

Judges 6:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

Analysis

God graciously performs the second sign: the fleece remained dry while dew covered all the ground. This reverse miracle conclusively proved divine intervention—no natural process could explain moisture appearing everywhere except on the highly absorbent fleece. God's patience with Gideon's repeated requests demonstrates covenant faithfulness to weak believers. Yet the narrative includes these requests not as models to imitate but as records of human weakness that God graciously accommodates. The pattern shows God meeting people where they are while calling them toward mature faith. After this second confirmation, Gideon receives no more signs—he must now act on adequate revelation.

Historical Context

The reversed miracle (dry fleece, wet ground) was even more extraordinary than the first. Fleece naturally absorbed moisture from the air and ground; keeping it dry while surrounding ground was soaked required active divine intervention. That God performed both signs validated Gideon's calling beyond doubt. However, the Bible never presents fleece-testing as a normative method for discerning God's will—this was God's accommodation to Gideon's specific weakness in this unique situation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's patience in performing the second sign demonstrate His commitment to bringing weak believers to mature faith?
2. Why doesn't Scripture present fleece-testing as a normative method for discerning God's will?
3. What does Gideon's story teach about moving from sign-dependent faith toward Word-dependent faith?

Interlinear Text

אֶל חַרְבָּה הַיְהִי כִּי עַשְׂתָּה יְמִינָה כִּי בְּלִילָה וְאֶתְּנָהָרָה יְמִינָה
did And God H3651 so that night H3915 H1931 H1961 for it was dry H413 H2721

עַל לְבָדָה כֹּל וְעַל לְבָדָה כֹּל אֶצְבָּעָה
upon the fleece H905 H5921 H3605 on all the ground H776 H1961

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only and there was dew

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