

Psalms 16
Preserved By God

August 14, 2022

Psalms 16 Introduction

1. Some scholars believe that the psalm is referring strictly to David and no one else.

2. Some liberal commentators have a problem with David being a prophet of God (Acts 2:30) and cannot accept that David could be speaking of the Messiah to come.

3. Others contend that this psalm is speaking completely of the Messiah and has no personal references to David at all.

4. Still others believe that this psalm speaks of both David and the Messiah to come.

• NOTE: The end of this psalm (verses 8-11) specifically describes the resurrection of Christ, and is not applicable to David himself (Acts 2:25-31; 13:35-37).

Psalms 16 Introduction

• What did David know?

• He knew that his offspring would reign forever (2 Samuel 7:16).

• He knew about the eternal life, eternal kingship, and eternal priesthood of the Messiah.

• Psalms 45:6 and Hebrews 1:8

• Psalms 110:1 and Acts 2:34-35

• Psalms 110:4 and Hebrews 5:6

• Psalms 2:1-9 and Acts 4:25-26

Relationship to God (Psalms 16:1-4)

Preservation and refuge

Psalms 16:1, “Preserve me, O God; for in thee do I take refuge.”

1. God has the power to preserve those who are His.

Therefore, David begins by expressing his desire for God to keep him safe.

2. The Son of God himself said, “I will put my trust in him” (Hebrews 2:13; Psalms 18:2); and therefore His Father did indeed preserve Him in the time of His distress (Hebrews 5:7; 13:20; Philippians 2:9).

Relationship to God (Psalms 16:1-4)

My Lord

Psalms 16:2, “(O my soul), thou hast said unto Jehovah, Thou art my Lord: I have no good beyond thee.”

• The first “Lord” (KJV) in verse 2 is the name Jehovah or YHWH in the Hebrew.

• David said of God, “You are my *adonai*.” This Hebrew word means “master.”

• Even the Son of God subjected Himself to the Father as His Lord and Master, in perfect obedience (John 6:38; 15:10; Hebrews 5:8; Philippians 2:8; Matthew 26:39, 42); and we are to do the same (Hebrews 12:9; James 4:10).

Relationship to God (Psalms 16:1-4)

Goodness from God

Psalms 16:2, “(O my soul), thou hast said unto Jehovah, Thou art my Lord: I have no good beyond thee.”

Psalms 16:2, “You are my Lord, My goodness is nothing apart from You.” NKJV

• God is the source of all goodness (James 1:17; Matthew 19:17).

• NOTE: This verse eliminates in my mind the possibility that these first seven verses are referring to Christ.

Relationship to God (Psalms 16:1-4)

The Effects of a Relationship With God

Psalms 16:3, *“As for the saints that are in the earth, they are the excellent in whom is all my delight.”*

- First, we see that those who are the holy ones of God are the excellent ones in the earth.
- What joy there is in having fellowship with those who have a common goal and common love for God. (cf. 2 Peter 1:1)

Relationship to God (Psalms 16:1-4)

The Effects of a Relationship With God

Psalms 16:4, *“Their sorrows shall be multiplied that give gifts for another (god): their drink-offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take their names upon my lips.”*

- Second, David also expresses a sorrow for those who run after other gods.
 - The very mention of the name of any other god than the true God was solemnly forbidden by the law of Moses. (Exodus 23:13; cf. Ephesians 5:3)
 - These pursuits only perpetuate our sorrows. Psalms 16:4; Isaiah 48:5
 - All those who pursue another god will ultimately receive *“many sorrows”* (Psalms 32:10; cf. 1 Timothy 6:10). *“Woe unto the wicked! (it shall be) ill (with him); for what his hands have done shall be done unto him.”* (Isaiah 3:11).