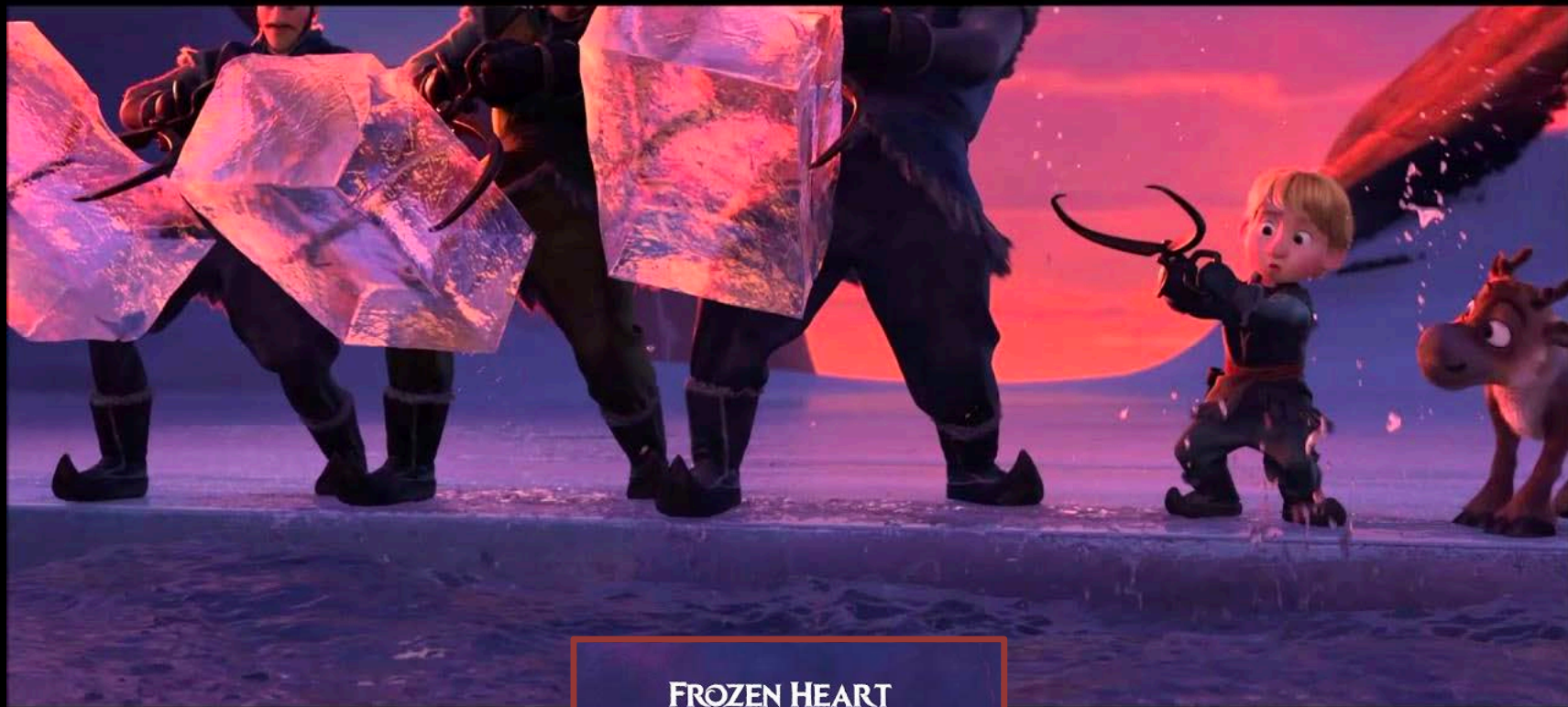




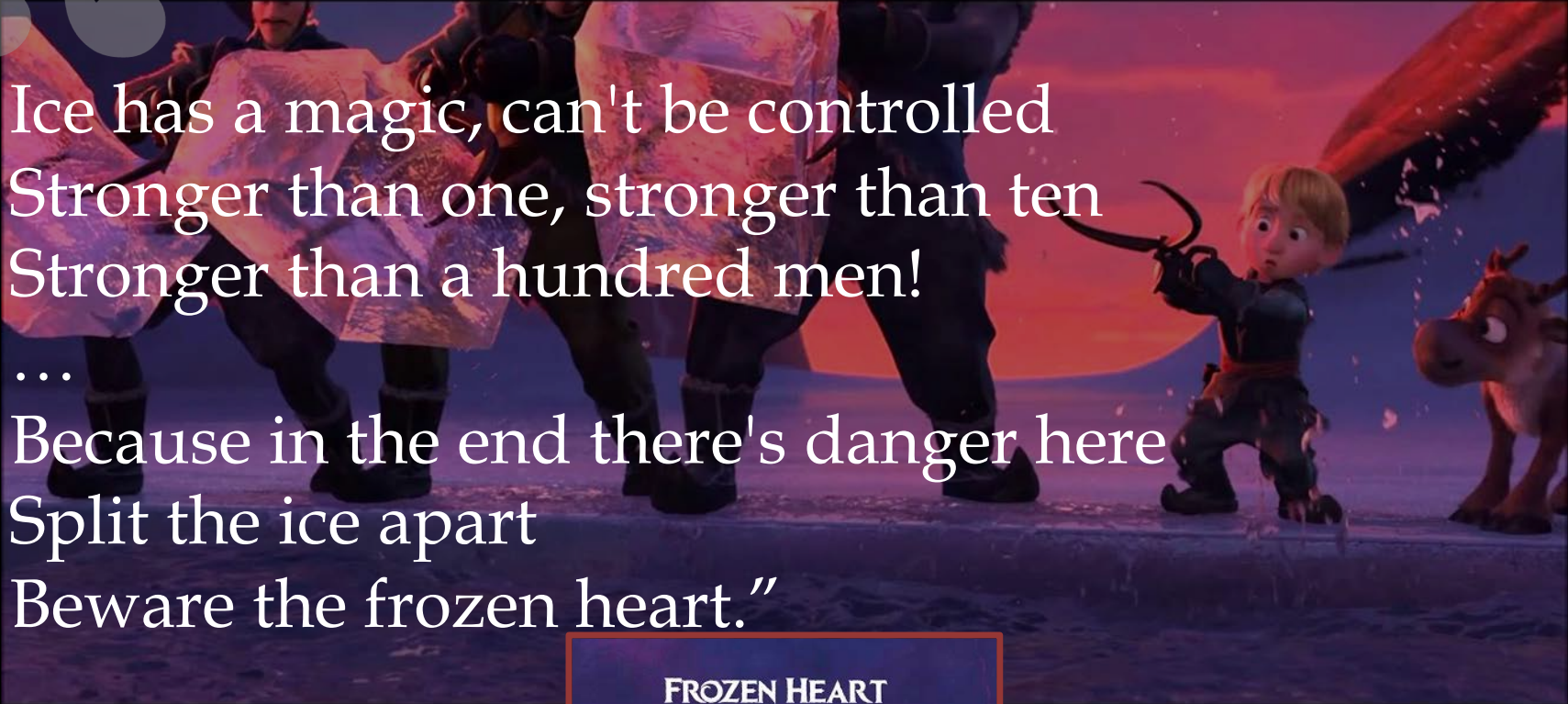
The 
Godfather



FROZEN



FROZEN HEART



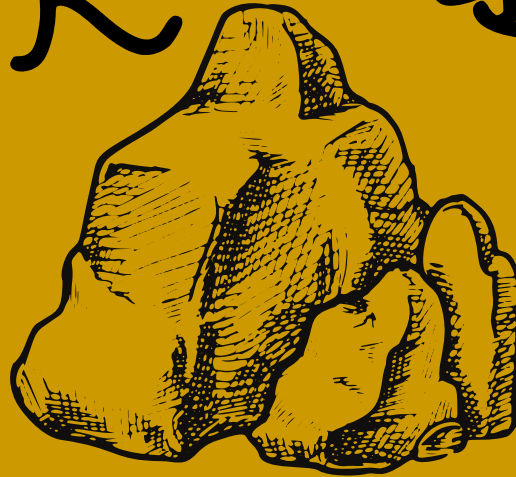
Ice has a magic, can't be controlled
Stronger than one, stronger than ten
Stronger than a hundred men!

...

Because in the end there's danger here
Split the ice apart
Beware the frozen heart."

FROZEN HEART

Romans



DID GOD'S
PLAN FAIL?
CHAPTERS 9-11

Romans 11:7-10

⁷ What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened,
⁸ as it is written,

“God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day.”

⁹ And David says,

“Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; ¹⁰ let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and bend their backs forever.”



