

## SIMILAR TO SILVER

**TEXT:** *Isaiah 1:22a: Thy silver is become dross,*

### INTRODUCTION

Isaiah had been called by God to speak important, but unpleasant words. Through him, the people learned of God's displeasure at their falling away from the way of righteousness. Isaiah spoke of their immorality, corruption, and the hardness of heart that was evidenced by their daily living.

### I. THE PAST — SILVER

In the days when they were valuable to themselves and to God, they were like pure silver, and of much worth. They were:

**God's priceless possessions**

**God centered**

**God guided**

**God protected**

In the past, they expressed a genuine desire to be God's people. They were purified from all their sins as silver is purged of all its dross and refined.

### II. THE PRESENT — DROSS



They now have religion, but not salvation. They have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof. They have religion full of rituals, but no joy, glory, or blessing. So Isaiah gives them this message from the Lord:

**Isaiah 1:13: Bring no more vain oblations: incense is an abomination unto Me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meetings.**

- A. When iniquity was present in their lives, their oblations and assemblies were in vain. God did not accept them.

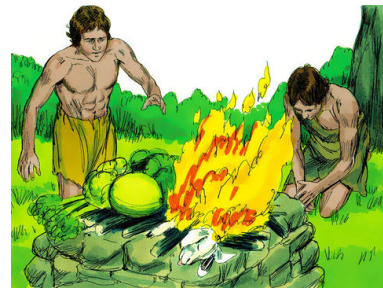
**ILLUSTRATION:**

The same thing happened with Cain — his ritualistic sacrifice was not accepted by God because his heart was not right.

**Genesis 4:6-7a:**

***6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou angry? and why is thy countenance fallen?***

***7a If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.***



God accepts Abel's sacrifice, but not Cain's.

- B. Isaiah listed many indications of their impure religion:

1. **(a) Ingratitude to God**  
**(b) Disobedience to His laws**  
**(c) Rebellion**  
**(d) Worldliness**  
**(e) Indifference to prayer, the Word of God, the Church, the Lost**

**Isaiah 1:2b: . . . I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me.**

2. **Oppression of their fellowmen.** He instructed them to 'relieve the oppressed'!

**Isaiah 1:17: Learn to do well; seek judgment, *relieve the oppressed*, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.**

### 3. Lack of compassion to the helpless and bereaved.

*Isaiah 1:17d: . . . plead for the widow.*

### 4. Corruption

*Isaiah 1:23: Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.*

The national leaders — their princes — would not work without prizes, gifts, pay, or praise.



### 5. Worship of false gods,

*Isaiah 1:29: For they shall be ashamed of the oaks which ye have desired, and ye shall be confounded for the gardens that ye have chosen.*

May I suggest that this verse applies to those who chose the lakes, the trees, and the gardens in place of God's designated places of worship. "I can worship God better out in the open!" So you have said just like they did back there. God is saying: O Yeah! Who do you think you are fooling? Here is what is going to happen. You are headed for trouble.

You are vulnerable when living a lukewarm, cold, and calloused life.

The enemy of your soul knows when you stay away from church and sleep in. He will have the Jehovah Witnesses push your doorbell to distribute literature that twists and distorts the Word of God. The Unity cult will bait you on TV with their printed material, as will the Seventh Day Adventists. You are vulnerable

when living a lukewarm, cold, and calloused life.

**NOTE:** Idolatrous worship was often conducted in groves of trees. This verse could also apply to false gods.

"High places" of sacrifice were permitted in the northern kingdom of Israel, and — at times — in the southern kingdom of Judah, even though the law forbade sacrificial worship elsewhere, save at the one

national sanctuary. Popular usage strove against the Law, and the nation got off into false cults. The Holy One of Israel was not first in their minds and hearts.

Hosea — speaking of the people's sins — included swearing, lying, killing, stealing, and adultery among the sins for which they would be destroyed

**Hosea 4:1-5:**

**1 Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.**

**2 By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.**

**3 Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.**

**4 Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people are as they that strive with the priest.**

**5 Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy thy mother.**

- 6. Through Ritual, Apostasy, Unbelief, and Immorality, the silver has become dross.**

### **III. THE FUTURE — THE REFINING**

- A. Both redemption and destruction

**ILLUSTRATION:**

To remove the dross from the silver is to cast out that which is worthless, and to preserve the precious metal.

- B. God's people could choose their position of refining process: they

could be saved as the silver, or be destroyed as the dross.

C. There will be a separation coming — now or at the Judgment.

1. There will be a separation of the transgressors from the converts — God giving up on those who defy His offer of salvation.
2. There is a separation from sin within our lives — God is now purging out all that is displeasing to Him.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Yield today to God's convicting Holy Spirit Who is turning on the heart to bring you to Himself. Jesus said:

***John 6:44: No man can come to Me, except the Father which had sent Me draw him.***

Then, let the refining process begin your life. In the words of the old hymn:

***“When thro’ fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply.  
The flames shall not hurt thee:  
I only design Thy dross to consume  
and thy gold to refine.”***

This is exactly what God is saying in the Bible.

***Isaiah 1:25: And I will turn My hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin.***

Only He can do this cleansing and purifying work in you and me, and truly make us fit for earth now, and Heaven hereafter.

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