

~BLINDNESS (793)

[Hebrew, *'iw-wer'*, Greek, *ty-phlos'*]

.. Figurative Uses

.. Spiritual Blindness

- The Hebrew and Greek words for blind are *'iw-wer'* and *ty-phlos'*, both being used in a literal and a figurative sense.
- Cursed is the one who causes the **blind** to go astray in the way. And all the people must say; Amen! (**Deuteronomy 27:18**)
- His watchmen are **blind**. None of them have taken note. All of them are speechless dogs, they are not able to bark, panting, lying down, loving to slumber. (**Isaiah 56:10**)
- Then great crowds approached him, having along with them people that were lame, maimed, **blind**, dumb, and many otherwise, and they fairly threw them at his feet, and he cured them. (**Matthew 15:30**)
- Woe to you, **blind** guides, who say; If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is under obligation. (**Matthew 23:16**)
- **Blindness** appears to have been quite a common affliction in the ancient Middle East. Besides a sizable number of references to it in the Bible, secular writings, such as the Eber's Papyrus from Egypt, frequently refer to the condition, describing several forms of it and its symptoms, prescribing eyewashes, and naming some of the surgical instruments used.
- Israel's Law of retaliation, requiring soul for soul, **eye for eye**, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, not only emphasized the sanctity of life but also impressed strongly upon the Israelites **the need for extraordinary care to avoid doing injury to another**.
- It also emphasized the need for people to be sure that any testimony they presented in court was true and accurate, since the **person bearing false testimony would suffer the very punishment he would have brought on an innocent person**.
- But if a fatal accident should occur, then you must give soul for

soul. (**Exodus 21:23**)

- **Eye for eye**, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. (**Exodus 21:24**)
- And the judges must search thoroughly, and if the witness is a false witness and has brought a false charge against his brother. (**Deuteronomy 19:18**)
- You must also do to him just as he had schemed to do to his brother, and you must clear away what is bad from your midst. (**Deuteronomy 19:19**)
- So those who remain will hear and be afraid, and they will never again do anything bad like this in your midst. (**Deuteronomy 19:20**)
- And your eye should not feel sorry. Soul will be for soul, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. (**Deuteronomy 19:21**)
- And in case a man should cause a defect in his associate, then just as he has done, so it should be done to him. (**Leviticus 24:19**)
- Fracture for fracture, **eye for eye**, tooth for tooth, the same sort of defect he may cause in the man, that is what should be caused in him. (**Leviticus 24:20**)
- If a master caused his slave to lose an eye, the master did not have one of his own eyes put out, **but the slave was set free**.
- And in case a man should strike the eye of his slave man or the eye of his slave girl and he really ruins it, **he is to send him away as one set free in compensation for his eye**. (**Exodus 21:26**)
- While slaves could be required to work and could be beaten if rebellious, yet the master was thereby kept conscious of the need to refrain from being unduly severe.
- It was a common practice of the Assyrians and Babylonians to **put out the eyes** of those whom **they defeated in warfare**. Samson was **blinded** by the Philistines, and King Zedekiah by Nebuchadnezzar.

- So the Philistines grabbed hold of him and **bored his eyes out** and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with two fetters of copper, and he came to be a grinder in the prison house. (**Judges 16:21**)
- And Zedekiah's sons they slaughtered before his eyes, and Zedekiah's eyes he **blinded**, after which he bound him with copper fetters and brought him to Babylon. (**2 Kings 25:7**)
- And the eyes of Zedekiah he **blinded**, after which he bound him with copper fetters, in order to bring him to Babylon. (**Jeremiah 39:7**)
- Nahash, the king of the Ammonites, said that he would accept the surrender of the city of Jabesh in Gilead on the condition of boring out every right eye of yours, and I must put it as a reproach upon all Israel.
- Then Nahash the Ammonite said to them; On this condition I shall conclude it with you, on the condition of **boring out every right eye of yours**, and I must put it as a reproach upon all Israel. (**1 Samuel 11:2**)

