



Psalm 16

3C's of Walking with God

Miktam

- Like Psalm 56-60, Psalm 16 is referred to as a “Miktam of David”.
- Early rabbinic interpretation renders “Miktam” as gold, referring it as a choice piece.
- Others have derived the meaning of cover in reference to “Miktam”. Thus the Psalm referred to it, is taken as a Psalm of Atonement.
- Written during times of peril.

Psalm 16

Psa. 16:1 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.”

Psa. 16:3 As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,
in whom is all my delight.

Psa. 16:4 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.

Psalm 16

Psa. 16:5 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.

Psa. 16:7 I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

Psalm 16

⁸ I have set the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Psa. 16:9 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.

Psa. 16:11 You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 16 begins with a petition

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. (v1)

- *Other translations (NIV, NLT), “Keep me safe...”*
- *Basis of petition is refuge in God.*
- *What did David ask God to preserve him from?*

Charles Spurgeon's Prayer

"Preserve me, O God!" Preserve my body, my family, my house from fire, from famine, from hurt or harm of every kind." Specially present the prayer in a spiritual sense. Preserve me from the world. Let me not be carried away with its excitements. Do not allow me to bow before its blandishments, nor to fear its frowns. Preserve me from the devil. Let him not tempt me above what I am able to bear. Preserve me from myself—keep me from growing envious, selfish, high-minded, proud, slothful. Preserve me from those evils into which I see others run and preserve me from those evils into which I am myself most apt to run! Keep me from evils known and from evils unknown. 'Cleanse You me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins—let them not have dominion over me.'"

Psalm 16 begins with a petition

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. (v1)

- *Other translations (NIV, NLT), “Keep me safe...”*
- *Basis of petition is refuge in God.*
- *What did David ask God to preserve him from?*
- *David’s petition demonstrated his trust in God.*

Our trust in God is manifested in 3 ways

- We need to have COMMITMENT to God (v.2-4)
- We need to find CONTENTMENT in God (v.5-7)
- We need to have CONFIDENCE in God (v.8-11)

Commitment to God

- Submission to God as Master: *I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; (v2a)*
- Sufficiency in God’s goodness: *I have no good apart from you.” (v2b)*
- Satisfaction in God’s people: *As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. (v3)*
- Separation from the enemies of God: *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*

Contentment in God

- Be content with God more than His gift of things: *The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.* (v5)
- Be content with God directing your life: *The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.* (v6)
- How? Be guided by God's Word and the Holy Spirit: *I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.* (v7)

Confidence in God

- Practice the presence of God: *I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.* (v8)
- Rejoice in Him & Rest in Him: *Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.* (v9)
- Be assured of your salvation through Him: *For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, ...*(v10a)
- Hope of eternal pleasures: *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right*

Messianic Nature of v10

- *For you will not ..., or let your holy one see corruption* in v10 is not a reference to David.
- Peter in Acts 2:25-28 refers to Christ's resurrection:
 - 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.'*

Basis of our Salvation is Christ

- Paul also affirms in his preaching to the Jews at Antioch in Pisidia that Psalm 16:10 refers to Christ in Acts 13:35.

Therefore he says also in another psalm,

““You will not let your Holy One see corruption.” (Acts 13:35)

Summary of Key Ideas in Psalm 16

Submission to God
as Master

Sufficiency
in God's goodness

Contentment in God (v5-7)

- God as provider & sustenance
- Heart of Thanksgiving
- Guided by God and His Word



Satisfaction
in God's people

Separation
from God's enemies

Confidence in God (v8-11)

- Secure in God
- Joy of the Lord and restedness in Him
- Assurance of salvation
- Hope of eternal pleasures

Commitment to God (v1-4)

Reflection Questions

How is your walk with God?

Describe your walk with God in terms of:

- (a) Commitment to Him,*
- (b) Contentment in Him and*
- (c) Confidence in Him?*

How can you deepen your walk with God?

