

Isaiah 1:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water:

Analysis

The metaphors of silver becoming dross and wine mixed with water depict moral and spiritual adulteration. Silver, representing value and purity, has become worthless slag; wine (symbolizing joy and covenant blessing) is diluted, losing potency. This illustrates how sin corrupts what God intended for good. The imagery anticipates Malachi 3:2-3's refining fire and the New Testament's call to purity (1 Peter 1:7). Reformed theology sees this as total depravity's corruption of God's good creation.

Historical Context

Metallurgical and viticultural imagery would resonate with Isaiah's agrarian audience. The mixed wine may reference merchants diluting product for profit, reflecting broader economic injustice.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What aspects of our lives have become 'dross'—externally religious but internally compromised?

- ## 2. How does God's refining process restore us to intended purity?

Interlinear Text

בְּמִים:	מָה וּלְ	סְבָא רַ	לְסִיגִּים	בְּנֵי הָ	כְּסָפֶר הַ
Thy silver	H1961	is become dross	thy wine	mixed	with water
H3701		H5509	H5435	H4107	H4325

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 4:18 (Parallel theme): Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers with shame do love, Give ye.

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