See Also NAHASH 1

- The Bible records several cases of **blindness** from senility or old age, where the eyes were not diseased but were **dim** or **set**. Because of it, Isaac was led to **bestow the blessing** on the deserving one, Jacob.
- High Priest Eli began to **lose his vision** sometime before his death at the age of 98 years. Jeroboam's wife schemed to take advantage of the aged prophet Ahijah's **blindness**, but Yehowah thwarted the plot.
- Now it came about that when Isaac was old and his eyes were too dim to see he then called Esau his older son and said to him, My son! At which he said to him; Here I am! (**Genesis 27:1**)
- Now it came about on that day that Eli was lying in his place, and his eyes **had begun to grow dim**, he was not able to see. (**1 Samuel 3:2**)
- And Eli got to hear the sound of the outcry. So he said; What does the sound of this turmoil mean? And the man himself hurried that he might go in and report to Eli. (**1 Samuel 4:14**)

- Now Eli was ninety-eight years old, and **his eyes had set so** that he was unable to see. (**1 Samuel 4:15**)
- And the man proceeded to say to Eli; I am the one coming from the battle line, and I, it is from the battle line that I have fled today. At this he said; What is the thing that has happened, my son? (**1 Samuel 4:16**)
- So the news bearer answered and said; Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has also occurred a great defeat among the people, and also your own two sons have died, Hophni and Phinehas, and the very ark of the true God has been captured. (**1 Samuel 4:17**)
- And it came about that at the moment that he mentioned the ark of the true God, he began to fall from the seat backward beside the gate, and his neck got broken so that he died, because the man was old and heavy, and he himself had judged Israel forty years. (**1 Samuel 4:18**)
- And the wife of Jeroboam proceeded to do so. Consequently she rose up and went to Shiloh and came to the house of Ahijah. Now Ahijah himself was unable to see, for his eyes had set because of his age. (**1 Kings 14:4**)
- And Yehowah himself had said to Ahijah; Here is the wife of Jeroboam coming to apply for a word from you regarding her son, for he is sick. This way and that is how you should speak to her. And it will occur that as soon as she arrives, she will be making herself unrecognizable. (**1 Kings 14:5**)
- However, at the advanced age of 120 years it is reported of Moses that **his eye had not grown dim**.
- And Moses was a hundred and twenty years old at his death. His **eye had not grown dim**, and his vital strength had not fled. (**Deuteronomy 34:7**)
- Yehowah, who made the eye, can also bring about **blindness**.
- At that Yehowah said to him; **Who appointed** a mouth for man or who appoints the speechless or the deaf or the clear-sighted **or the blind**? Is it not I, Yehowah? (**Exodus 4:11**)

- He warned the nation of Israel that if they rejected his statutes and violated his covenant he would bring upon them burning fever, **causing the eyes to fail.**
- And if you will reject my statutes, and if your souls will abhor my judicial decisions so as not to do all my commandments, to the extent of your violating my covenant. (**Leviticus 26:15**)
- Then I, for my part, shall do the following to you, and in punishment I shall certainly bring upon you disturbance with tuberculosis and **burning fever, causing the eyes to fail** and making the soul pine away. And you will simply sow your seed for nothing, as your enemies will certainly eat it up. (**Leviticus 26:16**)
- Yehowah will strike you with madness and loss of sight and bewilderment of heart. (**Deuteronomy 28:28**)
- The wicked men of Sodom and the sorcerer Elymas were struck with **blindness.**
- But they struck with **blindness** the men who were at the entrance of the house, from the least to the greatest, so that they were wearing themselves out trying to find the entrance. (**Genesis 19:11**)
- Well, then, look! Yehowah's hand is upon you, and you will be blind, not seeing the sunlight for a period of time. Instantly **a thick mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went around seeking men to lead him by the hand.** (**Acts of Apostles 13:11**)
- Saul of Tarsus was **blinded** by the brilliance of the light when Jesus appeared to him **as if to one born prematurely.** He regained sight when Ananias laid his hands on him, and **there fell from his eyes what looked like scales.**
- But last of all he appeared also to me as if to one born prematurely. (**1 Corinthians 15:8**)
- Now as he was traveling he approached Damascus, when suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. (**Acts of Apostles 9:3**)

