

Psalm 51

1 לְמַנְצִיחַ מְזִמּוֹר לְדָוִד:
to/of David melody, song to the director¹

2 בָּבוֹא־ אֵלָיו נָתַן הַנְּבִיא כַּאֲשֶׁר-בָּא אֶל-בֵּת-שֶׁבַע:
Bathsheba unto he entered just as the prophet Nathan unto him when he entered
b' a' b a

3 חַנּוּנִי אֱלֹהִים כְּחַסְדְּךָ
according to Your cov't faithfulness God show me grace, favor
b a

כְּרֹב רַחֲמֶיךָ מַחֶה פְּשָׁעַי
my transgression, guilt wipe out² Your compassion according to the greatness of
a' b'

4 (הַרְבֵּה) [הָרַב] כְּבַסְנִי מֵעֲוֹנִי
from my evil wash me greatly increase
b a

וּמַחֲטָאתִי טַהַרְנִי:
purify me and from my sin
a' b'

5 כִּי- פְּשָׁעַי אֲנִי אָדַע וַחֲטָאתִי נִגְדִי תָמִיד:
continually before me (is) and my sin I know I my transgressions because
b' a' b a

¹ Poss. taken from a 'director's collection' cf. לְדָוִד.

² Cf. Psa 9:6; 51:11.

6 לְךָ לְבַדְּךָ חָטָאתִי וְהָרַע בְּעֵינֶיךָ עָשִׂיתִי
 I did in Your eyes and the evil I sinned You alone against You
 b' c b a

לְמַעַן תִּצְדַּק בְּדַבְרֶךָ תִּזְכֶּה בְּשִׁפְטֶיךָ:
 in Your judgments You will be pure in Your words You will be just in order that, because³
 b' a' b a

7 הֵן-בְּעוֹן חוֹלַלְתִּי וּבַחַטָּא יַחֲמַתְנִי אִמִּי:
 my mother she conceived me and in sin I was brought forth in iniquity Behold
 b' a' b a

8 הֵן-אֱמֶת חַפְצָת בִּשְׁחוֹת
 in the inner parts You desire truth/faithfulness Behold
 c b a

וּבִסְתָם תּוֹדִיעֵנִי חֲכָמָה
 You teach me wisdom and in closed up part
 b' a' c'

9 תְּחַטְּאֵנִי בְּאִזּוֹב וְאֶטְהַר
 and I will be clean with hyssop purify me
 c b a

תְּכַבֵּסֵנִי וּמִשְׁלֵג אֶלְבִּין:
 I will grow/show white and than snow wash me
 c' d a'

³ 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 תִּשְׁמַעַנִי תִשְׁמַעַנִי
and joy and joy You will cause me to/let me hear
rejoicing, exultation
b a

תִּגְלֶנָּה תִּגְלֶנָּה
You crushed bones of they will rejoice
c b'

11 הַסֵּתֶר פְּנִיךָ מִחַטָּאֵי וְכֹל-
wipe out my evils and all of from my sins Your face hide
עֲוֹנֹתַי מִחָה:

12 לֵב טָהוֹר בְּרָא-
God (for) me create clean/pure heart
לִי אֱלֹהִים

וְרוּחַ נֹכַח חֲדָשׁ
In my inward part renew, repair steadfast⁴ and spirit
בְּקִרְבִּי:

13 אַל- תִּשְׁלִיכֵנִי מִלְּפָנֶיךָ
from before You You will send me not

וְרוּחַ קִדְשְׁךָ אַל- תִּקַּח מִמֶּנִּי:
from me You will take not Your Holy and Spirit

14 הַשִּׁיבָה לִּי שְׂשׂוֹן יִשְׁעֶךָ וְרוּחַ נְדִיבָה תִּסְמְכֵנִי:
uphold, support me willing and spirit Your salvation joy of to me cause to return

15 אֶלְמֶדָה פִּשְׁעִים דְּרַכֶּיךָ וְחַטָּאִים אֵלֶיךָ יָשׁוּבוּ:
they will return unto You and sinners Your ways transgressors I will teach

⁴ Established, firm, steadfast, directed aright, cf. Psa 119:5, 57:8.

16 הַצִּילֵנִי מִדַּמִּים אֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהֵי תְּשׁוּעָתִי
my salvation, deliverance God of O God from guilt of bloodshed deliver me

תִּרְנֶנָּה לְשׁוֹנֵי צְדָקָתְךָ:
Your righteousness my tongue she will give a ringing cry of joy, declare aloud

17 אֲדַנִּי שְׂפִתַי תִּפְתַּח וּפִי יְגִיד תְּהַלְתֶּךָ:
Your praise will declare and my mouth she will open my lips Lord

18 כִּי לֹא-תִחַפֵּץ זֶבַח
sacrifice You delight not for

וְאַתָּנָה עֹלָה לֹא תִרְצֶה:
You will be pleased not whole burnt offering and that I may give⁵

19 זִבְחֵי אֱלֹהִים רוּחַ נִשְׁבְּרָה
Being broken spirit God sacrifices of

לִב־נִשְׁבֵּר וְנִדְכָּה אֱלֹהִים לֹא תִבְזֶה:
You will despise, regard with contempt⁶ not O God and being crushed⁷ being broken heart

20 הִיטִיבָה בְּרַצוֹנְךָ אֶת-צִיּוֹן
Zion in Your goodwill, favor⁸ do good, deal well with

תִּבְנֶה חוֹמוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם:
Jerusalem walls of You will build

⁵ Cf. Williams §185, 187.

⁶ Cf. Psa 73:20

⁷ Cf. v. 10

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

21 אַז תַּחֲפִיץ זְבַחֵי־צֶדֶק עֹלָה וְכִלִּיל
and perfect whole burnt offering righteousness sacrifices of You will take pleasure then⁹

אַז יַעֲלוּ יְעָלְךָ מִזְבֵּחֶךָ פְּרִים:
young bulls Your altar upon they will go up then¹⁵

⁹ Logical sequence, not temporal.