

Judges 6:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said.

Analysis

Despite Spirit-empowerment and successful mobilization, Gideon requests confirming signs: 'if thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said.' The fleece test—dew on the fleece but dry ground—seeks tangible confirmation of divine promise. This request reveals ongoing weakness—God already provided miraculous fire (verse 21), prophetic word, and Spirit-empowerment. Yet God graciously accommodates Gideon's need for reassurance. Reformed theology recognizes the distinction between legitimate seeking of confirmation (assurance of salvation, guidance for major decisions) and presumptuous testing that demands proof despite clear revelation. Gideon's request seems borderline—understandable human weakness that God mercifully indulges.

Historical Context

Fleece (shorn sheep wool) was common in agricultural Israel. The test's design—dew collection on fleece while ground remained dry—requested meteorologically unusual phenomena that could only be divine intervention. Palestine's dew provided crucial moisture during dry seasons; its normal pattern was widespread deposition on all surfaces. Manipulating dew patterns demonstrated creative control over natural processes, proving divine agency rather than coincidence.

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 14:5 (References Israel): I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.

Matthew 15:24 (References Israel): But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org