

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

וְהִיָּתָה	הַפֶּצַּע יָכָה	פִּי יָם	לְמַחֲרֹשֶׁת	וְלִאֵת יָם
H1961	Yet they had a file	H6310	for the mattocks	and for the coulters
	H6477		H4281	H855
וְלִשְׁלֵשׁ	קִלְשׁ וֶן	וְלִהְקַדְּמֵם יָם	וְלִהְצֵיב	הַדֹּרְבָּן:
and for the forks	H7053	and for the axes	and to sharpen	the goads
H7969		H7134	H5324	H1861

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