

Psalm 118:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

Analysis

"This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes." The declaration me'et YHWH haytah zot (from the LORD this has come) attributes the rejected stone becoming cornerstone entirely to divine action. Me'et (from) indicates source, origin. The human builders didn't recognize the stone's value; God's sovereign choice made it chief cornerstone. "It is marvellous in our eyes"—hi nifla'ah b'eineinu (it is wonderful/marvelous in our eyes). Pala (wonderful/marvelous) describes what exceeds normal expectation, inspires wonder, reveals divine power. What seemed impossible or foolish to humans proves wise and powerful by God's design (1 Corinthians 1:25-29). God's ways consistently confound human wisdom—choosing weak to shame strong, foolish to shame wise, despised to nullify esteemed.

Historical Context

Throughout redemptive history, God chose unlikely people and methods: Abraham (aged, childless) to father multitudes; Moses (speech impediment) as spokesman; Gideon (smallest clan, least in family) as deliverer; David (youngest shepherd) as king; virgin birth, stable delivery, cross execution as salvation means. Human logic rejects such methods. Religious leaders rejected Jesus for unconventional teaching, association with sinners, violation of traditions, claim to divine authority. Romans found crucified messiah absurd (1 Corinthians 1:23). Yet God's "foolishness" proved wiser than human wisdom. Church history shows similar pattern—revivals often spring from unexpected places, through unlikely people.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What aspects of God's redemptive plan seem "marvellous" (unexpected, counterintuitive) to human thinking?
2. How does recognizing salvation as entirely "the LORD's doing" affect personal pride or despair?
3. In what current situations might God be doing something marvellous that you're tempted to dismiss?

Interlinear Text

תְּפִלָּה אֲתָּה מֵאָתָּה ! הַיְהָ בְּיַדְךָ יְתָהָה הַיְהָ בְּיַדְךָ יְתָהָה
H853 This is the LORD'S H1961 H2063 H1931 doing it is marvellous
H3068 H6381

בְּעֵינֵינוּ:

in our eyes

H5869

Additional Cross-References

Job 5:9 (Parallel theme): Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number:

Acts 4:13 (Parallel theme): Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.