

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** (לִתְנָזָן, no'dot)—goatskin containers that crack and tear with age and use. The word **rent** (שִׁבְעָה, 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

וְהַבְּה֙ הַמְּדֻשְׁתִּים֙ מִלְּאָנוּ֙ אֲשֶׁר֙ נָאָדְתִּים֙ וְאַלְּאָתָּה֙

H428 And these bottles H4997 of wine H3196 H834 which we filled H4390 H2009 were new H2319

וְתַּגְּלִילְיָהּ עַזָּה֙ שְׁלָמֹתְיָהּ עַזָּה֙ וְאַלְּאָתָּה֙ הַתְּבִקְעָה֙

and behold they be rent H428 and these our garments H8008 and our shoes H5275

מִאָדָם: בְּלֹא מִרְבָּבְלֹא

are become old long journey by reason of the very

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org