

Psalm 51

Introduction – the story (2 Sam. 11-12).

- A. The sin.
- B. The judgment (cf. 1 Ki. 15:5).
- C. Names for God.
 - 1. Elohim.
 - 2. Adonai.
- D. Parallelism.

I. Prayer for forgiveness (1-9).

- A. Word studies (1-2).
 - 1. Transgressions (plural).
 - lust, adultery, conspiracy, murder, hardened heart.
 - 2. Wash – scrub as though ground in dirt.
 - 3. Cleanse – same word as cleansing from leprosy (Lev. 13:6).
- B. Mercy based on God's love and compassion.
- C. Self-consciousness of sin (3-4).
 - 1. Ultimately all sin is against God.
 - 2. When I realize the depth of my sin, I realize God is just to condemn me (cf. Is. 6:1-5).
- D. Understanding the source of sin (5-6).
 - 1. Passed on from Adam.
 - 2. No hint of self-justification.
- E. Forgiveness (7-9).
 - 1. Hyssop – used to sprinkle the blood of atonement (Ex. 12:22).
 - 2. Sorrow turns to joy.

II. Prayer for renewal (10-13).

- A. Pure heart (and steadfastness to maintain it).
- B. Not to be rejected (2 Ki. 24:20; but see 1 Sam. 13:14; 16:13).
- C. Restoration.
- D. Response.

III. Vow of spiritual sacrifices (14-17).

- A. Response of praise (Ro. 12:1-2).
- B. Outward show doesn't impress God (Is. 1:10ff.).
- C. Acceptable sacrifices (Is. 57:15).
 - 1. Broken spirit.
 - 2. Contrite heart.

IV. Prayer for Jerusalem (18-19).

- A. Prosper under God's pleasure.
- B. Righteous and delightful sacrifices.

V. Applications to note.

- A. Took total responsibility.
- B. Didn't try to justify his sin.
- C. Named it for what it was.
- D. Came to God in total humility and brokenness.