

Romans 11:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery—ou gar thelō hymas agnoein to mystērion touto (οὐ γὰρ θέλω ὑμᾶς ἀγνοεῖν τὸ μυστήριον τοῦτο). Paul introduces a mystērion (μυστήριον, "mystery")—truth once hidden, now revealed. The purpose: **lest ye should be wise in your own conceits** (hina mē ēte par heautois phronimoi, ἵνα μὴ ᾗτε παρ' ἑαυτοῖς φρόνιμοι). Gentile self-wisdom (pride) must be countered by revealed truth.

The mystery: **that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in**. The word pōrōsis (πώρωσις, "blindness/hardening") describes Israel's condition as apo meros (ἀπὸ μέρους, "in part")—partial, not total. It's also temporal: **until** (achri, ἄχρι) marks the duration. When to plērōma tōn ethnōn (τὸ πλήρωμα τῶν ἐθνῶν, "the fullness of the Gentiles") comes in, the hardening ends. This 'fulness' likely means the complete number of elect Gentiles, bringing history to its climax.

Historical Context

Paul writes at a pivotal moment: Gentile inclusion was exploding, while Jewish rejection seemed dominant. The 'mystery' explains this is God's planned sequence:

Gentiles first (in fullness), then Israel's restoration. This timeline governs redemptive history until Christ's return.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that Israel's hardening is 'in part'—who is included in the remnant, and who is hardened?
2. How does understanding the 'until' (temporal limitation) of Israel's hardening shape our eschatology?
3. What is the 'fullness of the Gentiles,' and how will we know when it has 'come in'?

Interlinear Text

Οὐ	γὰρ	θέλω	ὑμᾶς	ἀγνοεῖν	ἀδελφοί	τὸ	μυστήριον	
not	For	I would	that ye	should be ignorant	brethren	G3588	mystery	
G3756	G1063	G2309	G5209	G50	G80		G3466	
τοῦτο	ἵνα	μὴ	ἦτε	παρ’	ἐαυτοῖς	φρόνιμοι	ὅτι	
of this	G2443	G3361	ye should be	in	your own conceits	wise	that	
G5124			G5600	G3844	G1438	G5429	G3754	
πώρωσις	ἀπὸ	μέρους	τῷ	Ἰσραὴλ	γέγονεν	ἄχρις	οὗ	τὸ
blindness	in	part	G3588	to Israel	is happened	until	G3739	G3588
G4457	G575	G3313		G2474	G1096	G891		
πλήρωμα	τῶν	ἐθνῶν	εἰσέλθῃ					
the fulness	G3588	of the Gentiles	be come in					
G4138		G1484	G1525					

Additional Cross-References

Luke 21:24 (Parallel theme): And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Romans 16:25 (Parallel theme): Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

Romans 12:16 (Parallel theme): Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

Revelation 7:9 (Parallel theme): After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Revelation 10:7 (Parallel theme): But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

Psalms 22:27 (Parallel theme): All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.