦ  
thou shalt be blind not seeing the sun for a season  
G2071 G5185 G3361 G991 G3588 G2246 G891 G2540

παραχρῆμά δὲ ἐπέπεσεν ἐπ' αὐτὸν ἀχλὺς καὶ σκότος  
immediately And there fell is upon him a mist And a darkness  
G3916 G1161 G1968 G1909 G846 G887 G2532 G4655

καὶ περιάγων ἐζήτει χειραγωγούς  
And he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand  
G2532 G4013 G2212 G5497

### Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 32:4** (Parallel theme): For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

**Exodus 9:3** (References Lord): Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy cattle which is in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: there shall be a very grievous murrain.

**Hebrews 10:31** (Parallel theme): It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

**Job 19:21** (Parallel theme): Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me.

**John 9:39** (Parallel theme): And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.

**1 Samuel 5:11** (References Lord): So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people: for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there.

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