

Mark 12:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

Analysis

This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes—Jesus quotes Psalm 118:23, applying the rejected stone prophecy to Himself. The θαυμαστός (thaumastos, marvelous, wonderful) nature lies in God's sovereign reversal: human rejection becomes divine exaltation. What seemed like defeat (crucifixion) God ordained as victory (resurrection and enthronement).

The shift from human perspective to divine purpose is stunning. The tenants 'cast out' the son to destroy him—but 'this was the Lord's doing.' God's sovereignty transforms the greatest crime (deicide) into the greatest salvation (atonement). The 'marvelous' quality means it provokes astonishment, wonder—even incredulity. Who could imagine that God would use the murder of His Son as the mechanism of redemption? Only divine wisdom could orchestrate such a reversal.

Historical Context

Psalm 118 was a Messianic psalm sung during Passover, celebrating God's deliverance. Jesus quotes it during Passion Week, days before becoming the Passover Lamb. The early church saw Psalm 118:22-23 as prophecy fulfilled in Christ's resurrection and exaltation (Acts 4:11, 1 Peter 2:7). What the Sanhedrin intended for evil, God ordained for salvation—the ultimate demonstration of Genesis 50:20.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's sovereignty over human evil bring comfort when you face opposition for Christ?
2. What makes the cross 'marvellous'—how does divine wisdom in using human wickedness for salvation purposes provoke wonder?
3. In what areas of your life do you need to trust that God's doing behind apparent defeat is actually marvellous victory?

Interlinear Text

παρὰ	κυρίου	ἐγένετο	αὕτη	καὶ	ἔστιν	θαυμαστὴ	ἐν
<small>G3844</small>	the Lord's <small>G2962</small>	doing <small>G1096</small>	This <small>G3778</small>	and <small>G2532</small>	it is <small>G2076</small>	marvellous <small>G2298</small>	in <small>G1722</small>
ὀφθαλμοῖς ἡμῶν							
eyes <small>G3788</small>		our <small>G2257</small>					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 118:23 (References Lord): This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.