

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) ^A 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. ^B

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.

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

^B 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.: *pōros* ([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

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

Mar 10:1-5 – Yeshua teaching about the Divorce ^C

¹ 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. ² And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away *his* wife? tempting him. ³ And he answered and said unto them, **What did Moses command you?** ⁴ And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put *her* away. ⁵ 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

³³ 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;^D 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 ³³.
 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 לְיָיִךְ -yih-yu become וְהָיִיתִי ve-Hem-mah those וְהָיִיתִי le-lo-Him God

Search of LXX for sklerokardia G4641

Deu 10:16 ^{Greek OT+}

και ^{G2532 CONJ} περιτεμεισθε ^{G4059 V-FMI-2P} την ^{G3588 T-ASF} σκληροκαρδιαν ^{G4641 N-ASF} υμων ^{G4771 P-GP} και ^{G2532 CONJ}
 τον ^{G3588 T-ASM} τραχηλον ^{G5137 N-ASM} υμων ^{G4771 P-GP} ου ^{G3364 ADV} σκληρουνειτε ^{G4645 V-FAI-2P} ετι ^{G2089 ADV}

Deu 10:16 ^{KJV} stiffnecked associated with an uncircumcised heart, standalone Aleph Tav

¹⁶ Circumcise **את** therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.^E

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

^C A “Harmony Gospel” account of this is Mat 19:1-12

^D 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.

^E See Word-Study-H2388-chazaq-harden-H7185-qasha-and-H3515-kabed, article #889.

Jer 4:4 Greek OT+

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

Jer 4:4 ^{KJV} **YHVH tells Judah to take away the foreskins of their heart.**

⁴ Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah^F 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 עֲרֻלוֹת ve-ha-Si-ru and take away יְהִסְרוּ Yah-weh yourselves to the LORD לִיהוָה him-Mo-lu Circumcise הַמְלוֹ 4
and וְיִשְׁבִּי ye-hu-Dah of Judah יְהוּדָה ish' ye men אִישׁ ,of your heartle-vav-Chem לְבַבְכֶם a-re-Lot foreskins
lest my חַמְתִּי cha'Esh like fire כָּאֵשׁ come forthte-Tze תִּצָּא 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 מְכַבָּה ve-'Ein none וְאִין u-va-'a-Rah and burn וּבְעֵרָה ,cha-ma-Ti fury
מַעַלְלֵיכֶם ma-'al-lei-Chem of your doings רֹא evil

^F 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**.”