

~BILLHOOK (28)

- This translates the **Hebrew** word *ma-`atsadh'*, which denotes a tool used for shaping wood, and even iron.
- For the customs of the peoples are just an exhalation, because it is a mere tree out of the forest that one has cut down, the work of the hands of the craftsman with the **billhook**. (**Jeremiah 10:3**)
- As for the carver of iron with the **billhook**, he has been busy at it with the coals, and with the hammers he proceeds to form it, and he keeps busy at it with his powerful arm. Also, he has become hungry, and so without power. He has not drunk water, so he gets tired. (**Isaiah 44:12**)
- The root from which this Hebrew term is considered to be drawn has been linked with words in related languages meaning **reap, cut off**. Consequently **Koehler and Baumgartner** define *ma-`atsadh'* as **billhook**. [**Lexicon in Veteris Testamenti Libros, Leiden, 1958, p. 550**]
- The modern **billhook** consists of a **handle and a blade with a hook-shaped point**. However, others understand *ma-`atsadh'* to designate a kind of **ax**, since this is its meaning in late **Hebrew**, and suggest that it may refer to an **adz**.