

Proverbs 17:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.

Analysis

As refiners test metals, the LORD tests hearts. The fining pot and furnace purify by removing impurities through heat—similarly, God's trials expose and remove sin from believers. This refining process, though painful, is evidence of God's love and commitment to our sanctification (1 Peter 1:6-7).

Historical Context

Metallurgy was well-developed in ancient Near East. The refining process required skill to remove dross while preserving precious metal—a vivid picture of God's precise work in sanctification.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How have you experienced God's refining work through trials?

2. What 'dross' is God currently burning away in your character?

Interlinear Text

מִצֵּרִי	לִכְסֵף	וְכֹר	לְזָהָב	וּבִיחַ	לִבֹּת
The fining pot	is for silver	and the furnace	for gold	trieth	the hearts
H4715	H3701	H3564	H2091	H974	H3826
יְהוָה:					
but the LORD					
H3068					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 48:10 (Parallel theme): Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

Jeremiah 17:10 (References Lord): I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Psalms 26:2 (References Lord): Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

Proverbs 27:21 (Parallel theme): As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so is a man to his praise.

1 Chronicles 29:17 (Parallel theme): I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

1 Peter 1:7 (Parallel theme): That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Psalms 66:10 (Parallel theme): For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.

Revelation 2:23 (Parallel theme): And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Zechariah 13:9 (References Lord): And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

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