



CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

Psalm 51

March 19, 2023
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This psalm is part of Book 2 that celebrates Israel's golden age during the time of the united monarchy of David's Kingship. After a long series of Korah psalms of chapters 42-49, the title of the psalm identifies the prophet Nathan's rebuke of David after his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba as the event. 2 Samuel 11, speaks of David hanging out in Jerusalem "in the time when kings make war". This leads to David getting tangled up with Bathsheba, committing adultery, then lying, then murder. When Nathan announces judgment & that David's son will die, it is because of all of this sin. Psalm 51 insists that God has no pleasure in sacrifices, but he has great regard for a "broken and contrite heart".

Psalm 51:1-19

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

"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."

1. We PRAY for Personal CLEANSING and FORGIVENESS. (v 1-9)

- SIN is fulfilling a God-GIVEN desire in a God-FORBIDDEN way.
- Choosing to LIVE according to a God-given desire is PURE and HOLY.
- GOD'S Faithfulness is NOT Contingent on HUMAN Faithfulness.

2. We PRAY for Personal RENEWAL and RIGHT Sacrifice. (v 10-17)

- The ultimate NEED is a spiritual RESTORATION.
- We pray for JOY as we TURN BACK to God.
- SALVATION from sin demands a SACRIFICE.

This restoration of the king leads to blessing for the people and the good welfare of their beloved city of Zion. Pray for the cleansing of your sin and God's forgiveness of your sin. Pray for a renewed heart & spirit by trusting in Jesus Christ, who is the sacrifice and Savior for our sins.

Salvation through Jesus Christ

*The single most important decision a person could ever make in their lifetime is to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. The Bible says, "all have sinned and fall short of God's glory" and we don't deserve eternal life because the wages of sin is death". Yet through God's love, only "Christ gives us eternal life by grace through faith"... it is a gift of God. God's word says, That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead YOU WILL BE SAVED. **The Bible says to REPENT of your sins. BELIEVE in Jesus receiving His forgiveness.** Then, identify with Christ and start living a new life in obedience to God by being BAPTIZED.*