

## Psalm 50 from the Paris Psalter

(Paris, Bibliothèque nationale fonds latin 8824)

David sang þysne fiftigoðan sealm, hreowsiende for ðam ærendum þe Nathan se witga him sæde, þæt wæs þæt he hæfde gesyngod wið Ureus þone Cyðþiscan þa he hine beswac for his wifes þingum, þære nama wæs Bersabe. And eac he witgode on þam sealme be Israela folce, hy hy sceoldon hreowsian hyra hæftnyd on Babilonia, and eac be Sancte Paule þam apostole, and be ælcum rihtwisum men he witgode hu hy sceoldon syngian and eft hreowsian. He cwæð:

### VOX DAVID AD POENITENTIAM [The Voice of David to the Penitent]

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| 3] Miserere mei, Deus, secundum magnam misericordiam tuam,<br>Et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum dele iniquitatem meam. | 3] Miltsa me, Drihten, æfter þinre mycelan mildheortnesse,<br>And æften þære menigu þinra mildheortnessa adilega mine unrihtwisnessa.  |
| 4] Amplius lava me ab iniustitia mea, et a delicto meo munda me.  | 4] And aðweah me clænran from minum unrihtwisnessum þonne ic ær ðysse scylde wæs, and of þysse scamleasan scylde geclænsa me.  |
| 5] Quoniam iniquitatem meam ego agnosco, et delictum meum coram me est semper.  | 5] Forþam mine unryhtwisnessa ic ongyte, and mina synna beoð symle beforan me on minum gemynde.  |
| 6] Tibi soli peccavi, et malum coram te feci, ut iustificeris in sermonibus tuis, et vincas dum iudicaris.                        | 6] Wið þe ænne ic gesyngode, and ic dyde yfel beforan ðe. Wið þe ænne ic sceal þæt beta n, forþæm þu ana eart rihtwis, and oferswiðest ealle þonne ðu demst.   |
| 7] Ecce enim in iniquitatibus conceptus sum, et in delictis peperit me mater mea.   | 7] Nis hit nan wundor þeah þu sy god and ic yfel, forðam þu wast þæt ic wæs mid unrihtwisnesse onfangen, and min modor me gebær mid synne.   |
| 8] Ecce enim veritatem dilexisti; incerta et occulta sapientie tue manifestasti michi.  | 8] Ic wat þæt þu symle lufast rihtwisnesse, and me sealdest mægena gyfa ðines wisdomes. Þa gyfa synt beheleda and uncuþa manegum oðrum.  |
| 9] Asperges me hysopo, et mundabor; lavabis me, et super nivem dealbabor.   | 9] Ac bespreng me nu mid þinum haligdome swa swa mid ysopon, þæt ic beo geclænsod; and aðweah me, þæt ic sy hwitra þonne snaw.   |
| 10] Auditui meo dabis gaudium et letitiam, et exultabunt ossa humiliata.  | 10] Syle minre gehyrnesse gefean and blisse, þæt ic gehyre þæt ic wylle, and eac oðre gehyron be me þæt þæt ic wilnige, swa swa hy ær gehyrdon þæt þæt ic nolde; þæt þonne mæge unrote mod blissian. |

**Notes:**

The Paris Psalter is a tenth-century manuscript. It contains a summary of each psalm in English, followed by the Latin text with an English translation. For your convenience, I have translated the portions in Old English into modern English below.

**Translation of the Summary:**

David sang this fiftieth psalm, repenting because of the messages that the wise Nathan said to him, which was that he had sinned against Uriah the Hittite when he deceived him for the affairs of his wife, whose name was Bathsheba. And also he prophesied in the psalm concerning the people of the Israelites, they who must repent their captivity in Babylon, and also concerning Saint Paul the apostle, and concerning each righteous man he prophesied how they must sin and after repent. He said:

**Translation of the Psalm:**

(3) Have mercy on me, God: according to your great mercy. And according to the multitude of your compassions: take away my iniquity. (4) Wash me more from my wickednesses: and cleanse me from my sin. (5) Because I do know my wickedness: and my sin is before me always. (6) To you only have I sinned and have done evil before you: that you may be justified in your talk and may overcome when you are judged. (7) For behold, I was conceived in wickednesses: and my mother conceived me in sins. (8) For behold you have loved truth: the uncertain and hidden things of your wisdom you have made clear to me. (9) You shall sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be cleansed: you shall wash me and I shall be made whiter than snow. (10) To my hearing you shall give joy and gladness: and the humbled bones shall rejoice.