- But Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were opened he was seeing nothing. So they led him by the hand and conducted him into Damascus. (**Acts of Apostles 9:8**)
- And for three days he did not see anything, and he neither ate nor drank. (**Acts of Apostles 9:9**)
- And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come in **and lay his hands upon him that he might recover sight**. (**Acts of Apostles 9:12**)
- So Ananias went off and entered into the house, and he laid his hands upon him and said; Saul, brother, the Lord, the Jesus that appeared to you on the road over which you were coming, has sent me forth, in order, that you may recover sight and be filled with Holy Spirit. (**Acts of Apostles 9:17**)
- And immediately there fell from his eyes what looked like scales, and **he recovered sight**, and he rose and was baptized. (**Acts of Apostles 9:18**)
- In a prophetic utterance by the prophet Zechariah, Yehowah points out that the horses of those who come against Jerusalem will be struck with **loss of sight**.
- In that day, is the utterance of Yehowah, I shall strike every horse with bewilderment and its rider with madness, and upon the house of Judah I shall open my eyes, and every horse of the peoples **I shall strike with loss of sight**. (**Zechariah 12:4**)
- And that in the day belonging to Yehowah all the peoples that will actually do military service against Jerusalem will experience a scourge in which their very eyes will **rot away in their sockets**.
- Look! There is a day coming, belonging to Yehowah, and the spoil of you will certainly be apportioned out in the midst of you. (**Zechariah 14:1**)
- And this is what will prove to be the scourge with which Yehowah will scourge all the peoples that will actually do military service against Jerusalem. There will be **a rotting away of one's flesh, while one is standing upon one's fee**. One's very eyes will rot away in their sockets, and one's very tongue will rot away in one's mouth. (**Zechariah 14:12**)

- The **blindness** that was brought on the military force of the Syrians at the word of Elisha was evidently mental **blindness**. If the entire army had been struck with physical **blindness**, they would all have had to be led by hand. But the account simply says that Elisha told them: This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me.
- On this phenomenon, William James in his *Principles of Psychology* [1981, Vol. 1, p. 59] states; A most interesting effect of cortical disorder is **mental blindness**. This consists not so much in insensibility to optical impressions, as in **inability to understand them**.
- Psychologically it is interpretable as **loss of associations** between optical sensations and what they signify, and any interruption of the paths between the optic centres and the centres for other ideas ought to bring it about. This was apparently the kind of **blindness** removed by Yehowah when the Syrian army reached Samaria.
- When they began to come down to him, Elisha went on to pray to Yehowah and say; Please, strike this nation with **blindness**. So he struck them with **blindness** according to the word of Elisha. (2 Kings 6:18)
- Elisha now said to them; This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and let me conduct you to the man you look for. However, he conducted them to Samaria. (2 Kings 6:19)
- And it came about that as soon as they arrived at Samaria, Elisha then said; O Yehowah, **open the eyes of these** that they may see. Immediately Yehowah **opened their eyes**, and they got to see, and here they were in the middle of Samaria. (2 Kings 6:20)
- Such mental **blindness** also may have been involved in the case of the men of Sodom, since the account shows that, instead of being distressed at loss of the faculty of sight, they persisted in trying to find the door of Lot's house.
- But they struck with **blindness** the men who were at the entrance of the house, from the least to the greatest, so that **they were wearing themselves out trying to find the entrance**. (Genesis 19:11)
- **Blindness** disqualified a man from serving as a priest at Yehowah's sanctuary.

