

Joshua is tricked.

Joshua 9



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When Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land, other people were already living there.

Many of these people and their kings wanted to fight against the Israelites. But one group of people, the Gibeonites, knew that God was helping the Israelites. They knew they could not win a fight against God! So they made up a plan to trick the Israelites.

Some of the Gibeonite men dressed up in worn-out, dirty clothes. They put on old sandals with holes in the bottoms. They packed dried-out moldy bread into old, cracked leather bags for their tired-looking donkeys to carry. Then they walked over to the Israelite camp.

The men told the Israelites they had come from a faraway country and wanted to be their friends.

Joshua and his helpers looked at the Gibeonites' old sandals and moldy bread. Joshua thought the Gibeonites were telling the truth. He forgot to ask God what to do. He agreed to be friends with the Gibeonites. Joshua promised that the Israelites would not fight against them.

But three days later Joshua found out the Gibeonites were really their neighbors! He angrily marched the Israelite army over to their camp. Joshua told them he would keep his promise. Israel would not fight against the Gibeonites, but the Gibeonites must become the Israelites' workers. The Gibeonites agreed. After all, it was easier to be helpers than to fight against an army helped by God!