

Psalms 16
Preserved By God

August 28, 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).

Present Blessings Due to a Relationship With God (Psalms 16:5-8)

Assigned me my portion and my cup.

Psalms 16:5, “*Jehovah is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: Thou maintainest my lot.*”

- One’s portion can either refer to one’s land or to one’s food. Since this sentence is tied to the cup, it is likely referring to the portion of food that is given by God. Psalms 11:6
 - David writes that God has taken care of him when it comes to food and drink.
- Our greatest concern is usually **what** we will eat, not **if** we will eat. We must remember that God has given us such blessings today and give thanks. cf. Matthew 6:25-33; Psalms 37:25, “*I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*”

Present Blessings Due to a Relationship With God (Psalms 16:5-8)

My lot is secure.

Psalms 16:5, “*Jehovah is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: Thou maintainest my lot.*”

- This statement alludes to the fact that God has taken care of him through every circumstance.
- Expresses hope and promise.
 - God will provide for us and keep us secure when we are with Him.
 - This is not to say that nothing bad will ever happen, for bad things happened to David and happened to Jesus.
 - God will never forsake us or let us go. cf. Hebrews 13:5

Present Blessings Due to a Relationship With God (Psalms 16:5-8)

I have a beautiful inheritance.

Psalms 16:6, “*The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.*”

- David is content with what God has given and gratefully accepts these things. Under the old covenant, earthly Israel received “*a pleasant land, a goodly heritage*” on earth (Deuteronomy 8:7-9; Jeremiah 3:19)
- Israel “*despised the pleasant land*” of their inheritance (Psalms 106:24; Numbers 14:1-10)
- We must always receive what God has given us with thanksgiving. (cf. Luke 12:13-21; 1 Timothy 6:6)

Present Blessings Due to a Relationship With God (Psalms 16:5-8)

The Lord gives counsel.

Psalms 16:7, “*I will bless Jehovah, who hath given me counsel; yea, my heart instructeth me in the night seasons.*”

- David allowed the Lord to lead him and instruct him.
- Jesus spoke “*as my Father hath taught me . . . the truth, which I have heard of God*” (John 8:28, 40, 26; 15:15; “*my teaching is not mine, but his that sent me,*” John 7:16).
- We are stubborn, mindless fools when we do not pray for God’s wisdom (James 1:5).
- We are to “*let the word of Christ dwell in you richly*” (Colossians 3:16), abiding within them at all times (1 John 2:14, 24; John 15:7; cf. Deuteronomy 11:18-19).

Present Blessings Due to a Relationship With God (Psalms 16:5-8)

I shall not be shaken.

Psalms 16:8, *"I have set Jehovah always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved."*

- *"He who does these things shall never be moved"* (Psalms 15:5).
- Those who trust the Lord will be like a tree firmly planted by the waters (Psalms 1).

The Future Hope (Psalms 16:8-11)

Resurrection – David speaks of another.

Psalms 16:8, *"I have set Jehovah always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved."*

- The Son of God set the Lord always in front of Himself (*"before my face,"* Acts 2:25), looking only to Him (verse 1) and doing His will always (John 8:29).
- The Father was constantly with Him, at His right hand, to help Him (Isaiah 41:13; Psalms 109:31)
- *"I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation"* (Micah 7:7; Psalms 34:5; 123:1-2; Isaiah 45:22; cf. Hebrews 12:2).
- Not only the Son, but also all those who abide in Him have the promise that they will never be moved.

The Future Hope (Psalms 16:8-11)

Resurrection – David speaks of another.

Psalms 16:9-10, *"Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth; My flesh also shall dwell in safety. For thou wilt not leave my soul to Sheol; neither wilt thou suffer thy holy one to see corruption."*

- *"... to see corruption"* (the decay of the body after death, Psalms 49:9; Job 17:14).
- Acts 2:24-25, 30 – The psalmist writes of things that could not apply to himself.
- Paul in Acts 13:35-39 showed that Jesus raised from the dead, fulfilling the prophecy found in Psalms 2 and then quotes a fragment of Psalms 16.
- Jesus raised from the dead is central to our faith.

The Future Hope (Psalms 16:8-11)

Resurrection – hope for us.

Psalms 16:11, *"Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; in thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."*

- We shall not be shaken – is through the resurrection of Jesus.
 - He is the proof that we will be preserved by God. Just as God preserved and protected Jesus as He promised, so that His body did not see decay or corruption and His soul was not left in Hades, so we also will be preserved by God.
 - Hebrews 10:35-39 – We are encouraged not to throw away our confidence and to exercise endurance so we may receive what is promised. What has been promised?
 - While our bodies will decay, our souls will be preserved by God if we will live righteously by faith. God's fulfilled promises give us confidence.

The Future Hope (Psalms 16:8-11)

Resurrection–hope for us.

Psalms 16:11, *"Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; in thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."*

"The Father has granted the Son 'length of days for ever and ever' (Ps. 21:4) in the path that leads to 'no death' (Prov. 12:28); He is 'alive for evermore' (Rev. 1:18), reaping fulness of joy and pleasures (Heb. 12:2; Ps. 21:6) for evermore at the right hand of the Father, where he sat down when he was received into heaven after the resurrection (Mark 16:19; 1 Pet. 3:22)."

(Evan and Marie Blackmore, *Psalms I*, Truth Commentaries, page 219)

The Future Hope (Psalms 16:8-11)

Resurrection – hope for us.

Psalms 16:11, *"Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; in thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."*

"All those who believe in him and obey him have eternal life in him (John 3:15-16, 36; 10:28; Rom. 2:7; 6:23; 1 John 2:17) and enter into the joy of their Lord (Matt. 25:21, 23; 1 Pet. 4:13). No one can take that joy away from them (John 16:22)."

(Evan and Marie Blackmore, *Psalms I*, Truth Commentaries, page 219)

The Future Hope (Psalms 16:8-11)

Resurrection – hope for us.

- Let us not waiver or let go of our confidence.
- Let us always remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us and how His actions prove the hope we have within us.
- This hope belongs to those who live by faith, obeying the Lord with all our hearts.