

Zechariah 8:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts.

Analysis

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts. God anticipates skeptical response to His promises. The word "**marvellous**" (yippale, יִפְלֵא) from pala means extraordinary, wonderful, difficult, or seemingly impossible—beyond natural expectation. The "**remnant**" (she'erit, שְׁאֵרִית) refers to the small community of returned exiles who might find these promises too good to be true given their meager circumstances.

The rhetorical question "**should it also be marvellous in mine eyes?**" challenges human limitation in understanding divine capability. What seems impossible to limited human perspective poses no difficulty for omnipotent God. The double repetition "**saith the LORD of hosts**" bookends the verse, emphasizing divine authority—the One who commands heavenly armies can certainly accomplish what He promises, regardless of how impossible it appears to struggling humans.

This divine challenge echoes other Scripture passages confronting unbelief. To Abraham and Sarah, God asked, "Is any thing too hard for the LORD?" (Genesis 18:14). To Jeremiah, God declared, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" (Jeremiah 32:27). Jesus told His disciples, "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). The

pattern is consistent: when God's promises exceed human comprehension, faith must rest on divine character and power, not circumstances or probabilities.

Historical Context

The post-exilic remnant faced daunting realities in 520 BC. They were a small community (approximately 50,000 returned from exile) surrounded by hostile neighbors, living in a partially ruined city, under foreign (Persian) rule, with limited resources. The temple they were rebuilding appeared pathetic compared to Solomon's magnificent structure (Haggai 2:3). Economically, they struggled—Haggai described their condition: "Ye have sown much, and bring in little" (Haggai 1:6).

Against this backdrop, God's promises seemed fantastic: elderly people living peacefully, streets full of playing children, comprehensive prosperity, divine presence dwelling among them, and ultimately (verse 23) nations seeking out Jews because of God's evident blessing. How could this tiny, poor, vulnerable community become the object of international admiration? It seemed, literally, "marvellous"—too wonderful to believe.

Yet history vindicated God's word. The temple was completed (516 BC), Jerusalem's walls were rebuilt (Nehemiah, 445 BC), and during the Hasmonean period, Judea experienced renewed independence and prosperity. More significantly, Christ came from this remnant, establishing God's kingdom that now extends globally, with people from every nation seeking the God of Israel through Jesus. What seemed impossible to the remnant proved routine for the Sovereign LORD. The lesson endures: God's promises often exceed our imagination, but His faithfulness never exceeds His capability.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What promises of God seem "too marvellous" to believe based on your current circumstances, and how does this verse challenge that unbelief?
2. How does remembering God's past faithfulness in fulfilling impossible promises strengthen faith for present and future challenges?
3. In what ways does the title "LORD of hosts" specifically address doubts about God's ability to accomplish His promises?

Interlinear Text

כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	צְבָאוֹת:	כִּי	יִפְּלֵא	בְּעֵינַי
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	of hosts	H3588	If it be marvellous	in mine eyes
	H559	H3068	H6635		H6381	H5869
שְׁאֵרִית	הָעָם	הַיּוֹם	בְּיָמֵינוּ	הָיָה	גַּם	בְּעֵינַי
of the remnant	of this people	H2088	in these days	H1992	H1571	in mine eyes
H7611	H5971		H3117			H5869
יִפְּלֵא	נֹא	יְהוָה	צְבָאוֹת:			
If it be marvellous	saith	the LORD	of hosts			
H6381	H5002	H3068	H6635			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 32:27 (References Lord): Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?

Jeremiah 32:17 (References Lord): Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:

Genesis 18:14 (References Lord): Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

Luke 1:20 (Parallel theme): And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

Luke 1:37 (Parallel theme): For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Luke 18:27 (Parallel theme): And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

2 Kings 7:2 (References Lord): Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

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