

# 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 know<sup>1</sup> 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 steadfast<sup>2</sup> 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'

---

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 grace<sup>3</sup> 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"

---

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

# Psalm 51

1 לְמַנְצִיחַ מְזִמּוֹר לְדָוִד:  
 Prop.N. msa PielPtcpmsa+ל  
 to/of David melody, song to the director<sup>4</sup>

2 בָּבוֹא אֵלָיו נָתַן הַנְּבִיא כַּאֲשֶׁר-בָּא אֶל-בֵּת-שֶׁבַע:  
 Prop.N. prep QP3ms rel.+כ msa+ה Prop.N. prep+3ms QInfabs<sup>5</sup>  
 Bathsheba unto he entered just as the prophet Nathan unto him when he entered  
 b' a' a'

3 חַנּוּנִי אֱלֹהִים כַּחֲסִדְךָ  
 msc+2ms+כ mpa QIpv2ms+1cs  
 according to Your cov't faithfulness God show me grace, favor  
 b a

כָּרַב רַחֲמֶיךָ מַחֶה פְּשָׁעֵי:  
 mpc+1cs QIpv2ms mpc+2ms adv+כ  
 my transgression, guilt wipe out<sup>6</sup> Your compassion according to the greatness of  
 a' b'

4 (הַרְבֵּה) [הַרְבַּ] כְּבִסְנִי מֵעֹוֹנִי  
 msc+1cs+מ Piellpv2ms+1cs HiphIpv2ms HiphInfabs  
 from my evil wash me greatly increase  
 b a

וּמַחֲטָאתִי טַהַרְנִי:  
 Piellpv2ms+1cs msc+1cs+מ+ו  
 purify me and from my sin  
 a' b'

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

<sup>4</sup> Poss. taken from a 'director's collection' cf. לְדָוִד.

<sup>5</sup> Temporal.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. Psa 9:6; 51:11.

6 לְךָ לְבַדְּךָ חָטֵאתִי וְהָרַע בְּעֵינֶיךָ עָשִׂיתִי  
 QPfl cs mpc+2ms+ב msc+ה+ו QPfl cs msc+2ms+ל prep+2ms<sup>7</sup>  
 I did in Your eyes and the evil I sinned You alone against You  
 b' c b a

לְמַעַן תִּצְדַּק בְּדִבְרֶיךָ 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, because<sup>8</sup>  
 b' a' b a

7 הֵן-בְּעוֹן חוֹלַלְתִּי וּבַחֲטָא יַחֲמַתְנִי אִמִּי  
 fsa+1 cs PielPf3fs+1 cs msa+ב+ו PolalPf1 cs msa+ב interj.  
 my mother she conceived me and in sin I was brought forth in iniquity Behold  
 b' a' b a

8 הֵן-אֵמֶת חַפְצָת בַּשְּׁחוֹת  
 fsa QPf2ms fsa interj.  
 in the inner parts You desire truth/faithfulness Behold  
 c b a

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

9 תַּחַטְּאֵנִי בְּאִזּוֹב וְאֶטְהַר  
 QIpf1 cs+ו msa+ב PielIpf2ms+1 cs  
 and I will be clean with hyssop purify me  
 c b a

תְּכַבְּסֵנִי וּמִשְׁלֵג אֶלְבִּין  
 HiphIpf1 cs msa+מ+ו PielIpf2ms+1 cs  
 I will grow/show white and than snow wash me  
 c' d a'

<sup>7</sup> ל of disadvantage Williams §271.

<sup>8</sup> 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 תִּשְׁמִיעַנִי וְשִׂמְחָה שְׂשׂוֹן  
 HiphIpf2ms+1cs msa fsa+1  
 You will cause me to/let me hear and joy  
 a b

תִּגְלֶנָּה 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 בָּרָא- לִי אֱלֹהִים  
 msa adj QIpf2ms 1cs+1<sup>9</sup> mpa  
 heart clean/pure create (for) me God

וְרוּחַ נְכוֹן חֲדָשׁ בְּקִרְבִּי:  
 fsa+1 NiphPtcpmsa PielIpf2ms msa+1cs+2  
 and spirit steadfast<sup>10</sup> 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

<sup>9</sup> ל marks indirect object, Williams §269.

<sup>10</sup> Established, firm, steadfast, directed aright, cf. Psa 119:5, 57:8.

15 אֶלְמִדָּה פִּשְׁעִים דְּרַכֵּיךָ וְחַטָּאִים אֵלֶיךָ יָשׁוּבוּ׃  
 Piellpf1cs mpa mpc+2ms mpa+1 Qlpf3mp prep+2ms  
 I will teach transgressors Your ways and sinners they will return unto You

16 הַצִּילֵנִי מִדַּמַּיִם אֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהֵי תְּשׁוּעָתִי  
 HiphIpy2ms+1cs mpa+2 mpa mpc fsc+1cs  
 deliver me from guilt of bloodshed O God God of my salvation, deliverance

תִּרְנֶנָּה לְשׁוֹנֵי צְדָקָתְךָ׃  
 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 Qlpf3fs msc+1cs+1 HiphIpf3ms fsc+2ms  
 Lord my lips she will open and my mouth will declare Your praise

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

וְאֶתְנָה עֹלָה לֹא תִרְצֶה׃  
 Qipf1cs+1 fsa neg Qipf2ms  
 and that I may give<sup>11</sup> whole burnt offering not You will be pleased

19 זְבָחֵי 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 crushed<sup>13</sup> not O God You will despise, regard with contempt<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Cf. Williams §185, 187.

<sup>12</sup> Cf. Psa 73:20

<sup>13</sup> Cf. v. 10

20 הַיְשִׁיבָהּ בְּרִצּוֹנֶךָ אֶת־צִיּוֹן  
 HiphIpv2ms msc+2ms+בּ Prop. N. DDO  
 do good, deal well with in Your goodwill, favor<sup>14</sup> Zion  
 תִּבְנֶה חֻמוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם׃  
 QIpf2ms fpc Prop.N. Jerusalem  
 You will build walls of Jerusalem

21 אַז תִּחַפֵּץ זְבַחֵי־צֶדֶק עוֹלָה וְכִלְיִל  
 conj. QIpf2ms mpc msa fsa msa+וּ  
 then<sup>15</sup> You will take pleasure sacrifices of righteous whole burnt offering and perfect

אַז יַעֲלוּ עַל־מִזְבֵּחַךְ פָּרִים׃  
 conj. QIpf3mp prep msc+2ms mpa  
 then<sup>15</sup> they will go up upon Your altar young bulls

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

<sup>15</sup> Logical sequence, not temporal.