- **Speak to Aaron, saying; No man of your seed throughout their generations in whom there proves to be a **defect** may come near to present the bread of his God. (Leviticus 21:17)**
- **In case there is any man in whom there is a defect, he may not come near: a **man blind** or lame or with his nose slit or with one member too long. (Leviticus 21:18)**
- **Any man of the seed of Aaron the priest in whom there is a defect may not approach to present Yehowah's offerings made by fire. There is a defect in him. He may not approach to present the bread of his God. (Leviticus 21:21)**
- **He may eat the bread of his God from the most holy things and from the holy things. (Leviticus 21:22)**
- **However, he may not come in near the curtain, and he may not approach the altar, because there is a defect in him, and he should not profane my sanctuary, for I am Yehowah who is sanctifying them. (Leviticus 21:23)**
- **The sacrifice of an animal that was **blind** was also unacceptable to Yehowah.**
- **And in case there should prove to be in it a defect, being lame or **blind**, any bad defect, you must not sacrifice it to Yehowah your God. (Deuteronomy 15:21)**
- **And when you present a **blind** animal for sacrificing; It is nothing bad. And when you present a lame animal or a sick one. It is nothing bad. Bring it near, please, to your governor. Will he find pleasure in you, or will he receive you kindly? Yehowah of armies has said. (Malachi 1:8)**
- **But Yehowah's Law reflected consideration and sympathy for the **blind**. The one who put an obstacle in the way of a **blind** man or misled him was cursed.**
- **You must not call down evil upon a deaf man, and before a **blind** man you must not put an obstacle, and you must be in fear of your God. I am Yehowah. (Leviticus 19:14)**
- **Cursed is the one who causes the **blind** to go astray in the way.**

And all the people must say; Amen! (**Deuteronomy 27:18**)

- God's righteous servant Job said; Eyes I became to the **blind** one.
- Eyes I became to the **blind** one, and feet to the lame one I was. (**Job 29:15**)
- Yehowah himself indicates that in time he will do away with **blindness**.
- At that time the eyes of the **blind** one's will be opened, and the very ears of the deaf one's will be unstopped. (**Isaiah 35:5**)
- When Jesus Christ was on earth he miraculously restored the sight of many **blind** persons.
- The **blind** are seeing again, and the lame are walking about, the lepers are being cleansed and the deaf are hearing, and the dead are being raised up, and the poor are having the Good News declared to them. (**Matthew 11:5**)
- Then great crowds approached him, having along with them people that were lame, maimed, **blind**, dumb, and many otherwise, and they fairly threw them at his feet, and he cured them. (**Matthew 15:30**)
- So that the crowd felt amazement as they saw the dumb speaking and the lame walking and the **blind** seeing, and they glorified the God of Israel. (**Matthew 15:31**)
- Also, **blind** and lame persons came up to him in the temple, and he cured them. (**Matthew 21:14**)
- In that hour he cured many of sicknesses and grievous diseases and wicked spirits, and granted many **blind** persons the favor of seeing. (**Luke 7:21**)
- Hence in answer he said to the two; Go your way, report to John what you saw and heard. The **blind** are receiving sight, the lame are walking, the lepers are being cleansed and the deaf are hearing, the dead are being raised up, the poor are being told the Good News. (**Luke 7:22**)

- When Jesus was near Jericho he cured **blind** Bartimaeus and his companion.
- Now as they were going out of Jericho a great crowd followed him. (**Matthew 20:29**)
- And, look! Two **blind** men sitting beside the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying; Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David! (**Matthew 20:30**)
- But the crowd sternly told them to keep silent. Yet they cried all the louder, saying; Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David! (**Matthew 20:31**)
- So Jesus stopped, called them and said; What do you want me to do for you? (**Matthew 20:32**)
- They said to him; Lord, let our eyes be opened. (**Matthew 20:33**)
- Moved with pity, Jesus touched their eyes, and immediately they received sight, and they followed him. (**Matthew 20:34**)
- And they came into Jericho. But as he and his disciples and a considerable crowd were going out of Jericho, Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, a **blind** beggar, was sitting beside the road. (**Mark 10:46**)
- When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he started shouting and saying; Son of David, Jesus, have mercy on me! (**Mark 10:47**)
- At this many began sternly telling him to be silent, but he kept shouting that much more; Son of David, have mercy on me! (**Mark 10:48**)
- So Jesus stopped and said; Call him. And they called the blind man, saying to him; Take courage, get up, he is calling you. (**Mark 10:49**)
- Throwing off his outer garment, he leaped to his feet and went to Jesus. (**Mark 10:50**)
- And in answer to him Jesus said; What do you want me to do for you? The **blind** man said to him, **Rabboni, let me recover sight.**

