

# Acts 13:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.

## Analysis

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Paul's warning quotes Habakkuk 1:5 - 'Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish' - applying ancient prophecy to his hearers' situation. God's work in their day (Messiah's coming, death, resurrection) was so astounding that scoffers risked 'perishing' by refusing to believe. The warning 'though a man declare it unto you' indicates that even clear testimony can be rejected by hardened hearts.

## Historical Context

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Habakkuk originally addressed skeptics who couldn't believe God would judge Judah through Babylon. Paul applies this to those refusing to believe God's salvation through Christ's cross - both seemed incredible yet were divinely ordained.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does this warning teach about the danger of skepticism toward God's surprising ways of working?
2. How might you be tempted to reject God's work because it doesn't match your expectations?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἴδετε οἱ καταφρονηταί καὶ θαυμάσατε καὶ ἀφανίσθητε  
**Behold** G3588 **ye despisers** G2707 **and** G2532 **wonder** G2296 **and** G2532 **perish** G853  
G1492

ὅτι ἔργον ἐγὼ ἔργαζομαι ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ὑμῶν ἔργον  
**for** G3754 **a work** G2041 **I** G1473 **work** G2038 **in** G1722 **days** G2250 **your** G5216 **a work** G2041

ῳ οὐ μὴ πιστεύσητε ἐάν τις ἐκδιηγῆται ὑμῖν  
**which** G3756 **believe** G4100 **though** G1437 **a man** G5100 **declare it** G1555 **unto you** G5213  
G3739

## Additional Cross-References

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**Habakkuk 1:5** (Faith): Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.

**1 Peter 4:17** (Parallel theme): For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

**Proverbs 5:12** (Parallel theme): And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;