

1 Samuel 13:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears:

Analysis

Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears:

The narrator explains Israel's military weakness: 'there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel.' Philistine control of iron-working technology created complete dependence and military vulnerability. This technological subjugation ('Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears') reveals the depth of Israel's oppression. The situation parallels modern economic and technological colonialism. Yet God would deliver Israel despite this disadvantage, demonstrating that victory depends not on superior technology but on divine power.

Historical Context

Iron-working technology was a closely guarded secret in the ancient Near East. The Philistines, possibly descendants of Aegean peoples, possessed advanced metallurgy that gave them significant military advantage. This iron monopoly explains Philistine military dominance during this period.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do oppressive powers use economic and technological control to maintain dominance?
2. What does God's deliverance despite technological disadvantage teach about trusting Him?

Interlinear Text

וְכֵן	לֹא	לִמְצָא	בְּכָל	אֶרֶץ	
Now there was no smith	H3808	found	H3605	throughout all the land	
H2796		H4672		H776	
לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	כִּי	אָמַר	כְּלִשְׁתֵּי יָם	וַיַּעַשׂ	לְהַעֲבֹר יָם
of Israel	H3588	said	for the Philistines	H6435	make Lest the Hebrews
H3478		H559	H6430	H6213	H5680
וְהָרְבִּי	אֵל	חֲנִית:			
them swords	H176	or spears			
H2719		H2595			

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 24:14 (Parallel theme): And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land.

Jeremiah 24:1 (Parallel theme): The LORD shewed me, and, behold, two baskets of figs were set before the temple of the LORD, after that Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, and

the princes of Judah, with the carpenters and smiths, from Jerusalem, and had brought them to Babylon.

Judges 5:8 (References Israel): They chose new gods; then was war in the gates: was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel?

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