

Deuteronomy 8:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.

Analysis

The miraculous preservation of clothing and protection of feet demonstrates God's comprehensive care extending to ordinary physical needs. The Hebrew *balah* (waxed old/wore out) normally describes inevitable decay, but God suspended natural deterioration. Forty years without new clothing or swollen feet from constant travel is supernatural provision. This detail emphasizes that God's care encompasses both spectacular (manna from heaven) and mundane (preserved sandals) needs. The principle is Matthew 6:25-33—the same God who feeds birds and clothes flowers will provide for His children. This ordinary miracle teaches that all provision, whether spectacular or subtle, flows from God's hand.

Historical Context

The forty-year wilderness period (1446-1406 BC traditional dating) required constant travel over harsh terrain. Normal wear would have destroyed clothing and caused severe foot problems (blisters, calluses, swelling) from continuous walking over rocks and sand. The lack of resources to replace clothing or make new sandals would have created genuine hardship. God's preservation of these basics demonstrated His faithfulness in small, daily matters, not just dramatic crises. This prepared Israel to trust God's provision in Canaan's settled life.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What 'small' provisions from God do you overlook while focusing on spectacular blessings?
2. How does recognizing God's care in ordinary needs build trust for extraordinary challenges?
3. In what ways can you cultivate gratitude for mundane blessings as much as dramatic answers to prayer?

Interlinear Text

ל א שְׁמַלְתָּךְ	ל א	בָּלִיָּה	מֵעַל יָדְךָ	וְכַגְלֶךָ	ל א
Thy raiment	H3808	waxed not old	H5921	upon thee neither did thy foot	H3808
H8071		H1086		H7272	
שָׁנָה:	אַרְבָּעִים	זֶה	בָּצָה		
swell	H2088	these forty	years		
H1216		H705	H8141		

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 9:21 (Parallel theme): Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not.

Deuteronomy 29:5 (Parallel theme): And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot.