

# Joshua 9:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joshua called for them, and he spake unto them, saying, Wherefore have ye beguiled us, saying, We are very far from you; when ye dwell among us?

## Analysis

**Wherefore have ye beguiled us** (לְמַה רְמִיתֶם, lamah rimitem)—the verb (ramah) means to deceive or betray, the same word used of Jacob's deception of Isaac (Genesis 27:35). Joshua's confrontation exposed the Gibeonites' elaborate ruse: worn-out provisions, patched wineskins, and false claims of distant origins (vv. 4-13). Their deception succeeded because Israel 'asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD' (v. 14).

This diplomatic failure contrasts sharply with the covenant renewal at Mount Ebal (8:30-35). When Israel relied on human discernment rather than divine guidance, they were outwitted by Canaanite cunning. Yet God sovereignly used even this treaty violation to preserve a remnant who feared Him (v. 24), foreshadowing Rahab and Ruth—Gentiles grafted into Israel's covenant community through faith.

## Historical Context

Gibeon was a major Canaanite city-state located about six miles northwest of Jerusalem. Archaeological evidence confirms it was a significant urban center during the Late Bronze Age. The Gibeonites were Hivites (v. 7), descendants of Ham listed among the Canaanite nations marked for judgment. Their deception occurred soon after Israel's conquest of Jericho and Ai, when Israel's military reputation terrified the region.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does Israel's failure to seek God's counsel before making the treaty warn against relying solely on appearances and human wisdom?
2. What does Joshua's confrontation rather than immediate execution reveal about covenant integrity even when deceived?
3. How do the Gibeonites' actions demonstrate that genuine fear of God can emerge even from pagan backgrounds?

## Interlinear Text

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לְאָמֵר אֶלָּיָה מֹשֶׁה וְיַהְוֵשׁ עַל־לֵבָם  
called H7121 And Joshua H3091 for them and he spoke H1696 unto them saying H413 H559

לְמֹה רְמִיתִ מְנֻמְדָה אַתָּה נָא  
H4100 Wherefore have ye beguiled H7411 unto them saying H853 H559 far H7350

אַתָּה חֲנָנָה מִכֶּם מְאָדָם אַתָּה כִּי־בְּקָרְבֵּנוּ  
H587 H4480 We are very H3966 among H7130 from you when ye dwell H3427

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 9:6** (Parallel theme): And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a far country: now therefore make ye a league with us.

**Joshua 9:16** (Parallel theme): And it came to pass at the end of three days after they had made a league with them, that they heard that they were their neighbours, and that they dwelt among them.

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