



Scriptures from Christian Standard Version unless noted

Don't Be Duped

Now when all the kings west of the Jordan heard about these things - those in the hill country, in the western foothills, and along the entire coast of the Great Sea as far as Lebanon (the kings of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites) - they came together to make war against Joshua and Israel.

Joshua 9:1-2

However, when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, they resorted to a ruse...

Joshua 9:3

They resorted to a ruse: They went as a delegation whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended. The men put worn and patched sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and moldy. Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us." The men of Israel said to the Hivites, "But perhaps you live near us. How then can we make a treaty with you?"

Joshua 9:4-7

"We are your servants," they said to Joshua. But Joshua asked, "Who are you and where do you come from?" They answered: "Your servants have come from a very distant country because of the fame of the LORD your God. For we have heard reports of him: all that he did in Egypt, and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan - Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroath. And our elders and all those living in our country said to us, 'Take provisions for your journey; go and meet them and say to them, "We are your servants; make a treaty with us."' This bread of ours was warm when we packed it at home on the day we left to come to you. But now see how dry and moldy it is. And these wineskins that we filled were new, but see how cracked they are. And our clothes and sandals are worn out by the very long journey."

Joshua 9:8-13

KEY PRINCIPLE:

**Don't Be Duped.
We're often defeated through deception.**

The Marks of Deception:

1. Deception preys on false confidence.

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

1 Corinthians 10:12

2. Deception presents false evidence.

3. Deception promises false allegiance.

"We are your servants."

Joshua 9:8

The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD.

Joshua 9:14

Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath. Three days after they made the treaty with the Gibeonites, the Israelites heard that they were neighbors, living near them. So the Israelites set out and on the third day came to their cities: Gibeon, Kephirah, Beeroth and Kiriath Jearim. But the Israelites did not attack them, because the leaders of the assembly had sworn an oath to them by the LORD , the God of Israel. The whole assembly grumbled against the leaders, but all the leaders answered, "We have given them our oath by the LORD , the God of Israel, and we cannot touch them now. This is what we will do to them: We will let them live, so that wrath will not fall on us for breaking the oath we swore to them." They continued, "Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers for the entire community." So the leaders' promise to them was kept.

Joshua 9:15-21

Making Wise Decisions:

Wise decisions require prayer.

The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD.

Joshua 9:14

Wise decisions require perspective.

The Perspective of God's Word

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16

The Perspective of God's People

Plans fail for a lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 15:22

Wise decisions require patience.

"We have come from a distant country, make a treaty with us."

Joshua 9:6

The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.

Proverbs 14:8

The whole assembly grumbled against the leaders.

Joshua 9:18

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