

~FARMING IMPLEMENTS (218)

- Although the Bible mentions various agricultural operations, the implements that were used to cultivate the land are not described in detail. However, the pictures of farm implements on Egyptian monuments as well as actual specimens found in Egypt and Palestine supplement the Bible record to some extent. Moreover, there is great similarity between the simple farming implements still used in parts of Egypt and Palestine.
- Forks used for winnowing.
- And the cattle and the full-grown asses cultivating the ground will eat fodder seasoned with sorrel, which was winnowed with the shovel and with the fork. ([Isaiah 30:24](#))
- And I shall winnow them with a fork in the gates of the land. I shall certainly bereave them of children. I will destroy my people, since they have not turned back from their own ways. ([Jeremiah 15:7](#))
- As in more recent times, were probably made of wood and had several curved prongs.
- The **harrow** is not referred to in the Bible, but the agricultural operation of harrowing is mentioned as being distinct from plowing.
- Will you bind a wild bull fast with its ropes in the furrow, or will it harrow low plains after you? ([Job 39:10](#))
- Is it all day long that the plowman plows in order to sow seed, that he loosens and harrows his ground? ([Isaiah 28:24](#))
- And Ephraim was a trained heifer loving to thresh, and I, for my part, passed over her good-looking neck. I make someone ride Ephraim. Judah plows. Jacob harrows for him. ([Hosea 10:11](#))
- Pulverizing and smoothing the soil constitute the chief function of the modern harrow, though it is also used for mulching, covering seed, and removing weeds. Anciently, perhaps a weighted-down board or a rough log was dragged over the plowed soil to break up the clods and level the ground.

- **Hoes** were employed for clearing land of weeds and probably also for breaking up clods of earth. Certain prophetic passages specifically mention the use of hoes in the vineyard.

- And now, please, may I make known to you men what I am doing to my vineyard. There will be a removing of its hedge, and it must be destined for burning down. There must be a breaking down of its stone wall, and it must be destined for a place of trampling. (**Isaiah 5:5**)

- And I shall set it as a thing destroyed. It will not be pruned, nor will it be hoed. And it must come up with the thornbush and weeds, and upon the clouds I shall lay a command to keep from precipitating any rain upon it. (**Isaiah 5:6**)

- And it must occur in that day that every place where there used to be a thousand vines, worth a thousand pieces of silver, will come to be, for the thornbushes and for the weeds it will come to be. (**Isaiah 7:23**)

- With arrows and the bow he will come there, because all the land will become mere thornbushes and weeds. (**Isaiah 7:24**)

- And all the mountains that used to be cleared of troublesome plants with a hoe, you will not come there for fear of thornbushes and weeds, and it will certainly become a place for letting bulls loose and a trampling ground of sheep. (**Isaiah 7:25**)

- **Mattocks** were probably used for grubbing and for loosening the soil. They were among the tools that the Israelites in Saul's day had to take to the Philistines to get sharpened.

- And all the Israelites would go down to the Philistines to get each one his plowshare or his mattock or his ax or his sickle sharpened. (**1 Samuel 13:20**)

- And the price for sharpening proved to be a pim for the plowshares and for the mattocks and for the three-toothed instruments and for the axes and for fixing fast the oxgoad. (**1 Samuel 13:21**)

- Bronze and iron mattocks, somewhat resembling the modern grub hoe, have been found.

