

# 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** (לֹכֶן הָנָנִי יוֹסֵף לְפָפְלִיא אֶת-יִרְאָעָמִים-זֶה)—God will יֹסֵף (yosif, continue, add to, proceed) to do פָּלָא (pala) (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** (אֲבָדָה סְכָמָת חֲכָמִים וּבִינָת) (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

---

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

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

## Study Questions

---

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

---

לְכָה יְהִי

H3651

H2005

יְמִסְרָה

H3254

פְּנֵל אָתָה

H6381

אָתָה

H854

בְּנֵם

הָנָה

פְּנֵל אָתָה

כִּי לֹא

אָבֵדָה

among this people

H5971

H2088

even a marvellous work

H6381

and a wonder

H6382

men shall perish

H6

חֲכָמָת

חֲכָמָת

וּבִינָת

בְּנֵי

for the wisdom

of their wise

and the understanding

of their prudent

H2451

H2450

H998

H995

תִּסְתַּתְּרָה:

men shall be hid

H5641

## Additional Cross-References

---

**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;

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)