

Psalm 51 Outline

- I. Title
 - A. To the director
 - B. A Song of David
 - C. When Nathan went in to him
 - D. Just as he went in to Bathsheba
- II. Opening Plea for forgiveness
 - A. Show me grace O God, according to Your covenant faithfulness/love a b
 - B. According to Your compassion, blot out the guilt of my transgression b' a'
 - C. Thoroughly wash me from my evil a b
 - D. And from my sin, cleanse me b' a'
- III. Confession
 - A. Confession
 - 1. Because my transgressions, I myself, I know¹ a b
 - 2. And my sin is before me continually a' b'
 - 3. Against You, You alone, I sinned a b
 - 4. And what is evil in Your eyes, I did c b'
 - B. Agreeing with God
 - 1. So that You are just in Your word a b
 - 2. You are pure in Your judgments a' b'
 - C. Confession
 - 1. Behold, in iniquity I was brought forth a b
 - 2. And in sin my mother conceived me a' b'
 - 3. Behold, truth/faithfulness You desire in the inner parts a b c
 - 4. And in the closed up part wisdom You teach me c' a' b'
- IV. Prayer for Cleansing
 - A. Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean a b c
 - B. Wash me and more than snow I will grow white a' d c'
 - C. Cause me to hear exultation and joy a b
 - D. They will rejoice the bones You crushed b' c
 - E. Hide Your face from my sins a b
 - F. And all of my evils wipe out b' a'
- V. Prayer for Restoration
 - A. A clean heart create in my O God a b c
 - B. A steadfast² spirit renew/repair in my inward part a' b' d
 - C. Do not send me away from You a b
 - D. And Your Holy Spirit do not take from me b' a'
 - E. Return to me the joy of Your salvation a b
 - F. And a willing spirit support/uphold b' a'

¹ This horrible English is meant to show the word order in Hebrew, as throughout.

² Established, firm, steadfast, directed aright, cf. Psa 119:5; 57:7.

VI. Testimony

A. Declaring the name

1. I will teach transgressors Your ways a b c
2. And sinners unto You will return b' c' a'
 Deliver me from bloodguilt
 O God, God of my salvation
3. My tongue will cry out aloud Your righteousness a b
4. My Lord, my lips will open c a'
5. And my mouth will declare Your praise a" b'

B. The right kind of sacrifice

1. For You do not delight in sacrifice a b
2. And when I give a whole burnt offering You will not be pleased b' a'
3. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit a b
4. A broken and crushed heart O God, You will not despise b' a

VII. Prayer for Zion

- A. Do good in Your grace³ to Zion a b c
- B. Build the walls of Jerusalem a' d c

VIII. Vow to praise

- A. Then You will take pleasure in righteous sacrifices a b
- B. And perfect whole burnt offerings b'
- C. Then they will go up on Your altar, young bulls c b"

³ Cf. Psa 5:13; 30:6,8; 89:18; 106:4; 69:14. etc.

Psalm 51

1 לַמְנַצֵּחַ מְזִמּוֹר לְדָוִד:
 Prop.N. msa PielPtcpmsa+ל
 to/of David melody, song to the director⁴

2 בָּבוֹא אֵלָיו נָתַן הַנְּבִיא כַּאֲשֶׁר-בָּא אֶל-בֵּת-שֶׁבַע:
 Prop.N. prep QP3ms rel.+כ msa+ה Prop.N. prep+3ms QInfabs⁵
 Bathsheba unto he entered just as the prophet Nathan unto him when he entered
 b' a' b a

3 חַנּוּנִי אֱלֹהִים כַּחֲסִדְךָ
 msc+2ms+כ mpa QI2ms+1cs
 according to Your cov't faithfulness God show me grace, favor
 b a

כָּרַב רַחֲמֶיךָ מַחֶה פְּשָׁעֵי:
 mpc+1cs QI2ms mpc+2ms adv+כ
 my transgression, guilt wipe out⁶ Your compassion according to the greatness of
 a' b'