(Mark 10:51)

- And Jesus said to him; Go, your faith has made you well. And immediately he recovered sight, and he began to follow him on the road. **(Mark 10:52)**
- Now as he was getting near to Jericho a certain **blind** man was sitting beside the road begging. **(Luke 18:35)**
- Because he heard a crowd moving through he began to inquire what this might mean. **(Luke 18:36)**
- They reported to him; Jesus the Nazarene is passing by! **(Luke 18:37)**
- At that he cried out, saying; Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! **(Luke 18:38)**
- And those going in advance began to tell him sternly to keep quiet, but that much more he kept shouting; Son of David, have mercy on me. **(Luke 18:39)**
- Then Jesus stood still and commanded the man to be led to him. After he got near, Jesus asked him. **(Luke 18:40)**
- What do you want me to do for you? He said; **Lord, let me recover sight.** **(Luke 18:41)**
- So Jesus said to him; Recover your sight, your faith has made you well. **(Luke 18:42)**
- And instantly he recovered sight, and he began to follow him, glorifying God. Also, all the people, at seeing it, gave praise to God. **(Luke 18:43)**
- On another occasion he healed two **blind** men at the same time.
- As Jesus was passing along from there, two **blind** men followed him, crying out and saying; Have mercy on us, Son of David. **(Matthew 9:27)**
- After he had gone into the house, the **blind** men came to him, and Jesus asked them; Do you have faith that I can do this? They answered him; Yes, Lord. **(Matthew 9:28)**

- Then he touched their eyes, saying; According to your faith let it happen to you. (**Matthew 9:29**)
- And their eyes received sight. Moreover, Jesus sternly charged them, saying; See that nobody gets to know it. (**Matthew 9:30**)
- But they, after getting outside, made it public about him in all that region. (**Matthew 9:31**)
- Again he cured a demon-possessed man who was both **blind** and unable to speak.
- Then they brought him a demon-possessed man, **blind** and dumb, and he cured him, so that the dumb man spoke and saw. (**Matthew 12:22**)
- Later he was expelling a dumb demon. After the demon came out, the dumb man spoke. And the crowds marveled. (**Luke 11:14**)
- One man's sight was restored gradually. This may have been to enable the man so used to being in darkness to accommodate his eyes to the brilliance of sunlight.
- Now they put in at Bethsaida. Here people brought him a **blind** man, and they entreated him to touch him. (**Mark 8:22**)
- And he took the **blind** man by the hand, brought him outside the village, and, having spit upon his eyes, he laid his hands upon him and began to ask him; Do you see anything? (**Mark 8:23**)
- And the man looked up and began saying; I see men, because I observe what seem to be trees, but they are walking about. (**Mark 8:24**)
- Then he laid his hands again upon the man's eyes, and the man saw clearly, and he was restored, and he was seeing everything distinctly. (**Mark 8:25**)
- So he sent him off home, saying; But do not enter into the village. (**Mark 8:26**)

