

How May I Find Forgiveness?

Psalms 32 and 51 (2 Samuel 11-12)

Interesting Note: Psalm titles were added later by compilers (like chapter and verse divisions). Additionally, because Psalms is a songbook, some of the “titles” may be instructive for the previous song. Examples: Psalms 3-4; 5-6; 87-88. (See attached pages.)

Introduction:

King David sinned. So do we (1 John 1:10)! And we can also find forgiveness (Psalm 32:1)! These are universal, practical truths—*faith steps*—for all of us. God still considered David to be a man after his own heart (1 Samuel 13:14).

Lesson: Find God’s forgiveness.

1. _____ . Psalm 32:6-11; 2 Samuel 11:1-4, 15, 17, 27a

2. _____ . Psalm 32:1

3. _____ . Psalm 32:1-4; 51:7-12; 2 Samuel 11:27b; 12:1, 6-7

4. _____ . Psalm 32:5a; 51:1, 3, 6; 2 Samuel 12:13

5. _____ . Psalm 32:5b; 51:7, 10, 12; 2 Samuel 12:13

6. _____ . Psalm 32:8, 10-11; 51: 8, 10-13; 2 Samuel 12:10-12, 14

Dig Deeper (Read, Study, Pray, and Share): Psalm 32; 51; 34:17-18; 2 Samuel 11-12; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:32; 1 John 1:9-10; Hebrews 10:22

Hebrew Psalm Titles and Hebrew Words in the Psalms

Note: The psalms identified below are the psalms as printed in the standard King James text of the Bible. It should be pointed out that more often than not these titles belong as subscriptions to the previous psalm rather than as superscriptions to the psalms as normally printed. It is in this light that they have been handled in this exposition. However, they are listed here as they traditionally appear in most editions of the Bible. Where they are treated as belonging to the subscription of the previous psalm, this is noted in parentheses.

Aijeleth Shahar: "The day dawn." Psalm 22 (21)

Al Alamoth: "Relating to maidens" (young, unmarried women), a song for the sopranos. Psalm 46 (45)

Al-taschith: "Destroy not." Psalms 57; 58; 59; 75 (56; 57; 58; 74)

Gittith: "The winepresses." This is taken to be a reference to the Feast of Tabernacles which took place in the fall of the year. 8; 81; 84 (7; 80; 83)

Higgaion: "A soliloquy" or a meditation. 9:16; 19:14; 92:3. It is rendered *higgaion* in Psalm 9, *meditation* in Psalm 19, and *solemn sound* in Psalm 92.

Jeduthun: A personal name, the name of one of the three "chief musicians" or music directors of the temple worship (1 Chronicles 16:41–43; 25:1–6; 2 Chronicles 5:12; 35:15). He was a Levite, a descendent of Merari (1 Chronicles 26:10). It is thought by some that Ethan and Jeduthun are the same person (1 Chronicles 15:17–19). Psalms 39; 62; 77 (38; 61; 76)

Jonath Elim Rechokim: "The dove in the far off terebinth trees." Psalm 56 (55)

Mahalath: "The great dance." Psalm 53 (52)

Mahalath Leannoth: "The great dancing and shouting." Psalm 88 (87)

Maschil: "Understanding" or "teaching," particularly public instruction. Psalms 32; 42; 44; 45; 52; 53; 54; 55; 74; 78; 88; 89; 142

Michtam: "An engraving," hence, a permanent writing, a golden poem. All were written by David and refer to the days of his rejection. Psalms 16; 56; 57; 58; 59; 60

Muth Labben: "The death of the champion." Psalm 9 (8)

Neginoth: "Smitings." Psalms 4; 6; 54; 55; 61; 67; 76 (3; 5; 53; 54; 60; 66; 75)

Nehiloth: "The great inheritance." Psalm 5 (4)

Psalm: A translation of "Mizmor." Psalms 3; 4; 5; 6; 8; 9; 12; 13; 15; 19; 20; 21; 22; 23; 24; 29; 31; 38; 39; 40; 41; 47; 49; 50; 51; 62; 63; 64; 73; 77; 79; 80; 82; 84; 85; 98; 100; 101; 109; 110; 139; 140; 141; 143

Selah: "to pause and lift up"; it can be freely rendered: "There! What do you think of that?" Occurs once: Psalms 7; 20; 21; 44; 47; 48; 50; 54; 60; 61; 75; 81; 82; 83; 85; 143; occurs twice:

Psalms 4; 9; 24; 39; 49; 52; 55; 57; 59; 62; 67; 76; 84; 87; 88; occurs three times: Psalms 3; 32; 46; 66; 68; 77; 140; occurs four times: Psalm 89

Sheminith: “the eighth.” Psalms 6; 12 (5; 11)

Shiggaion: “a loud cry.” Psalm 7

Shoshannim: “lilies.” This is taken to be a reference to the Passover feast which occurred in the spring of the year. Psalms 45; 69 (44; 68)

Shushannim Eduth: *Shushannim* refers to the spring festival, as above, and *eduth* to “testimony.” Psalm 80 (79)

Shushan Eduth: same as above only *Shushan* is the singular. Both the above are thought to have some reference to the keeping of the Passover in the second month of the year instead of the regular first month (Numbers 9:10–11; 2 Chronicles 30:1–3). Both psalms where it occurs have to do with the land being invaded by enemies. Psalm 60 (59)

Song; a translation of *shir*. Psalms 18; 45; 46; and 120; 121; 122; 123; 124; 125; 126; 127; 128; 129; 130; 131; 132; 133; 134 (a song of degrees)

Authors of the Psalms

David: 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 11; 12; 13; 14; 15; 16; 17; 18; 19; 20; 21; 22; 23; 24; 25; 26; 27; 28; 29; 30; 31; 32; 34; 35; 36; 37; 38; 39; 40; 41; 51; 52; 53; 54; 55; 56; 57; 58; 59; 60; 61; 62; 63; 64; 65; 68; 69; 70; 86; 101; 103; 108; 109; 110; 122; 124; 131; 133; 138; 139; 140; 141; 142; 143; 144; 145

Asaph: 50; 73; 74; 75; 76; 77; 78; 79; 80; 81; 82; 83

Sons of Korah: 42; 44; 46; 47; 48; 49; 84; 85; 88

Solomon: 72, 127

Reman the Ezrahite: 89

Moses: 90

Psalms to the Chief Musician

The following list shows the psalms which have a reference to the chief Musician appended as a subscription (in most editions of the Bible the ascription is included as a superscription to the following psalm): 3; 4; 5; 7; 8; 10; 11; 12; 13; 17; 18; 19; 20; 21; 30; 35; 38; 39; 40; 41; 43; 44; 45; 46; 48; 50; 51; 52; 53; 54; 55; 56; 57; 58; 59; 60; 61; 63; 64; 65; 66; 67; 68; 69; 74; 75; 76; 79; 80; 83; 84; 87; 108; 138; 139.

Those wishing to study these matters further, without getting into too many technicalities, should consult *The Companion Bible*.¹

¹ John Phillips, *Exploring Psalms 1–88: An Expository Commentary*, vol. 1, The John Phillips Commentary Series (Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp., 2009).