

1 Samuel 13:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet they had a file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the forks, and for the axes, and to sharpen the goads.

Analysis

Yet they had a file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the forks, and for the axes, and to sharpen the goads.

The specific pricing mentioned - 'a pim for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the forks' - documents the economic exploitation accompanying technological dependence. A pim (about two-thirds of a shekel) represented significant expense for simple sharpening. Philistine control allowed monopoly pricing that further impoverished Israel. The detailed economic information demonstrates how thoroughly oppression affects every aspect of daily life, from warfare down to routine farm maintenance.

Historical Context

The pim weight has been confirmed by archaeological discoveries. This verse provides rare biblical insight into ancient Near Eastern economic practices. The Philistines extracted maximum profit from their technological advantage, creating systematic exploitation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do systems of oppression extract economic benefit at every level of society?
2. What modern parallels exist to this kind of exploitative technological dependence?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא אָתָּה יְמִינָת הַמְּמַרְשָׁת פְּנֵי יְמִינָת הַמְּמַרְשָׁת
H1961 Yet they had a file H6310 for the mattocks and for the coulters
H6477 H4281 H855

פְּנֵרְבָּן וְלֹא צִבְעָן וְלֹא קְרַדְמָן יְמִינָת הַלְּשׁוֹן
and for the forks H7053 and for the axes and to sharpen the goads
H7969 H7134 H5324 H1861

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