- **Another man blind from birth, on having his sight restored, became a believer in Jesus.**
- **Now as he was passing along he saw a man **blind** from birth. (John 9:1)**
- **Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and, on finding him, he said; Are you putting faith in the Son of man? (John 9:35)**
- **The man answered; And who is he, sir, that I may put faith in him? (John 9:36)**
- **Jesus said to him; You have seen him and, besides, he that is speaking with you is that one. (John 9:37)**
- **Then he said; I do put faith in him, Lord. And he did obeisance to him. (John 9:38)**
- **In the latter two cases Jesus used saliva or saliva mixed with clay, but this purported resemblance to folk remedies does not diminish the miraculous aspect of the healings. In the case of the man blind from birth, he was told to go wash in the Pool of Siloam before he received his sight.**
- **And said to him; Go wash in the pool of Siloam, which is translated Sent forth. And so he went off and washed, and came back seeing. (John 9:7)**
- **This was undoubtedly for a test of his faith, just as Naaman was required to bathe in the Jordan River before he was freed from his leprosy.**
- **However, Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying; Going there, you must bathe seven times in the Jordan that your flesh may come back to you, and be clean. (2 Kings 5:10)**
- **At this Naaman grew indignant and began to go away and say; Here I had said to myself, To me he will come out all the way and will certainly stand and call upon the name of Yehowah his God and move his hand to and fro over the place and actually give the leper recovery. (2 Kings 5:11)**
- **Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Can I not bathe in them and**

certainly be clean? With that he turned and went away in a rage.
(2 Kings 5:12)

- His servants now approached and spoke to him and said; My father, had it been a great thing that the prophet himself had spoken to you, would you not do it? How much more, then, since he said to you; Bathe and be clean? (2 Kings 5:13)
- At that he went down and began to plunge into the Jordan seven times according to the word of the man of the true God, after which his flesh came back like the flesh of a little boy and he became clean. (2 Kings 5:14)

•• Figurative Uses

- Many times the groping about of the **blind** serves as an illustration of helplessness.
- And you will indeed become one who gropes about at midday, just as a **blind** man gropes about in the gloom, and you will not make your ways successful, and you must become only one who is always defrauded and robbed, with no one to save you. (Deuteronomy 28:29)
- They have wandered about as **blind** in the streets. They have become polluted with blood; So that none are able to touch their garments. (Lamentations 4:14)
- We keep groping for the wall just like **blind** men, and like those without eyes we keep groping. We have stumbled at high noon just as in evening darkness, among the stout one's we are just like dead people. (Isaiah 59:10)
- And I will cause distress to mankind, and they will certainly walk like **blind** men, because it is against Yehowah that they have sinned. And their blood will actually be poured out like dust, and their bowels like the dung. (Zephaniah 1:17)
- Then he also spoke an illustration to them: A **blind** man cannot guide a **blind** man, can he? Both will tumble into a pit, will they not? (Luke 6:39)
- The Jebusites were so confident that their citadel was impregnable that they taunted David, saying their own feeble **blind**,

weak though they were, could defend the fortress of Zion against Israel.

- Consequently the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites inhabiting the land, and they began to say to David; You will not come in here, but the **blind** and the lame one's will certainly turn you away, they thinking; David will not come in here. (2 Samuel 5:6)
- So David said on that day; Anyone striking the Jebusites, let him, by means of the water tunnel, make contact with both the lame and the **blind**, hateful to the soul of David! That is why they say; The **blind** one and the lame one will not come into the house. (2 Samuel 5:8)
- Miscarriage of justice through judicial corruption was symbolized by **blindness**, and many are the exhortations in the Law against bribery, gifts, or prejudice, as such things can **blind** a judge and prevent the impartial administration of justice. The bribe **blinds** clear-sighted men.
- You are not to accept a bribe, for the bribe **blinds** clear-sighted men and can distort the words of righteous men. (Exodus 23:8)
- The bribe **blinds** the eyes of wise ones.
- You must not pervert judgment. You must not be partial or accept a bribe, for the bribe **blinds** the eyes of wise one's and distorts the words of righteous ones. (Deuteronomy 16:19)
- A judge, no matter how upright and discerning, may be consciously or even unconsciously affected by a gift from those involved in the case. God's Law thoughtfully considers the **blinding** effect not only of a gift but also of sentiment, as it states; You must not treat the lowly with partiality, and you must not prefer the person of a great one.
- You people must not do injustice in the judgment. You must not treat the lowly with partiality, and you must not prefer the person of a great one. With justice you should judge your associate. (Leviticus 19:15)

