

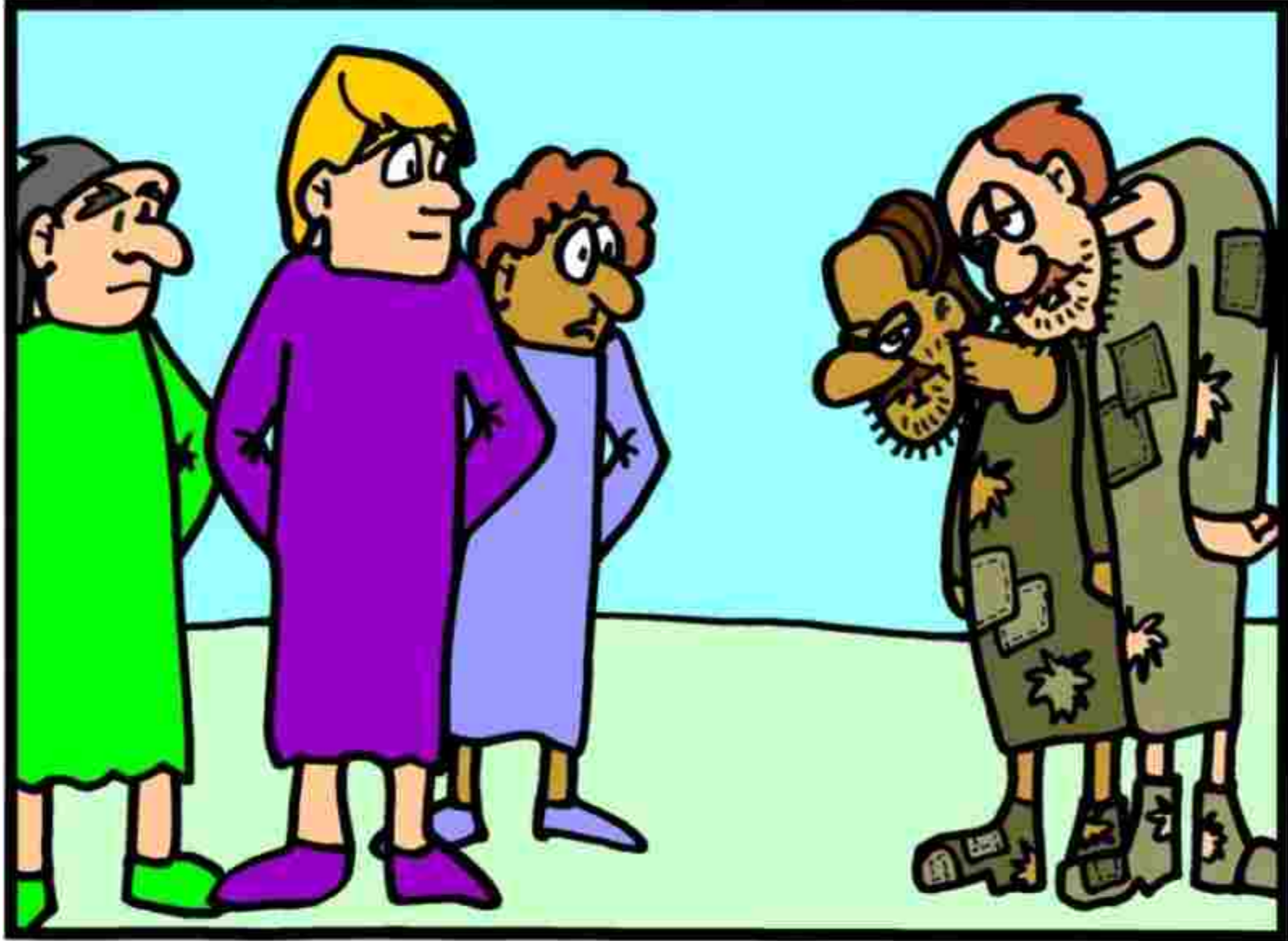
Gibeonite Deception

*(Based on Joshua 9, Nehemiah 7:25,
Nehemiah 3:7)*

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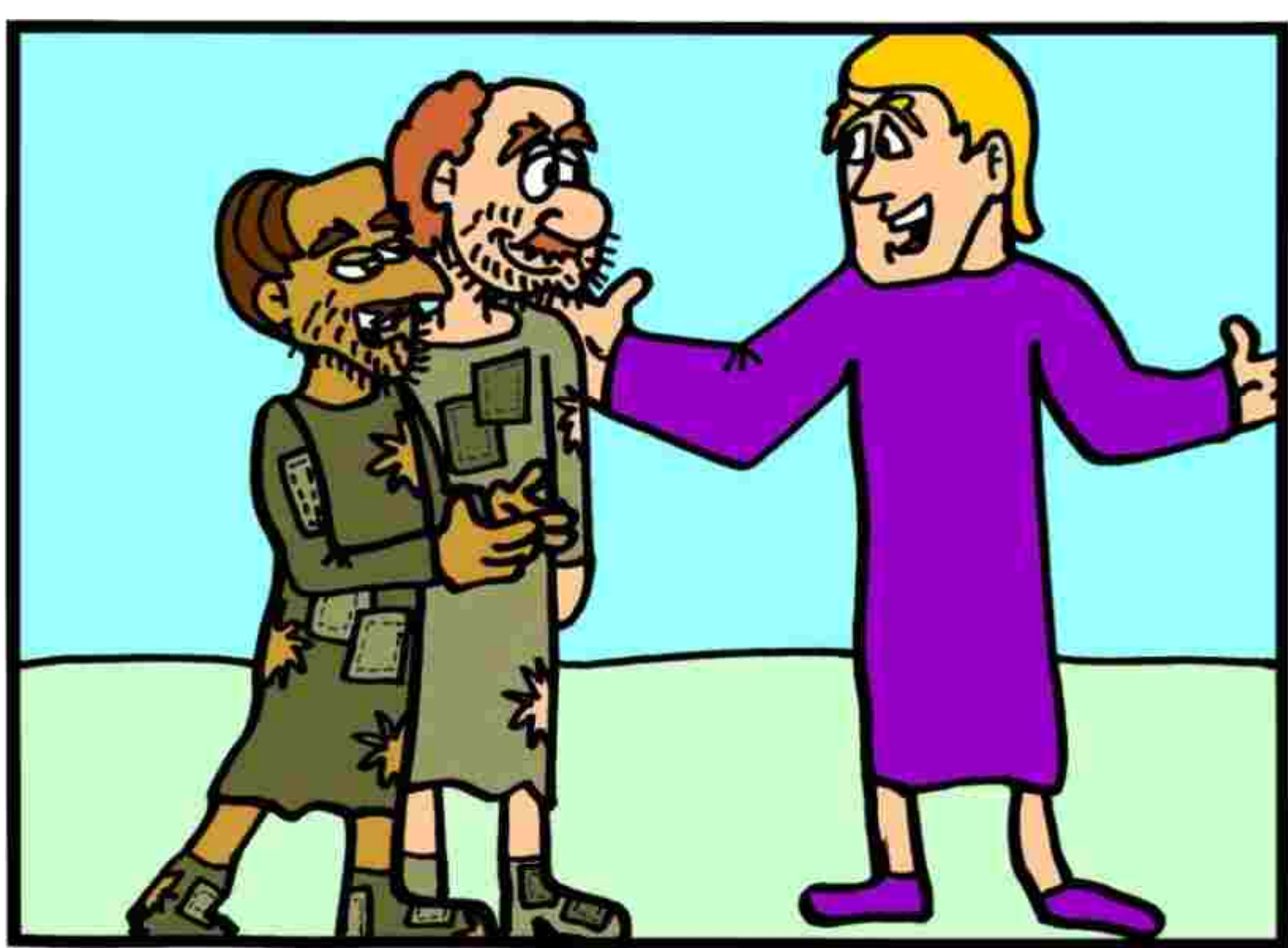
"Could you give us some water and bread?" asked a weary voice. "All of our bread is full of mould. We have been traveling for weeks and weeks."



Joshua and his men looked at the weary travelers. They were sure that these strangers must have been traveling for a long time because their clothes were ripped and even their shoes were held together with patches.



"We are ambassadors from a far away country and far, far away in our country we heard about your God," said the men. "You heard about our God?" asked Joshua.



