

Penitential Lament Turning

51
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Psalms of David · Book II · The Seven Penitential Psalms

“For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.”

PICTURE WORD

Hyssop

IN ONE SENTENCE



After his great sin, David begs God for mercy, asking to be washed, given a clean heart, and restored to joy.

Remember it: Fifty-one: hyssop and snow, God scrubs a stained heart clean.

MEMORY VERSE

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10 · World English Bible

HEBREW WORD

טָהוֹר

“clean, pure” · verse 10

In the Psalms: three times, in 3 psalms

טָהוֹר means “clean” or “pure,” the word used for clean animals, pure gold, and worshipers fit to stand before God. David does not ask God to touch up an old heart. He asks God to create a clean one, using a verb the Old Testament reserves for God's own work.

HOW THE PSALM MOVES

1–6 David confesses his sin and appeals to God's mercy.

7–12 He begs to be washed, given a clean heart, restored.

13–17 He vows to teach sinners and offers a broken spirit.

18–19 He prays for Zion and its rebuilt walls.

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

v. 4 → Romans 3:4 God is proved right when He speaks.

MY NOTES



Listen. Hear Psalm 51 sung in the **Psalm Song** app, or free at ispress.de/psalms/51.

Cantillated. Sung: chanted back and forth between a leader and the people.

Forgiveness & Repentance

FILL IN THE BLANKS

After his great sin, David begs God for _____, asking to be _____, given a _____ heart, and restored to joy.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. With what does David ask to be purified?

☐ (A) Olive oil

☐ (C) River water

☐ (B) Hyssop

☐ (D) Fire

2. What sacrifice will God not despise?

☐ (A) A spotless lamb

☐ (C) A broken and contrite heart

☐ (B) A thousand rams

☐ (D) A tenth of the harvest

3. What does David promise to do once he is restored?

☐ (A) Teach transgressors God's ways

☐ (C) Leave Jerusalem

☐ (B) Build a new temple

☐ (D) Fast for forty days

TALK IT OVER

1. David says "against you, and you only, I have sinned." Why does he treat sin first as a matter between himself and God?

2. What does this psalm show about God's willingness to forgive the worst sins?

3. What would it look like this week to ask God for a clean heart instead of just better behavior?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES PSALM 51 TEACH?

☐ I listened to the song

☐ I can say verse 10 by heart

☐ I can say what it teaches

☐ I know the picture word

Answers: Blanks: mercy · washed · clean · Check yourself: 1. B (v. 7) · 2. C (v. 17) · 3. A (v. 13)