- So, for sentimentality or for popularity with the crowd, a judge was not to render his verdict against the rich merely because they were rich.
- You must not follow after the crowd for evil ends, and you must not testify over a controversy so as to turn aside with the crowd in order to pervert justice. (**Exodus 23:2**)
- As for the lowly one, you must not show preference in a controversy of his. (**Exodus 23:3**)

· Spiritual Blindness

- The Bible attributes far greater importance to spiritual sight than to the physical. Jesus used the occasion of healing the man **blind** from birth to point out the reprehensibility of the Pharisees because they **professed to be those with spiritual sight** and willfully refused to come out of their **blind** condition. They were like those who loved darkness rather than light.
- And Jesus said; For this judgment I came into this world, that those **not seeing might see and those seeing might become blind**. (**John 9:39**)
- Those of the Pharisees who were with him heard these things, and they said to him; We are not **blind** also, are we? (**John 9:40**)
- Jesus said to them; If you were **blind**, you would have no sin. But now you say; **We see. your sin remains**. (**John 9:41**)
- Now this is the basis for judgment, that the light has come into the world but men have loved the darkness rather than the light, for their works were wicked. (**John 3:19**)
- For he that practices vile things hates the light and does not come to the light, in order, that his works may not be reprov'd. (**John 3:20**)
- The apostle Paul spoke to the Ephesian congregation about having **the eyes of their heart enlightened**.
- Do not cease giving thanks for you. I continue mentioning you in my prayers. (**Ephesians 1:16**)

- The **eyes of your heart having been enlightened**, that you may know what is the hope to which he called you, what the glorious riches are which he holds as an inheritance for the holy ones. (**Ephesians 1:18**)
- Jesus points out that those who profess to be Christians but who are not conscious of their spiritual need are **blind** and naked, not discerning their pitiful, groping condition.
- Because you say; I am rich and have acquired riches and do not need anything at all, but you do not know you are miserable and pitiable and poor and **blind** and naked. (**Revelation 3:17**)
- Just as being in darkness for a long period of time will cause **blindness** to the natural eyes, the apostle John points out that a Christian who hates his brother is walking aimlessly in a **blinding** darkness
- But he that hates his brother is in the darkness and is walking in the darkness, and he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has **blinded** his eyes. (**1 John 2:11**)
- And Peter warns that one not developing Christian fruitage, the greatest of which is love, is **blind**, **shutting his eyes to the light**.
- Yes, for this very reason, by your contributing in response all earnest effort, supply to your faith virtue, to your virtue knowledge. (**2 Peter 1:5**)
- To your knowledge self-control, to your self-control endurance, to your endurance godly devotion. (**2 Peter 1:6**)
- To your godly devotion brotherly affection, to your brotherly affection love. (**2 Peter 1:7**)
- For if these things exist in you and overflow, they will prevent you from being either inactive or unfruitful regarding the accurate knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (**2 Peter 1:8**)
- For if these things are not present in anyone, he is **blind**, **shutting his eyes to the light**, and has become forgetful of his cleansing from his sins of long ago. (**2 Peter 1:9**)

- The source of such darkness and spiritual **blindness** is Satan the Devil, who, transforming himself into an angel of light, actually is the god of this system of things and the god of darkness who has **blinded the minds of the unbelievers so that they do not discern the Good News about the Christ.**
- While I was with you in the temple day after day you did not stretch out your hands against me. But this is your hour and the authority of darkness. (**Luke 22:53**)
- Among whom the god of this system of things has **blinded the minds of the unbelievers, that the illumination of the glorious Good News about the Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine through.** (**2 Corinthians 4:4**)
- And no wonder, for Satan himself keeps transforming himself into an angel of light. (**2 Corinthians 11:14**)
- It is therefore nothing great if his ministers also keep transforming themselves into ministers of righteousness. But their end shall be according to their works. (**2 Corinthians 11:15**)