4 (הַרְבֵּה) [הַרְבַּ] כְּבִסְנִי מֵעֲוֹנִי
 msc+1cs+מ Piell2ms+1cs HiphI2ms HiphInfabs
 from my evil wash me greatly increase
 b a

וּמַחֲטָאתִי טַהַרְנִי:
 Piell2ms+1cs msc+1cs+מ
 purify me and from my sin
 a' b'

5 כִּי-פְשָׁעֵי אֲנִי אָדַע וְחַטָּאתִי נִגְדִי תָמִיד:
 adv prep+1cs msc+1cs+ו QIp1cs 1cs mpc+1cs conj
 continually before me (is) and my sin I know I my transgressions because
 b' a' b a

⁴ Poss. taken from a 'director's collection' cf. לְדָוִד.

⁵ Temporal.

⁶ Cf. Psa 9:6; 51:11.

6 לְךָ לְבַדְּךָ חָטָאתִי וְהָרַע בְּעֵינֶיךָ עָשִׂיתִי
 QP1cs mpc+2ms+ב msc+ה+ו QP1cs msc+2ms+ל prep+2ms⁷
 I did in Your eyes and the evil I sinned You alone against You
 b' c b a

לְמַעַן תִּצְדַּק בְּדַבְרֶיךָ תִּזְכֶּה בְּשִׁפְטֶיךָ
 mpc+2ms+ב QIpf2ms mpc+2ms+ב QIpf2ms conj.
 in Your judgments You will be pure in Your words You will be just in order that, because⁸
 b' a' b a

7 הֵן-בְּעוֹן חוֹלַלְתִּי וּבַחֲטָא יַחֲמַתְנִי אִמִּי
 fsa+1cs PielPf3fs+1cs msa+ב+ו PolalPf1cs msa+ב interj.
 my mother she conceived me and in sin I was brought forth in iniquity Behold
 b' a' b a

8 הֵן-אֱמֶת חַפְצָת בַּשְּׁחוֹת
 fpa+ב+ה QP2ms fsa interj.
 in the inner parts You desire truth/faithfulness Behold
 c b a

וּבְסִתְּמָם תּוֹדִיעֵנִי חֲכָמָה
 HiphIpf2ms+1cs fsa QPassPtcpmsa+ב+ו
 You teach me wisdom and in closed up part
 b' a' c'

9 תְּחַטְּאֵנִי בְּאִזּוֹב וְאֶטְהַר
 QIpf1cs+ו msa+ב PielIpf2ms+1cs
 and I will be clean with hyssop purify me
 c b a

תְּכַבְּסֵנִי וּמִשְׁלֵג אֶלְבִּין
 HiphIpf1cs msa+ב+ו PielIpf2ms+1cs
 I will grow/show white and than snow wash me
 c' d a'

⁷ ל of disadvantage Williams §271.

⁸ Either causal (so Williams §366) 'I did evil in Your eyes because Your words are just...' or result expressed ironically as intended purpose (so BDB) 'I did evil in order that/with the result that You are just in your words'.

10 תְּשַׁמְעֵנִי וְשִׂמְחָה שְׂשׂוֹן
 HiphIpf2ms+1cs msa fsa+1
 You will cause me to/let me hear and joy
 a b

תִּגְלֹנָה עֲצָמוֹת דְּכִיתָ:
 QIpf3fp fpc PielPf2ms
 they will rejoice bones of You crushed
 b' c

11 הַסֵּתֶר פְּנִיךָ מִחַטָּאֵי וְכֹל- עֲוֹנֹתַי מִחָה:
 HiphIpf2ms mpc+2ms mpc+1cs+2 adj+1 mpc+1cs
 Your face hide from my sins and all of my evils wipe out
 a b c

12 לֵב טָהוֹר בְּרָא- לִי אֱלֹהִים
 msa adj QIpf2ms 1cs+ל⁹ mpa
 heart clean/pure create God (for) me

וְרוּחַ נְכוֹן חֲדָשׁ בְּקִרְבִּי:
 fsa+1 NiphPtcpmsa PielIpf2ms msa+1cs+2
 and spirit steadfast¹⁰ renew, repair In my inward part

