



# HAFTORAH INSIGHTS

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## Finding the Silver Lining

PARSHAT KEDOSHIM - YEchezkel 22

בְּרֹאדָם הַיּוֹלֵי בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל (לסוג) [לסיג]  
כֶּלָם נְחֹשֶׁת וּבְדִיל וּבְרָזָל וְעוֹפְרַת בְּתוֹךְ כּוֹר סָגִים  
כְּסֵף הֵי

O mortal, the House of Israel has become dross to Me; they are all copper, tin, iron, and lead. But in a crucible, the dross shall turn into silver.

This week's haftorah is particularly harsh, so much so that there are those opinions who suggest reading alternative texts rather than this one. And in fact, due to the calendar and double parshiyot, this haftorah is rarely read. Is it possible that this nevuah is all bleak with no message of hope?

In the penultimate pasuk of the haftorah, we are presented with a powerful metaphor of transformation. The Jewish people are compared to base metals which are of little value and are often associated with impurity and imperfection. The people are describe as דֶּרֶס, *dross*, the scum formed on the surface of molten metal. Despite this depiction of unwanted materials, the pasuk

concludes on a hopeful note. It speaks of a crucible, a vessel used to melt metals at high temperatures. In this crucible, the dross - the impurities - will be separated from the precious metal, and the base metals will be transformed into silver.

This imagery conveys a profound message of redemption and renewal. It reminds us that even in our lowest moments, when we may feel impure and rejected, there exists the potential for transformation and elevation. Just as the dross can be refined into silver, so too can we undergo a process of growth. As we face challenges and struggles in our lives, we can take solace in the knowledge that these experiences do not mark the end of our story. Like the metals in the crucible, we have the capacity to be refined and purified through adversity. Every trial we endure has the potential to strengthen our connection to our faith.

During these extreme times of pain and suffering, Yechezkel gives us the strength to know that from the depths of hardship, we can emerge as something precious and beautiful. Just as the dross turns into silver, so too can we turn our trials into triumphs, our struggles into strengths, and our challenges into opportunities for spiritual growth and connection. ■

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