

PSALM 51

A Contrite Sinner's Prayer for Pardon.

For the choir director. A Psalm of David, when ⁺Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

- 1 ^aBE gracious to me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness;
According to the greatness of ^bThy compassion ^cblot out my transgressions.
- 2 ^aWash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And ^bcleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For ¹I ^aknow my transgressions,
And my sin is ever before me.
- 4 ^aAgainst Thee, Thee only, I have sinned,
And done what is ^bevil in Thy sight,
So that ^cThou ¹art justified ²when Thou dost speak,
And ³blameless when Thou dost judge.
- 5 Behold, I was ^abrought forth in iniquity,
And in sin my mother conceived me.
- 6 Behold, Thou dost desire ^atruth in the ¹innermost being,
And in the hidden part Thou wilt ^bmake me know wisdom.
- 7 ¹Purify me ^awith hyssop, and I shall be clean;
²Wash me, and I shall be ^bwhiter than snow.
- 8 ¹Make me to hear ^ajoy and gladness,
Let the ^bbones which Thou hast broken rejoice.
- 9 ^aHide Thy face from my sins,
And blot out all my iniquities.
- 10 ^aCreate ¹in me a ^bclean heart, O God,
And renew ²a ^csteadfast spirit within me.
- 11 ^aDo not cast me away from Thy presence,
And do not take Thy ^bHoly Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the ^ajoy of Thy salvation,
And sustain me with a ^bwilling spirit.
- 13 *Then* I will ^ateach transgressors Thy ways,
And sinners will ¹be ^bconverted to Thee.
- 14 Deliver me from ^abloodguiltiness, O God, Thou ^bGod of my salvation;
Then my ^ctongue will joyfully sing of Thy righteousness.
- 15 O Lord, ¹open my lips,
That my mouth may ^bdeclare Thy praise.
- 16 For Thou ^adost not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it;
Thou art not pleased with burnt offering.
- 17 The sacrifices of God are a ^abroken spirit;

A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

18 ^aBy Thy favor do good to Zion;

¹ ^bBuild the walls of Jerusalem.

19 Then Thou wilt delight in ¹ ^arighteous sacrifices,

In ^bburnt offering and whole burnt offering;

Then ²young bulls will be offered on Thine altar.

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⁺ 2 Sam. 12:1

^a Ps. 4:1; 109:26

^b Ps. 69:16; 106:45

^c Ps. 51:9; Is. 43:25; 44:22; Acts 3:19; Col. 2:14

^a Ps. 51:7; Is. 1:16; 4:4; Jer. 4:14; Acts 22:16; Rev. 1:5

^b Jer. 33:8; Ezek. 36:33; Heb. 9:14; 1 John 1:7, 9

¹ Or, *I myself know*

^a Is. 59:12

^a Gen. 20:6; 39:9; 2 Sam. 12:13; Ps. 41:4

^b Luke 15:21

^c Rom. 3:4

¹ Or, *mayest be in the right*

² Many mss. read *in Thy words*

³ Lit., *pure*

^a Job 14:4; 15:14; Ps. 58:3; Eph. 2:3

^a Job 38:36; Ps. 15:2

¹ Or, *inward parts*

^b Prov. 2:6; Eccl. 2:26; James 1:5

¹ Or, *Mayest Thou purify...that I may be clean*

^a Ex. 12:22; Lev. 14:4; Num. 19:18; Heb. 9:19

² Or, *Mayest Thou wash*

^b Is. 1:18

¹ Or, *Mayest Thou make*

^a Is. 35:10; Joel 1:16

^b Ps. 35:10

^a Jer. 16:17

^a Ezek. 18:31; Eph. 2:10

¹ Lit., *for*

^b Ps. 24:4; Matt. 5:8; Acts 15:9

² Or, *an upright*

^c Ps. 78:37

^a 2 Kin. 13:23; 24:20; Jer. 7:15

^b Is. 63:10, 11

^a Ps. 13:5

^b Ps. 110:3

^a Acts 9:21, 22

¹ Or, *turn back*

^b Ps. 22:27

^a 2 Sam. 12:9; Ps. 26:9

^b Ps. 25:5

^c Ps. 35:28; 71:15

¹ Or, *mayest Thou open*

^a Ex. 4:15

^b Ps. 9:14

^a 1 Sam. 15:22; Ps. 40:6

^a Ps. 34:18

^a Ps. 69:35; Is. 51:3

¹ Or, *Mayest Thou build*

^b Ps. 102:16; 147:2

¹ Or, *sacrifices of righteousness*

^a Ps. 4:5

^b Ps. 66:13, 15

² Lit., *they will offer young bulls*

ⁱ *The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.