

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

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

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

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

כָּלֵם H3605	סָרֵי י H5493	סוֹרְרֵי ים H5637	הֹלְכֵי י H1980	בְּכָל יל H7400	נְחֹשֶׁת H5178
	They are all grievous	revolters	walking	with slanders	they are brass
וּבִרְזָל H1270	כָּלֵם H3605	מְשַׁחֲתֵי ים H7843	הַמָּה: H1992		
and iron		they are all corrupters			

Additional Cross-References

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.