

# Word Study G4641 *sklerokardia* hardened heart

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## Introduction

I love studying words, it's fun.

While writing an article about the Great Commission (Mar:16 14-20) <sup>A</sup> which speaks of the hardened hearts of the disciples, I felt a deeper study of this Greek word would be prudent.

In my Great Commission article, I was making the connection to Moses when he is instructed by God to, effectively, start the Exodus. The scene I'm speaking of Moses' encounter and dialog with YHVH, where I make the argument that Moses had a hardened heart. <sup>B</sup>

By cross-referencing this Greek word using the LXX I found powerful verses in the Tanach that fit well with my two-house, one covenant understanding and how salvation is, but for the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel.

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<sup>A</sup> See Mar-16-14-20-The-Great-Commission-Patterned-after-Moses-and-the-Exodus, article #[858](#).

<sup>B</sup> Moses is famously known as "the humblest man" (Num 12:3), but at this point in time in Exodus 3, he was not.

## Etymology

### Etymology of sclerosis (n.)

"morbid hardening of the tissue," late 14c., from Medieval Latin *sclirosis* "a hardness, hard tumor," from Greek **sklerosis** "hardening," from *skleros* "hard" (see *sclero-*). Figurative use by 1954. See also [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sclerosis\\_\(medicine\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sclerosis_(medicine))

### Etymology of cardiac (adj.)

c. 1600, from French *cardiaque* (14c.) or directly from Latin *cardiacus*, from Greek *kardiakos* "pertaining to the heart," from *kardia* "heart," from PIE root *\*kerd-* (1) "heart" (see heart (n.)). Cardiac arrest is attested from 1950.

Greek **kardia** also could mean "stomach" and Latin *cardiacus* "pertaining to the stomach." This terminology continues somewhat in modern medicine. Confusion of heart and nearby digestive organs also is reflected in Breton *kalon* "heart," from Old French *cauldun* "bowels," and English heartburn for "indigestion."

## G4641 *sklerokardia* hardened heart Mat 19:8, Mar 10:5, 16:4

### σκληροκαρδία

Strong's Feminine of a compound of [G4642](#) and [G2588](#); *hard heartedness*, that is, (specifically) *destitution of* (spiritual) *perception*: - hardness of heart.

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*sklērokardía*; gen. *sklērokardías*, fem. noun from *sklēros* ([G4642](#)), hard, and *kardía* ([G2588](#)), heart. Hardness of heart, **stubbornness**, **obstinacy**, perverseness ([Mat 19:8](#); [Mar 10:5](#); [Mar 16:14](#); Sept.: [Deu 10:16](#); [Jer 4:4](#)). It indicates man's attitude toward God and His grace when he ought to have a willing and receptive heart.

**Syn.:** *pōrōsis* ([G4457](#)), dullness of heart; *sklērotēs* ([G4643](#)), callousness; *ástorgos* ([G794](#)), without natural affection, hard- hearted.

**Ant.:** *apalós* ([G527](#)), tender, soft; *malakós* ([G3120](#)), soft, mild (though it can also mean weak or effeminate); *oikúrmōn* ([G3629](#)), merciful; *splágchnon* ([G4698](#)), pity.

## Relevant Verses

### Mar 16:15 – Yeshua reprimands them for their unbelief

<sup>15</sup> Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided (*oneidezō* <sup>G3679</sup> reprimanded) them with their unbelief and **hardness of heart** (*sklerokardia* <sup>G4641</sup>), because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

## Mar 10:1-5 – Yeshua teaching about the Divorce <sup>C</sup>

<sup>1</sup> And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away *his* wife? tempting him. <sup>3</sup> And he answered and said unto them, **What did Moses command you?** <sup>4</sup> And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put *her* away. <sup>5</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto them, **For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.**

## Jer 31:33 – YHVH will put his Torah in their heart – Spiritual Heart Surgery Prerequisite

<sup>33</sup> But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts;<sup>D</sup> and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

that I will אֲכַרְתָּ a-Sher' which אֲשֶׁר hab-be-Rit But this [shall be] the covenant תְּבָרִית zot likewise זאת ki for כִּי <sup>33</sup>.  
those הַיָּמִים a-cha-Rei' After אַחֲרָי Yis-ra'El of Israel יִשְׂרָאֵל beit with the house בֵּית -et' with אֶת- ech-Rot' make  
my תּוֹרָתִי -et' אֶת- na-Tat-ti I will put נָתַתִּי Yah-weh the LORD יְהוָה -ne-'um saith נֹאֵם ha-Hem those הַיָּמִים hai-ya-Mim days  
and אֶכְתְּבֶנָּה lib-Bam it in their hearts לְבָבָם -ve-'al and on וְעַל- ,be-kir-Bam in their inward parts בְּקִרְבָּם to-ra-Ti law  
and will be their לְאֱלֹהִים la-Hem לְהֵם ve-ha-Yi-ti become וְהָיִיתִי ;ech-ta-Ven-nah' write  
.le-'Am and they shall be my people לִי לְעָם -yih-yu become וְהָיִיתִי ve-Hem-mah those וְהָיִיתִי le-lo-Him God

