

Isaiah 1:19-20, 24-28, 31 + 2:1,5

This haftarah goes with both the blessings and curses described in Leviticus 26.

Isaiah 1:19-20 - "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."

Rashi - "for the mouth of the Lord spoke": Where did He speak? (Lev. 26:25) "And I will bring upon you a sword."

Isaiah 1:22 - "Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water:"

dross = foreign matter, dregs, or mineral waste, in particular scum formed on the surface of molten metal.

- **Jeremiah 6:30** - "Reprobate silver shall men call them, because the LORD hath rejected them."

Israel's purity had become adulterated, the coinage of judgment and justice was debased, the wine of spiritual zeal was diluted. Jesus described this condition: "the salt that has lost its savor" - **Matthew 5:13**. - *Ellicott's Commentary*

Isaiah 1:24-25 - "Therefore saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies: And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:"

"turn my hand upon thee" - this chastisement is an act of grace and restoration.

- **Hebrews 12:7** - "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"

Targum: Dross = "ungodliness" or wickedness

"take away all thy tin" - The Targum also interprets this of iniquity, rendering it, "I will take away all thy sin"; but it is better to understand it of self-righteousness. It looks shiny and valuable, but it's not.

- **Psalms 119:118-119** - "You reject all who stray from Your statutes, for their deceitfulness is in vain. All the wicked on earth You discard like dross; therefore I love Your testimonies."

Isaiah 1:26-27 - "And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city. Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness."

This was all thought to take place in the times of Messiah.

- **Jeremiah 33:16** - "In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness (*Jehovah Tsidkenu*)."

converts = *shuwb* - lit. "those in her who turn" in repentance

Isaiah 1:31 - "And the strong shall be as tow (or a wick), and the maker of it as a spark, and they shall both burn together, and none shall quench them."

Rashi - "strength": with which they take from the poor by force and rob them and strengthen themselves with the money. That money will become as tow, which is shaken out of the flax, which is light and easily ignited. The one who amasses this power will become as a spark of fire, and they will burn, one with the other.

"the maker of it as a spark" - Better, "the work of their hands" will become as a spark; the sin itself becomes the instrument of destruction.

"none shall quench them" - Targum of Jonathan: And no one will pity them. "so the wicked shall be consumed, and their evil works, and there shall be no mercy upon them."

- **Matthew 25:41** - "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"

- **Revelation 20:10** - "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

Isaiah 2:1, 5 - "The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ... O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD."

Targum of Jonathan: And those of the house of Jacob will say, ["Come and let us go in the teaching of the Law of the Lord"].

Rashi - The nations will say this to them...

As the Targum and Rashi suggest, this an exhortation of the nations to the people of Israel, and are indeed the words of the converted Gentiles to the people of the Jews, being concerned for their conversion and spiritual welfare, as will appear in the latter day.

- **1 John 1:7** - "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."