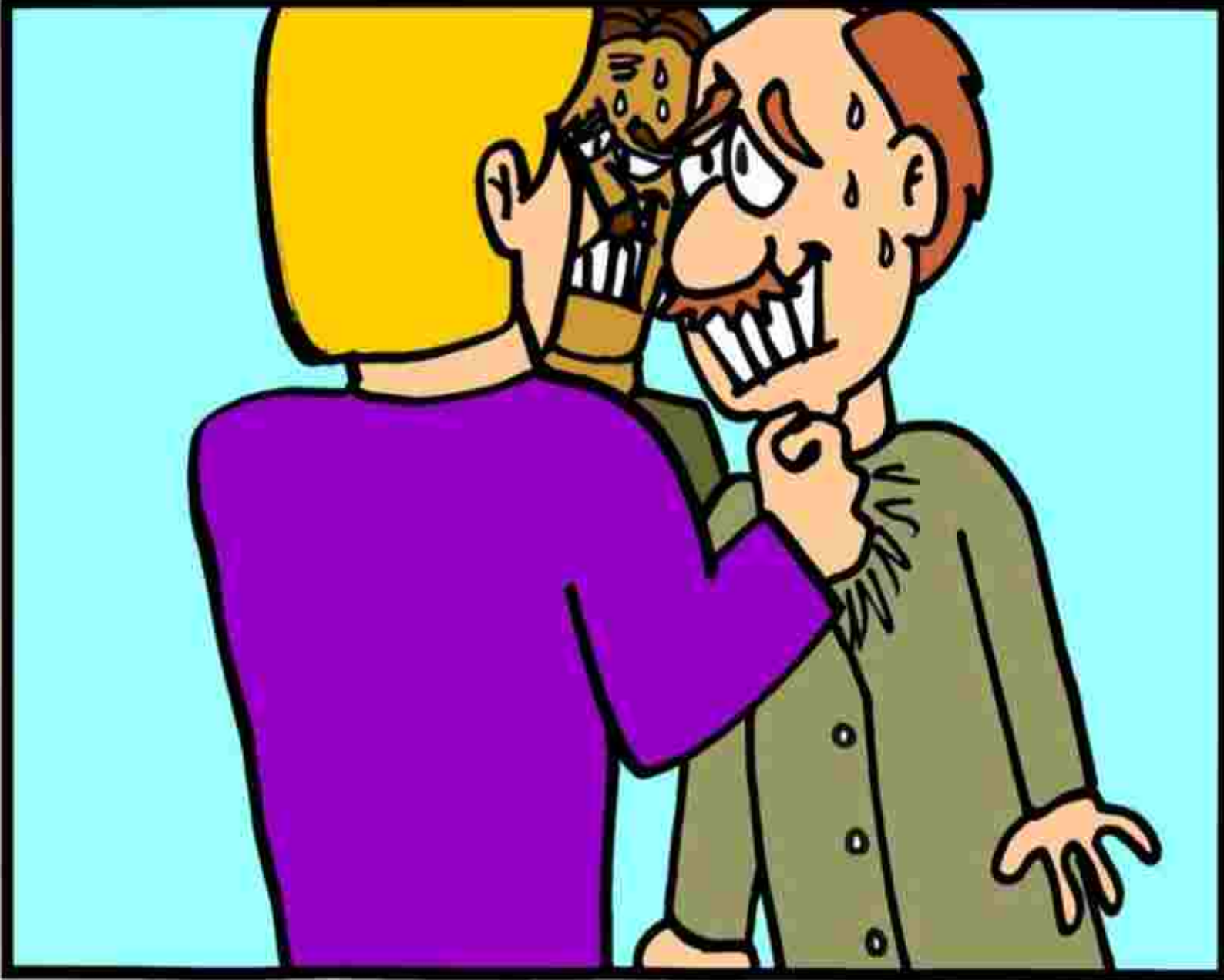
"We have heard about all the miracles he did in Egypt. We want you to make a deal with us. We'll be partners and your servants," said the strangers. With that, Joshua was tricked. He promised to let them live.



Joshua brought food and new clothes for the strangers. He made the deal with them before he asked the Lord about it. Three days later Joshua learned the truth. He had made a deal with the enemy. “They tricked me!” said Joshua.



"They are Gibeonites. They are from here. They don't come from far away. Joshua's men wanted to kill the strangers, but Joshua said, "No. We will keep our word to them."



"Phony ambassadors, why did you trick me?" asked Joshua. "From now on you're going to be our servants!" The Gibeonites were happy just to be alive.



That day Joshua saved the Gibeonites from being killed, but he did make them chop everybody's wood and carry everybody's water. It was their job to make sure there was lots of water and wood at the Lord's tabernacle.



Joshua was very sorry that he had made a deal with the enemy, but God made good come out of Joshua's mistake. Many years later when an enemy attacked the City of Jerusalem the Gibeonites helped to rebuild.



Lord, help me to remember that before I make decisions I should always talk to you first.