Israel has been Blinded

Isaiah volunteered to go and deliver God's message to Israel that they would hear, but not understand, and see, but not perceive what they saw. When Isaiah asked the Lord how long Israel would be in this state, the Lord said until the land was totally desolate, which we know as the Tribulation.

Isaiah 6:8–11

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? **Then said I, Here am I; send me.** And he said, **Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.** Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, **Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,**

When Jesus was on earth, many people did not believe that He was the promised King and Messiah, no matter how many miracles He did.

Jesus reminded His followers of Isaiah's prophecy, and the proof that it had been fulfilled.

John 12:37-41

But **though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled,** which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? **Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.**

Jesus spoke in parables specifically so the prophesy of Isaiah was fulfilled. People heard but did not understand, and saw but did not perceive.

Matthew 13:9–16

Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and

said unto them, **Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.** For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. **Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.**

It doesn't seem right that God could deliberately blind and deafen people to the truth! It turns out that it was necessary that Israel be blinded in order to turn to the Gentiles and be able to have mercy on everyone!

Romans 11:7-8, 25, 30-32

What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

[25]For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; **that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.**

[30]For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. **For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.**

Today, it is Satan who is blinding people who are lost.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the

light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

There was a physical blindness of sorts when Moses was delivering God's Law to Israel. After Moses had talked to God, the skin on his face shown, and the people were afraid to come near him. Moses then put a vail over his face when he talked to the people, and took it off when he went in to talk with God.

Exodus 34:29-35

And it came to pass, **when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand**, when he came down from the mount, that **Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.** And **when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.** And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them. And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai. **And till Moses**

had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face. But **when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out.** And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded. And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and **Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.**

Paul said the people of Israel have a vail over their heart, to this day, like the vail which was over Moses' face. This vail was done away with in Christ, but Israel still has the vail, like they did when Moses talked to them. Only when they turn to the Lord with the vail be taken away!

<u>2 Corinthians 3:13-16</u>
And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. **But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.**

Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

The Jewish leadership in Jesus' day began covering up the Resurrection from the beginning!

Matthew 28:11-15

Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, **they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.** So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and **this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.**