

Joshua 9:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And these bottles of wine, which we filled, were new; and, behold, they be rent: and these our garments and our shoes are become old by reason of the very long journey.

Analysis

These bottles of wine, which we filled, were new; and, behold, they be rent—The Gibeonites' deception included **wine bottles** (תִּדְּוֹת, no'dot)—goatskin containers that crack and tear with age and use. The word **rent** (נִצָּץ, baqa', torn/split) added visual proof to their false claim of a distant origin. Their **garments and shoes** appearing **old by reason of the very long journey** completed the fabrication.

This verse highlights the convincing nature of their deception—physical 'evidence' seemed to validate their story. Yet Israel's failure was not inadequate investigation of props but failure to **ask counsel at the mouth of the LORD** (v. 14). Satan's deceptions often include plausible evidence; discernment requires divine wisdom, not mere empirical observation. As Paul warns: 'Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light' (2 Corinthians 11:14).

Historical Context

Ancient wineskins (made from whole goat hides) did crack and split with use and age, especially in dry climates. The Gibeonites' theatrical props exploited Israel's unfamiliarity with local geography—fresh from wilderness wandering, they couldn't recognize nearby Canaanite cities. The deception worked because Israel relied on visible evidence rather than seeking God's guidance.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. When have you been deceived by convincing 'evidence' because you failed to seek God's wisdom?
2. How do you distinguish between thorough investigation and self-sufficient decision-making without prayer?
3. What modern deceptions use plausible 'props' to mislead believers away from dependence on God?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיוּ הַ	חֲדָשִׁים יָמִים	מִלְּאֲנֹ	אֲשֶׁר	רֵיִן הֵי	נֹאד וְ	וְאֵלֶּה
H2009	which we filled	H4390	H834	of wine	H4997	H428
וְנָעֲלֵינוּ	וְנִלְמֹתֵינוּ	וְאֵלֶּה	הֵתִבְּקָנוּ			
H5275	H8008	H428	H1234			
מְאֹד:	הַדֶּרֶךְ	מֵרֶב	בָּלֵו			
H3966	H1870	H7230	H1086			

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