

# Jeremiah 6:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They are all grievous revolters, walking with slanders: they are brass and iron; they are all corrupters.

## Analysis

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The metallurgical metaphor continues: the people are 'all grievous revolters,' walking about as 'slanderers' (Hebrew 'rakil'—talebearers, gossips). The metals 'brass and iron' suggest inferior quality—not gold or silver. The phrase 'they are all corrupters' indicates comprehensive moral failure. This verse shows that examination reveals not pure metal but dross. The emphasis on slander connects speech patterns with spiritual condition—what comes from the mouth reveals the heart. Reformed theology emphasizes that total depravity affects every faculty, including speech, which James calls untamable apart from grace (James 3:8).

## Historical Context

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Jeremiah faced constant opposition including false accusations, plots against his life, and character assassination. The prevalence of slander reflected the moral corruption permeating Judean society.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does speech reveal spiritual condition?
2. What does the metallurgical metaphor teach about God's standards for His people?
3. Why is slander particularly pernicious in covenant communities?

## Interlinear Text

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כָּלִים	סְרִירִים	הַלְּכִים	בְּכָלְלֵי	נְחַשְּׁת
H3605	They are all grievous	revolters	walking	with slanders
	H5493	H5637	H1980	H7400
and iron	כָּלִים	מִשְׁחִיתִים	הַמְּפֻהָה	they are all corrupters
H1270	H3605	H7843	H1992	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 9:4** (Parallel theme): Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders.

**Jeremiah 5:23** (Parallel theme): But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone.

**Jeremiah 18:18** (Parallel theme): Then said they, Come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.