A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of the Star of David (Magen David) on the Israeli flag. The star is a blue six-pointed star on a white background, with blue stripes visible at the top and bottom. The text is overlaid on the center of the star.

**Israel
God's Chosen
People?**

Romans 9:6-8

⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ⁸ This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.”



DETROIT
-VS-
EVERYBODY

OT ISRAEL

-VS-

EVERYBODY



OT ISRAEL

— IS —

EVERYBODY®

Romans 11:7-10

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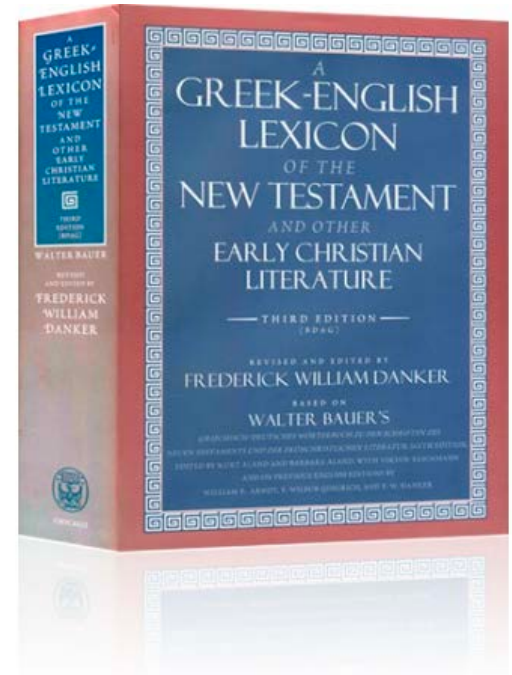
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πωρόω (pōroō):

“To to cause someone to have difficulty in understanding or comprehending, *harden, petrify*

...mostly of hearts;
make dull/obtuse/blind”



William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 900.



