

# Isaiah 29:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.

## Analysis

**Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder** (לִכְן הִנְנִי יוֹסֵף לְהַפְלִיא אֶת־הָעַם־הַזֶּה) (lakhen hineni yosif lehafli et-ha'am-hazeh hafle vafele)—God will יוֹסֵף (yosif, continue, add to, proceed) to do הַפְלִיא וְהַפְלִיא (hafle vafele, a wonder and a wonder), an emphatic doubling. The verb פָּלָא (pala) means to be wonderful, surpassing, extraordinary. **For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid** (וְאֵבְדָה חִכְמַת חֲכָמָיו וְבִינָתָם וְנִבְנִיּוֹתָם תִּסְתָּאֵר) (ve'avedah chakhmat chakhamaw uvinat nevonayw tistattar).

Paul quotes this in 1 Corinthians 1:19 when explaining how the cross confounds human wisdom. God's 'marvelous work' involves inverting human categories: making the wise foolish, hiding understanding from the prudent, revealing truth to babes (Matthew 11:25). The gospel itself is this wonder—rejected by Jewish scholars and Greek philosophers but embraced by fishermen and tax collectors. Human wisdom cannot access divine revelation; God must grant it.

## Historical Context

Judah's wise men (court advisors, scribes) advocated Egyptian alliances, relying on political calculation rather than prophetic word. Their 'wisdom' led to disaster.

Later, Jewish scholars expected a conquering Messiah and political restoration, missing Jesus. Greek philosophers dismissed resurrection as foolishness (Acts 17:32). God's marvelous work—salvation through a crucified Messiah—confounded both.

## **Related Passages**

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## **Study Questions**

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1. How does the gospel itself function as the 'marvelous work' that confounds human wisdom?
2. Why must God 'hide' understanding from the self-sufficient wise to reveal it to humble dependents?
3. Where are you tempted to trust your own wisdom rather than submitting to God's 'foolish' ways?

## Interlinear Text

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הֲנֵנִי לְךָ H3651	יֹסֵף H2005	Therefore behold I will proceed H3254	הַפֶּלֶא H6381	אֶת H854
הָעָם H5971	הִנֵּה H2088	even a marvellous work H6381	וְפֶלֶא H6382	וְאֶבְדָּה H6
among this people H5971			and a wonder H6382	men shall perish H6
חֲכָמָה H2451	חֲכָמֵי H2450	וּבִינֵי H998	נְבֹנֵי H995	
for the wisdom H2451	of their wise H2450	and the understanding H998	of their prudent H995	
תִּסְתַּתֵּר: men shall be hid H5641				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Habakkuk 1:5** (Parallel theme): 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.

**Isaiah 28:21** (Parallel theme): For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.

**Jeremiah 49:7** (Parallel theme): Concerning Edom, thus saith the LORD of hosts; Is wisdom no more in Teman? is counsel perished from the prudent? is their wisdom vanished?

**1 Corinthians 3:19** (Parallel theme): For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

**Job 5:13** (Parallel theme): He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong.

**Luke 10:24** (Parallel theme): For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

**Obadiah 1:8** (Parallel theme): Shall I not in that day, saith the LORD, even destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?

**Isaiah 19:3** (Parallel theme): And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.

**Romans 1:28** (Parallel theme): And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

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