## Search of LXX for sklerokardia G4641

### Deu 10:16 <sup>Greek OT+</sup>

και <sup>G2532 CONJ</sup> περιτεμεισθε <sup>G4059 V-FMI-2P</sup> την <sup>G3588 T-ASF</sup> σκληροκαρδιαν <sup>G4641 N-ASF</sup> υμων <sup>G4771 P-GP</sup> και <sup>G2532 CONJ</sup> τον <sup>G3588 T-ASM</sup> τραχηλον <sup>G5137 N-ASM</sup> υμων <sup>G4771 P-GP</sup> ου <sup>G3364 ADV</sup> σκληρυνειτε <sup>G4645 V-FAI-2P</sup> ετι <sup>G2089 ADV</sup>

### Deu 10:16 <sup>KJV</sup> stiffnecked associated with an uncircumcised heart, standalone Aleph Tav

<sup>16</sup> Circumcise **את** therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.<sup>E</sup>

your וְעֲרַפְכֶם ;le-vav-Chem of your heart לְבַבְכֶם a-re-Lat' therefore the foreskin עֲרַלְתָּ et' **את** u-mal-Tem Circumcise וּמִלְתֶּם <sup>16</sup>  
.od longer עוד tak-Shu and stiffen תִּקְשֹׁן lo no לא ,ve-'A-re-pe-Chem neck

<sup>C</sup> A “Harmony Gospel” account of this is Mat 19:1-12

<sup>D</sup> Maybe because Ephraim, who suffers from the disease, stiffnecked heart (“*sclerosis-cardiac*”), YHVH will have to perform a heart **appendectomy** before writing his Torah on the heart.

<sup>E</sup> See Word-Study-H2388-chazaq-harden-H7185-qasha-and-H3515-kabed, article #889.

**Jer 4:4** Greek OT+

περιτμηθητε<sup>G4059 V-APD-2P</sup> τω<sup>G3588 T-DSM</sup> θεω<sup>G2316 N-DSM</sup> υμων<sup>G4771 P-GP</sup> και<sup>G2532 CONJ</sup> περιτεμεσθε<sup>G4059 V-AMD-2P</sup>  
την<sup>G3588 T-ASF</sup> σκληροκαρδιαν<sup>G4641 N-ASF</sup> υμων<sup>G4771 P-GP</sup> ανδρες<sup>G435 N-VPM</sup> ιουδα<sup>G2448 N-PRI</sup> και<sup>G2532 CONJ</sup>  
οι<sup>G3588 T-NPM</sup> κατοικουντες<sup>V-PAPNP</sup> ιερουσαλημ<sup>G2419 N-PRI</sup> μη<sup>G3165 ADV</sup> εξελθη<sup>G1831 V-AAS-3S</sup> ως<sup>G3739 CONJ</sup>  
πυρ<sup>G4442 N-NSN</sup> ο<sup>G3588 T-NSM</sup> θυμος<sup>G2372 N-NSM</sup> μου<sup>G1473 P-GS</sup> και<sup>G2532 CONJ</sup> εκκαυθησεται<sup>G1572 V-FPI-3S</sup> και<sup>G2532</sup>  
CONJ ουκ<sup>G3364 ADV</sup> εσται<sup>G1510 V-FMI-3S</sup> ο<sup>G3588 T-NSM</sup> σβεσων<sup>G4570 V-PAPNS</sup> απο<sup>G575 PREP</sup> προσωπου<sup>G4383 N-GSN</sup>  
πονηριας<sup>G4189 N-GSF</sup> επιτηδευματων<sup>N-GPN</sup> υμων<sup>G4771 P-GP</sup>

**Jer 4:4** <sup>KJV</sup> **YHVH tells Judah to take away the foreskins of their heart.**

<sup>4</sup> Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah<sup>F</sup> and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench *it*, because of the evil of your doings.

the עֲרִלּוֹת *ve-ha-Si-ru* and take away יִקַּחְסֶרֶוּ *Yah-weh* yourselves to the LORD לִיהוָה *him-Mo-lu* Circumcise הַמְּלוֹ <sup>4</sup>  
and וְיִשְׁבִּי *ye-hu-Dah* of Judah יְהוּדָה *ish'* ye men אִישׁ *,of your heart* לְבַבְכֶם *a-re-Lot* foreskins  
lest my חַמְתִּי *cha'Esh* like fire כָּאֵשׁ *come forth* תֵּצֵא *pen* Or פֶּן *,ye-ru-sha-Lim* of Jerusalem יְרוּשָׁלַם *ve-yo-she-Vei* inhabitants  
of the רֵעַ *mip-pe-Nei* it] because] מִפְּנֵי *,me-chab-Beh* that none can quench מְכַבֶּה *ve'Ein* none וְאֵין *u-va'a-Rah* and burn וּבְעֵרָה *,cha-ma-Ti* fury  
*.ma'al-lei-Chem* of your doings מַעֲלֵיכֶם *Ro-a* evil

<sup>F</sup> Interesting that in this case, this verse is specifically speaking of Judah, but do get some context, in the previous chapter (Jer 3:8) it references “backsliding Israel” who “committed adultery” and “I had put her away, and given her a **bill of divorce**.”