

SECURE IN HIM: OUR REFUGE, PORTION, & HOPE (PSALM 16)

| SUMMER IN THE PSALMS |

Psalm 16 ESV

A MIKTAM OF DAVID. ¹ Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. ² I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." ³ As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. ⁴ The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips. ⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. ⁶ The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. ⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. ⁸ I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. ¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. ¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

A PRAYER FOR KEEPING (V1)

Psalm 16:1 ESV

¹ Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

PRESERVE ME, O GOD

- Preserve: שמר [sha-mar] | keep, watch over, guard

The Psalms as Christian Worship: A Historical Commentary B. Introduction v. 1

when the subject is "God"—as here—it means "to observe the object carefully so as to protect it."

- Whatever trouble David is crying out to God for, death is certainly included (v10)

IN YOU I TAKE REFUGE:

- This perilous trouble leads David to run to the Lord in prayer.
 - What a blessing for those who make the Lord their refuge.
 - We can take immediate refuge (safety and peace) in God through prayer.
- "A constant life of prayer is the natural way in which faith manifests itself in life." (A. Weiser)

CONFESSION OF TRUST (V2-4)

Psalm 16:2-4 ESV

² I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." ³ As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. ⁴ The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

DEVOTION TO THE LORD

- "I say to YAHWEH, You are my Lord (adon)"
 - David is making his choice and devotion to Yahweh.
- He also recognizes that everything good comes from the Lord. → The Lord is his source and provider.

James 1:17 ESV

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

- One commentator writes its possible to read: 'you are above all good things'
- In either case:
 - Yahweh is David's Lord - the God he serves.
 - Yahweh provides David with everything he needs - he's the source
 - All good things in this life cannot compare to serving, knowing, and loving the LORD.
- In context of v1 and his cry for help... this is a confession of trust.
 - "Who else can I turn to?"

DELIGHTING IN GOD'S PEOPLE

- Not only are you my God, but your people are my people!
 - David is identifying himself with God and God's people.
 - Yahweh is David's delight and source of confidence, and Yahweh's people are also a joy.
- We have always been meant to belong to the people of God - the fellowship of all believers - God's family
 - To come to faith in Christ is also to be adopted into his family.
 - Our faith is not meant to be private and isolated.
 - 'It is not good for man to be alone'

DEPARTING FROM IDOLATERS

- The psalm now contrasts the saints and sinners.

- The saints experience the good that comes from the Lord.
- The sorrows of the wicked will multiply.
 - In light of verse 9-11, not only sorrows in this life, but in the life to come.
 - The 'other gods' cannot preserve your life, but only multiply your sorrows. ([John 10:10](#))
- David states that he will not join them:
 - In their false worship practices:
 - Drink offerings of blood
 - Invoking their gods
- NOTE:
 - Running to God includes distancing yourself from the ways, beliefs, and practices of the world.
 - It can also include the influences... people.
- He's declaring that those who do such things (trust in and chase after other gods) will have sorrow upon sorrow.
 - Whereas the servants of Yahweh will receive good.

DAVID'S CONFESSION OF TRUST IN LIGHT OF HIS PRAYER:

- Is seen in his devotion to the Lord
- Delighting in God's people
- Departing from sinful ways and practices

CAUSES FOR TRUST (V5-8)

Psalms 16:5-8 ESV

⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. ⁶ The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. ⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. ⁸ I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

INHERITANCE FROM THE LORD

- The Lord Is My Portion And My Cup
 - Knowing and walking with the Lord is better than any 'thing' or 'possession' in this life
 - Calling back to the 'portion' of the Levites who weren't assigned land, but rather the 'Lord was their portion.'
 - Fellowship and friendship with God is to be pursued and treasured above all else.

- The Boundary Lines
 - The Lord also provides for the natural and physical possessions.
 - The land from an Israelite perspective was nearly everything – it was God’s inheritance for them.
 - The land was how they provided for themselves and was also status.
- “God has been so good to me”
 - The Lord is my portion - friendship with God
 - The lines have fallen well for me - God has provided me with good things.
 - The life he has given me is beautiful.
 - NOTE: the tone of praise and thankfulness.

COUNSEL OF THE LORD

- The Lord is faithful to give me wise counsel.
 - David spent much time meditating on God’s Word.
- Note: God speaks to his servants through HIS WORD and HIS SPIRIT and HIS PEOPLE.
 - David experienced God’s voice in all three ways
 - So can we.
- ‘In the night’
 - Commentators write about how David meditating on God’s Word brought him conviction and insight as he lay in bed pondering his days.
 - I’m also reminded elsewhere that God is the giver of dreams.
 - In any case– God speaks and counsels us!

PRESENCE AND PROTECTION OF THE LORD

- David has built his life around serving and loving God, therefore the Lord is ‘before him’ and at his ‘right hand.’
 - It’s a way of saying that God is with me FOR I am with God.
- Since David has put himself in God’s presence and care, he will not be shaken.
 - He has the assurance of God’s protection and presence through it all... even the valley of the shadow of death.

DAVID’S CAUSE FOR TRUST IN LIGHT OF HIS PRAYER:

- David is asking God to keep watch over his life because:
 - God has already been so, so good to him.
 - God has counseled him and directed his steps.
 - God has been with him and protected him.

- If God has dealt with David thus far, won't he continue to do so.
- This helps David (and us) to trust and rest in God.

CONFIDENCE IN DEATH & LIFE

Psalm 16:9-11 ESV

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. ¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. ¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

DAVID'S CONFIDENCE:

- His heart and whole self could rejoice even when faced with death.
 - When he dies, he knows his body will dwell secure... in God's care and watching.
 - While only Jesus can fulfill v10 (and David is speaking prophetically of him here), there is a hope for all OT saints that they would not be abandoned in Sheol, but experience resurrection and eternal life.
 - In God's presence there is fullness of joy and pleasures FOREVERMORE.
- David is speaking of his hope and confidence that God will always care for him even through death and unto life everlasting.

JESUS' FULFILLMENT:

Acts 2:25-32 ESV

²⁵ For David says concerning him, " 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' ²⁹ "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

RESPONSE

- 1: We have a great privilege and joy to know God in constant prayer.
- 2: We can trust God to watch over and care for us through every peril and storm.
- 3: We are called to place our trust in him and serve him as our LORD.
- 4: The Lord is so, so good to his people.
- 5: We have many reasons to trust God, but among them are his faithful presence, voice, and provision.
- 6: Those who trust in Jesus can have confidence in this life... and even through death.

****The most important takeaway****

- Is to know Jesus and follow him as Lord of your life.
- Rest in him.

Because the Lord is good, faithful, and ever-present, we can trust Him fully—finding joy, protection, and confidence in life and through death by knowing and following Jesus.