

Arminianism – God is Blinding the Jews

God is blinding Jews to the Gospel, it has been veiled to them so that they cannot see or understand the truth of the Gospel. As I said before this is a mixing of categories. The Jews have been blinded to the Good News in that they cannot understand the Good News and it has been simultaneously been veiled to them because of their transgressions and disobedience...This is the judgment that has been invoked on them.

2 Corinthians 3:14-16 NASB

But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. [15] But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; [16] but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NASB

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, [4] in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

This veiling is the hardening that they are experiencing as a result of judgment. This will occur until the fullness of the Gentiles where the veil will be removed.

Romans 11:25 NASB

For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery-so that you will not be wise in your own estimation-that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;

The "partial hardening" for the Jewish people is merely the veiling of the Gospel to them so that they cannot hear or understand the Gospel.

The reason they are unable to believe is because they were not drawn by the Father.

John 6:36-37,44 NASB

But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. [37] All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. [44] No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

Romans 11:7 NASB

What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened;

Again, so the hardening that we are seeing is that God is blinding the Israelites from seeing and understanding the Gospel which means that Israelites who are chosen to obtain the inheritance received it, and the others were hardened (unable to see and understand because of the veil due to judgment). This is why the Gospel is foolishness to the Jews. It is not only denied but is foolishness to them. They cannot understand the words of the Gospel.

Obviously, the counter for you will be to assume a form of double hardening. Why are they born incapable of understanding the Gospel, only hardened to it again? The Gospel is not being veiled to Gentiles in the same way. The Gentiles are born in sin, but the Gospel is not being veiled to them as it is the Jews. The Gospel has been made a stumbling block to them. It is not just that they can't understand it in their dead state it's that it's been made something which they fall over, which furthers their condemnation and judgment.

Romans 9:32-33 NASB

Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, [33] just as it is written, "Behold, I LAY IN ZION a STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, And HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM will NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

Romans 11:9 NASB

And David says, "Let THEIR TABLE BECOME A SNARE AND A TRAP, AND A STUMBLING BLOCK AND A RETRIBUTION TO THEM.

1 Corinthians 1:23 NASB

but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness

So the hardening is that the Gospel is not only impossible for them to understand in their dead state, but it's now been veiled AND they will now stumble over the Gospel and their Messiah. So being dead in sin is one thing (unable to come to God and unable to understand the Spiritual), but their punishment stems beyond the level of spiritual ignorance, Jesus has been veiled with his Gospel, and he has become a stumbling block for them. The very fact one could stumble over the Lord and his Gospel would lead one and could lead one to sin. This is not the case for the Gentiles.

"the Jews a stumbling-block - The word "stumbling-block" (σκάνδαλον skandalon) means properly anything in the way over which one may fall; then anything that gives offence, or that causes one to fall into sin."

— Albert Barnes' Notes on the Whole Bible, Commentary on 1 Corinthians 1:23.

This is why the blinding is not a 1:1 correlation. The Jews though born in sin, have an added layer of problems as a people that have been added. Blindness to the Gospel is something we all have until God removes the Blindness, but the Jews are not only veiled and blindness from the truth, but the truth itself causes them to sin. This is the hardening that we are speaking about.