

## Palm 51



For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

- 1** Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.
- 2** Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3** For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.
- 4** Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are right in your verdict  
and justified when you judge.
- 5** Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- 6** Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;  
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.
- 7** Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- 8** Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
- 9** Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.
- 10** Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- 11** Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12** Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

**13** Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will turn back to you.

**14** Deliver me from bloodguilt, O God,  
you who are God my Savior,  
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

**15** Open my lips, Lord,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.

**16** You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

**17** My sacrifice, O God, is <sup>[b]</sup> a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart  
you, God, will not despise.

**18** May it please you to prosper Zion,  
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.

**19** Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,  
in burnt offerings offered whole;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

**Footnotes:**

- a. [Psalm 51:1](#) 51:1-19 is numbered 51:3-21 in Hebrew texts.
- b. [Psalm 51:17](#) Or *The sacrifices of God are*

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