

Deuteronomy 1:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the LORD thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place.

Analysis

The image of God bearing Israel 'as a man doth bear his son' reveals divine paternal care and sovereign providence. The Hebrew 'nasa' (carried/bore) conveys sustained support through trial. This metaphor anticipates the New Covenant reality where believers are adopted as sons (Galatians 4:5-7). God's fatherhood is not merely benevolent but covenantal—He commits to preserve His people through the wilderness until reaching the promised inheritance. This demonstrates the Reformed doctrine of perseverance of the saints.

Historical Context

Recalls Israel's 40-year wilderness journey from Egypt to Moab (circa 1446-1406 BC). Despite divine provision—manna, water from rock, pillar of cloud/fire—the first generation failed to trust God's promises and died in the wilderness. This verse reflects Moses' reminder to the second generation of their fathers' unbelief at Kadesh-barnea (Numbers 13-14).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's fatherly care during Israel's wilderness wandering deepen your understanding of divine providence in trials?
2. In what ways does this verse challenge you to trust God's sustaining grace rather than your own strength?

Interlinear Text

וְמִדְבָּר	אָשָׁר	רָאָתְּךָ	אָשָׁר	וְמִדְבָּר
And in the wilderness	H834	where thou hast seen	H834	bare
H4057		H7200		H5375
הָיָה יְהוָה יְהוָה	אָלֹהָ יְהוָה	אָשָׁר	אָשָׁר	בֶּן יְהוָה
how that the LORD	thy God	H834	bare	his son
H3068	H430		H5375	H1121
בְּכָל	אָשָׁר	עַד	בְּאַכְּמָן	עַד
H3605	in all the way	H834	that ye went	H5704
H1870			H1980	until ye came
וּמְמֹקֵם	בָּזְהָה			H935
into this place	H2088			
H4725				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 63:9 (Parallel theme): In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

Acts 13:18 (Parallel theme): And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.

Isaiah 40:11 (Parallel theme): He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Exodus 19:4 (Parallel theme): Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

Numbers 11:14 (Parallel theme): I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me.

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