Romans 11:7-10

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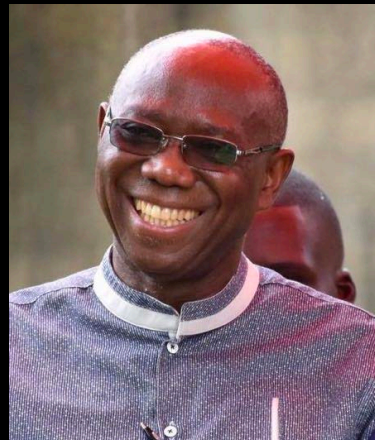
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Paul uses three OT passages to explain the hardening of their hearts. In 11:8, he combines Deuteronomy 29:3–4 and Isaiah 29:10 to demonstrate that the hardening of the heart means deafness, numbness or blindness. The majority of Jews had become insensitive, spiritually drowsy about what God was doing for them and for all of humanity through Christ.”

David M. Kasali, *Africa Bible Commentary* (Nairobi, Kenya; Grand Rapids, MI: WordAlive Publishers; Zondervan, 2006), 1393.





Mark 8:14-21

¹⁴ The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. ¹⁵ “Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.” ¹⁶ They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we have no bread.” ¹⁷ Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? ¹⁸ Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don’t you remember?”

Mark 8:14-21

¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?"

"Twelve," they replied.

²⁰ "And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?"

They answered, "Seven."

²¹ He said to them, "Do you still not understand?"



Maestà Rückseite, Jesus opens the Eyes of a Man born Blind
Duccio di Buoninsegna - (c. 1255–1319)

“Watch this very carefully. Note exactly what is said. In the home village of the apostles, there is a blind man. In the very place where the apostles were born there is blindness. Do you grasp what I am saying? This blind man in the very home of the apostles is like the lost covenant people of Israel.”

Jerome, Mark (Revised), *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998), 103.





Romans 11:7-10

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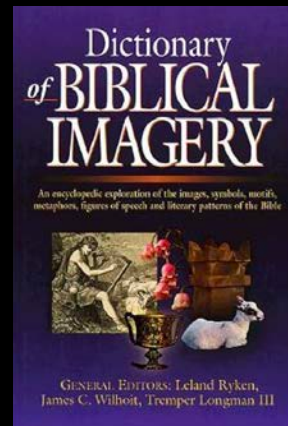
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⁹ And David says,

“Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; ¹⁰ let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and bend their backs forever.”

Most of the references to deafness [in the Bible] are figurative. Deafness symbolizes spiritual stubbornness or willful refusal to hear and obey the word of God (Jer 5:21; Ezek 12:2) and is caused by sin (Ps 38:13, 18)... Sometimes spiritual deafness is pictured as being imposed by God (Deut 29:4; Is 6:9–10), which is a figurative way of saying that those who continually stop their ears to God's word are confirmed in that state.

Leland Ryken et al., *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 197.



Matthew 13:13-15

¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see;
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

¹⁴ In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

““You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

¹⁵ For this people’s heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.



Romans 11:7-10

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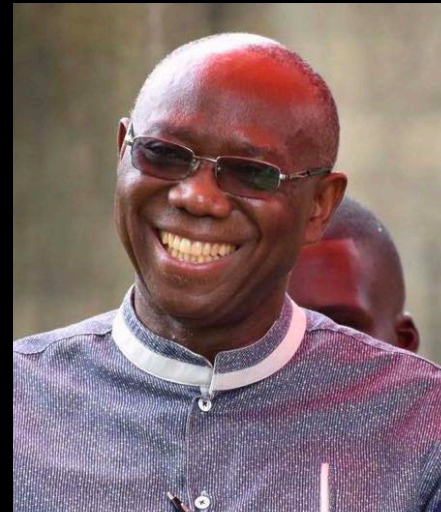
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“In 11:9–10 Paul quotes Psalm 69:22–23 to say that what God intended for Israel’s blessing had become a trap to them. Their eyes were darkened so that they could not see what God was doing.”

David M. Kasali, *Africa Bible Commentary* (Nairobi, Kenya; Grand Rapids, MI: WordAlive Publishers; Zondervan, 2006), 1393.



To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.”

C.S. Lewis







Amazing
Grace



Jesus Heals a Blind Man at Bethsaida

22 They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. **23** He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"

24 He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."

25 Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. **26** Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't even go into^[a] the village."

Romans 11:7-10

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“I am not now talking about what will happen to you when you die, or when you rise for the final judgment—I am speaking about what is happening NOW! The same sun which melts wax hardens clay. And the same Gospel which melts some persons to repentance hardens others in their sins.”

C.H. Spurgeon

