

White as Snow
Psalm 51

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

**1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.**

**2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!**

**3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**

**4 Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.**

**5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

**6 Behold, you delight in truth
in the inward being, and you teach me
wisdom in the secret heart.**

**7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

**8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**

**9 Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**

- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- 11 Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

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

**14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of
your righteousness.**

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

**16 For you will not delight in sacrifice,
or I would give it; you will not be pleased
with a burnt offering.**

**17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you
will not despise.**

**18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem;
19 then will you delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings
and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.**

Psalm 51

The Story Behind Psalm 51

2 Samuel 11-12

1 Have **mercy** on me, O God,
according to your **steadfast love**;
according to your **abundant mercy**
(**great compassion**)

blot out my **transgressions**.
2 **Wash** me thoroughly from my **iniquity**,
and **cleanse** me from my **sin**!

3 For I know my **transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**

4 Against you, you only, have I **sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.**

5 Behold, I was brought forth in **iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

**6 Behold, you delight in truth
in the inward being, and you teach me
wisdom in the secret heart.**

7 Purge (cleanse) me with hyssop,

and I shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness;

let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins,

and blot out all my iniquities.

Chiastic Structure of Psalm 51:1-9

A – Blot out my transgressions (1)

B – Wash me (2a)

C – Cleanse me (2b)

D – I know my transgressions (3)

E – I have sinned (4)

F – God is right to judge (4b)

E' – I am a sinner by nature (5)

D' – Teach me wisdom (6)

C' – Purge (cleanse) me (7a)

B' – Wash me (7b)

A' – Blot out my iniquities (9)

- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- 11 Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

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

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NEXT STEPS