

Exodus 21:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If the ox shall push a manservant or a maidservant; he shall give unto their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

Analysis

If the ox shall push a manservant or a maidservant; he shall give unto their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

The 'thirty shekels of silver' (שְׁלֹשִׁים שֶׁקֶל כֹּסֶף, sheloshim sheqel kesef) is the compensation for a slave's life—the exact price Judas received for betraying Christ (Matthew 26:15, Zechariah 11:12-13). Jesus' betrayal price fulfilled this prophetic shadow—He was valued as a slave, though He is Lord. The ox is stoned (capital punishment) even for killing a servant—showing animals that kill humans forfeit life (Genesis 9:5-6). Human life, even servant life, has infinite value. Judas's thirty pieces of silver mock Christ's worth—the priceless One sold for slave-price.

Historical Context

Thirty shekels was significant but not enormous—roughly four months' wages. Zechariah 11:12-13 uses this amount sarcastically ('a handsome price!') to show Israel's contempt. Judas's betrayal for this sum fulfills prophetic typology.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the thirty shekels for a slave's life connect to Christ's betrayal price?
2. What does stoning an ox for killing even a servant teach about human life's value?

Interlinear Text

אִם	תַּדְרֹשׁ	שֶׁבֶת	וְאִם	וְבֶשֶׁת	וְרֹא	אִם	הַ	אִם	הַ	כָּבֵד
H518	a manservant	shall push	If the ox	H176	or a maid-servant	of silver				
H5650		H5055	H7794		H519					H3701
תְּשִׁבְתָּה	יְמִינְךָ	שְׁלֹשׁ	יָמִים	לְאַדְנָךְ	וְרֹא	וְבֶשֶׁת	כָּבֵד	וְרֹא	וְבֶשֶׁת	יְמִינְךָ
thirty	shekels	he shall give	unto their master	H113		If the ox	shall be stoned			H5619
H7970	H8255	H5414			H7794					

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:15 (Parallel theme): And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

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