

PSALM 51 vs 1

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To the Chief musician; a Psalm of David; when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had an affair with Bathsheba. David wrote this song, sung in the congregation... when David took another man's wife; and then devised a series of plans to cover his secret philandering that resulted in the murder of Uriah the Hittite, an exemplary soldier, and the death of a 7-day-old baby. Imagine for 3000 years the world singing about what you have done!



¹ **Have mercy upon me O God according to your great kindness /** mercy indicates David's profession of guilt, not hiding or excusing his failure; and appealing to receive what he did not deserve; so David still knew there was a God in heaven; in English a word that implies: relationship; kinfolk, the king kept the kin together: **Mercy = something we do not deserve.**

blot out my transgressions / pesa; my rebellions; **my stepping over the line;** going beyond what is right and proper; guilty David appeals to God to fully wipe out, take whatever solvent it takes.

² **Wash me thoroughly from my crime, and cleanse me from my sin /** launder my evil self; wash me of my evildoing; David says to God, I see the stain, I see the mess I made; take me to the cleaners.

³ **For I acknowledge my stepping over the line, and my sin is always before me /** my rebellious stepping over the line; always pushing the goal post further away, I see it play over and over in my mind:

⁴ **Against YOU, You only, I sin /** David affirms God is merciful, and compassionate... he knows our Father in heaven busies Himself securing the best for His creation; the rain falling on the just and the unjust alike; David says his rebellions show he is a sinner; not only who missed the target; but he did not show love for God who gave him life; or for those God created and allowed to intersect with David's life,

and do evil in Your sight: that You are justified when You speak, and are clear when You judge / what David knew, is what Martin Luther wrote: I cannot boast before You of merit or rightness; but of my evil in Your sight, this is my character -- I do evil. I do sin; and need the Savior. The righteous Judge of mankind, whatever his verdict, whatever his sentence... God is blameless; His decision will be right.

⁵ **Behold, I was born in crime; and in sin did my mother conceive me /** David did not claim his sin was an awkward indiscretion - though some speculate David's birth and who his mother was; David recognized what Paul admitted, David knew he was chief of sinners; though I could argue with both.

⁶ **Behold, You desire truth in the inner parts and in the hidden part You make me to know wisdom /** someday we will awaken in His likeness; Moses prayed, [Teach me O Lord to number my days](#), that I present to thee a heart full of wisdom; Paul declared to the church: Jesus Christ the Wisdom of God.

⁷ **Purge me with hyssop, and I will be clean: wash me, and I will be whiter than snow /** again David says to the Lord; the God of all truth: take me to the cleaners until what is filthy in me is gone.

⁸ **Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which You crush rejoice.**

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⁹Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my crimes / You are holy; do not look on my unholy offenses; John Wycliffe, spelled this word out... fully wipe out all my hideous guilt.

In some Lutheran church liturgy, these next 3 verses are often sung after the teaching of the word...

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me / something only God can do: create a blameless heart; a steadfast spirit.

¹¹Cast me not away from Your presence; and take not Your Holy Spirit from me / we can grieve the Holy Spirit; something we do often, and lose His holy help; making us worthy of the trash heap.

¹²Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation / Your Yeshua, Your Jesus;

and uphold me with a noble spirit/ samak, as a Father holds upright his toddler just learning how to walk, helping the little one to stand; but we're not babies; and children can be very wise.

¹³Then I will teach transgressors Your ways and sinners will return to You / the ways of the Lord are always right and just: don't step over the line; the ways in His kingdom is with joy and peace;

¹⁴Deliver me from blood-guiltiness O God, God my helper / rescue me from my rightful sentence of death for the one doing right I murdered: **and my tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips; and my mouth will show forth Your praise / in his own strength... David had no reason to say anything; but solely to wait on the Lord.

¹⁶For You do not desire sacrifice; or I would give it: You do not delight in burnt offering / David knew 3,000 years ago, the Lord was not interested in bloody sacrifices, only His Son could do that .

¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, You do not despise / David knew, he had to radically change his thinking; his unruly feelings... his disastrous feelings, his strong desires had deadly results; David had to get himself out of the way, and the Lord God back in view. The prophet wrote: For thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place; and with him also who is crushed and broken in pieces; to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the brokenhearted -- **Isaiah 57.**

¹⁸By Your good pleasure to Zion, build up the walls of Jerusalem / where the flock gathers; the City of David; these last verses are awkward, perhaps David said: LORD, by Your grace continue Your work; build up what is vulnerable to Your City; in other words: do what king David should have been doing.

¹⁹Then You will be pleased in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings: then young bulls will be offered on Your altar / then we will offer what is right and pleasing to You.