

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 כֶּסֶף, 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	עַבְדִּי	יִגַּח	אִם	אֶמָּה	כֶּסֶּף
H518	a manservant H5650	shall push H5055	If the ox H7794	or a maidservant H519	of silver H3701
יִמְ	שְׁקָלִים	יִתֵּן	לְאֲדֹנָיו	יִהְיֶה	יִשְׁקָל:
thirty H7970	shekels H8255	he shall give H5414	unto their master H113	If the ox H7794	shall be stoned H5619

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.