13 אַל- תִּשְׁלִיכֵנִי מִלְּפָנֶיךָ
 neg HiphIpf(juss)2ms+1cs prep+2ms+2
 not You will send me from before You

וְרוּחַ קִדְשְׁךָ אַל- תִּקַּח מִמֶּנִּי:
 fsa+1 neg adjmsc+2ms QIpf(juss)2ms prep+1cs
 and Spirit Your Holy not You will take from me

14 הַשִּׁיבָה לִי שְׂשׂוֹן יְשַׁעְךָ וְרוּחַ נְדִיבָה תִּסְמְכֵנִי:
 HiphIpf2ms prep+1cs msc msc msc+2ms fsa+1 adjfsa QIpf2ms+1cs
 to me cause to return joy of Your salvation and spirit willing uphold, support me

⁹ ל marks indirect object, Williams §269.

¹⁰ Established, firm, steadfast, directed aright, cf. Psa 119:5, 57:8.

15 אֶלְמִדָּה פִּשְׁעִים דְּרִכּוֹךְ וַחַטָּאִים אֵלֶיךָ יָשׁוּבוּ׃
 PiellPf1cs mpa mpc+2ms mpa+1 prep+2ms QIpf3mp
 I will teach transgressors Your ways and sinners unto You they will return

16 הַצִּילֵנִי מִדַּמִּים אֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהֵי תְּשׁוּעָתִי
 HiphIpv2ms+1cs mpa+2 mpa mpc fsc+1cs
 deliver me from guilt of bloodshed O God God of my salvation, deliverance

תִּכְנֶן צְדָקָתְךָ׃ לְשׁוֹנֵי
 PiellPf3fs msc+1cs fsc+2ms
 she will give a ringing cry of joy, declare aloud my tongue Your righteousness

17 אֲדַנִּי שִׁפְתַי תִּפְתַּח וּפִי יִגִּיד תְּהַלְתֵּךְ׃
 msa fdc+1cs QIpf3fs msc+1cs+1 HiphIpf3ms fsc+2ms
 Lord my lips she will open and my mouth will declare Your praise

18 כִּי לֹא-תִחַפֵּן זֶבַח
 neg conj. msa Qipf2ms
 not for You delight sacrifice

וְאֶתְנֶה עֹלָה לֹא תִרְצֶה׃
 QIpf1cs+1 fsa neg Qipf2ms
 and that I may give¹¹ whole burnt offering not You will be pleased

19 זִבְחֵי אֱלֹהִים רוּחַ נִשְׁבְּרָה
 mpc mpa fsa NiphPtcpfsa
 sacrifices of God spirit Being broken

לֵב- נִשְׁבֵּר וְנִדְרָה לֹא אֱלֹהִים תִּבְזֶה׃
 msa NiphPtcpmsa+1 mpa neg QIpf2ms
 heart being broken and being crushed¹³ not O God You will despise, regard with contempt¹²

¹¹ Cf. Williams §185, 187.

¹² Cf. Psa 73:20

¹³ Cf. v. 10

20 הַיְשִׁיבָהּ בְּרִצּוֹנֶךָ אֶת־צִיּוֹן
 HiphIpv2ms msc+2ms+בּ Prop. N. DDO
 do good, deal well with in Your goodwill, favor¹⁴ Zion

תִּבְנֶה חֻמוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם׃
 QIpf2ms fpc Prop.N.
 You will build walls of Jerusalem

21 אַז תִּחַפֵּץ זְבַחֵי־צְדָק עוֹלָה וְכִלְיִל
 conj. QIpf2ms mpc msa fsa msa+וּ
 then¹⁵ You will take pleasure sacrifices of righteousness whole burnt offering and perfect

אַז יַעֲלוּ עַל־מִזְבֵּחַךְ פָּרִים׃
 conj. QIpf3mp prep msc+2ms mpa
 then¹⁵ they will go up upon Your altar young bulls

¹⁴ Cf. Psa 5:13; 30:6,8; 89:18; 106:4; 69:14, etc.

¹⁵ Logical sequence, not temporal.