- The simple wooden **plow** still used in some parts of the Bible lands has undergone little change over the centuries, as a comparison of representations of plows on ancient monuments and even clay tablets clearly shows.
- The plow was neither equipped with wheels nor designed to turn a furrow, it merely scratched the surface of the soil to a depth of about 8 or 10 centimeters (3 or 4 inches). Except for the metal plowshare, it was made of wood.
- And all the Israelites would go down to the Philistines to get each one his plowshare or his mattock or his ax or his sickle sharpened. (**1 Samuel 13:20**)
- Accordingly he went from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat while he was plowing with twelve spans before him, and he with the twelfth. So Elijah crossed over to him and threw his official garment upon him. (**1 Kings 19:19**)
- So he returned from following him and then took a span of the bulls and sacrificed them, and with the implements of the bulls he boiled their flesh and then gave it to the people, and they proceeded to eat. After that he rose up and went following Elijah and began to minister to him. (**1 Kings 19:21**)
- And he will certainly render judgment among the nations and set matters straight respecting many peoples. And they will have to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning shears. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither will they learn war anymore. (**Isaiah 2:4**)
- A stick, to which the plowshare was attached, constituted the larger part of the plow. The copper and bronze plowshares, actually plowpoints, that have been found in excavations in Israel are generally dented considerably from use.

See Also PLOWING

- **Pruning shears** are specifically mentioned in the Bible with reference to pruning the vine.
- For before the harvest, when the blossom comes to perfection and the bloom becomes a ripening grape, one must also cut off

the sprigs with pruning shears and must remove the tendrils, must lop them off. ([Isaiah 18:5](#))

- Since the Scriptures refer to converting spears into pruning shears and, by contrast, pruning shears into lances, this tool perhaps consisted of a sharp knifelike blade fastened to a handle and may have been similar to a sickle.
- And he will certainly render judgment among the nations and set matters straight respecting many peoples. And they will have to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning shears. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither will they learn war anymore. ([Isaiah 2:4](#))
- Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning shears into lances. As for the weak one, let him say; I am a powerful man. ([Joel 3:10](#))
- **Sickles** were used mainly for reaping standing grain, though the Bible also speaks of thrusting in the sickle to harvest the vine.
- Thrust in a sickle, for harvest has grown ripe. Come, descend, for the winepress has become full. The press vats actually overflow, for their badness has become abundant. ([Joel 3:13](#))
- And still another angel emerged from the altar and he had authority over the fire. And he called out with a loud voice to the one that had the sharp sickle, saying; Put your sharp sickle in and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, because its grapes have become ripe. ([Revelation 14:18](#))
- The sickles that have been found in Israel are slightly curved. Some specimens consist of notched flint chips that were pieced together and set with bitumen into a frame of either wood or bone. Iron sickle blades have also been found, and these were fastened to a handle by means of rivets, a tang, or a socket.
- The **threshing sledge** was designed to separate the kernels from the ears of grain. The implement used in ancient times likely resembled the two types still employed in some parts of the Bible lands today. One consists of wooden planks joined together and bent back at the front. Its underside is equipped with sharp stones or knives.
- But Ornan said to David; Take it as your own, and let my lord the

king do what is good in his own eyes. See, I do give the cattle for burnt offerings and the threshing sledge for the wood and the wheat as a grain offering. The whole I do give. (**1 Chronicles 21:23**)

- As pointed earthenware fragments are its underparts. It spreads out a threshing instrument upon the mire. (**Job 41:30**)
- Look! I have made you a threshing sledge, a new threshing instrument having double-edged teeth. You will tread down the mountains and crush them, and the hills you will make just like the chaff. (**Isaiah 41:15**)
- The driver stands on the sledge to weight it down. The other type has a seat for the driver and consists of a low-built, four-cornered wagon frame. Two or three parallel revolving rollers equipped with iron strips are fitted into this frame.
- For it is not with a threshing instrument that black cummin is given a treading, and upon cummin no wheel of a wagon is turned. For it is with a rod that black cummin is generally beaten out, and cummin with a staff. (**Isaiah 28:27**)
- Is breadstuff itself generally crushed? For never does one incessantly keep treading it out. And he must set the roller of his wagon in motion, and his own steeds, but he will not crush it. (**Isaiah 28:28**)
- **Winnowing shovels**, probably made of wood, were used for tossing threshed grain into the air so that the wind would blow the straw and chaff away.
- His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will completely clean up his threshing floor, and will gather his wheat into the storehouse, but the chaff he will burn up with fire that cannot be put out. (**Matthew 3:12**)