

About Psalm 16:

- Psalm 16 is one of the principal *Messianic Psalms*.
- David expresses a joyful confidence that the suffering of God's Anointed One is only temporary and that He has a glorious future at the right hand of God.

1 A Michtam of David. Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust.

- This psalm is one of half a dozen described as a *michtam*, which is thought to mean golden, precious, or engraved.
- A man with so many enemies understood the need for God's preserving power!
- As he often does, David reminds God of their special relationship – David's trust in God means God is obligated to help him! But we stand on far greater ground than David. How much more should we shake the world with our prayers?

2 O my soul, you have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my goodness is nothing apart from You." 3 As for the saints who are on the earth, "They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight."

- David recognizes that God has given him greatness, humanly speaking, and David's talents and abilities must be used to help the saints.
- David had a particular love for the saints and would only be good friends with those who were of solid, godly character.

4 Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god; their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, nor take up their names on my lips.

5 O Lord, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot.

6 The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance.

- When we begin to walk away from God, that place that God occupies in the heart will not be occupied by nothing. There will be something to fill it!
- The end of this section talks about the inheritance of David. David said that God was maintaining his lot – He was preserving the things that He had given David.

- David then notes that the lines had fallen to him in pleasant places. This is a symbolic way of saying he had been given a good land for his inheritance, spiritually speaking. The land had literally been parceled out to people by lot.

7 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel; my heart also instructs me in the night seasons. 8 I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; my flesh also will rest in hope. 10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 11 You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

- Counsel speaks of supernatural wisdom, but David was careful to meditate in God's Word and so his own heart taught him.
- In v. 8 he says he has always set the Lord before him. One of the secrets of David's success was living in God's Presence. Because of that, his heart, his glory (meaning his soul) and his flesh will all rejoice. Here is a clear statement of Christ's Resurrection: His dead body would die but not decay; He would not be left in **Sheol**, the underworld.

...Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be held by it. For David speaks concerning him, "I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance." Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; he seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. (Acts 2:24-32, KJV)

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