

## Psalm 16

**Title:** The Lord Is My All

**Author and Date:** David

**Key Verse:** Psalm 16:2

### **Outline**

- A. Preservation: the cry for God (verse 1).
- B. Prioritization: the communion with God (verses 2-4).
- C. Provision: the commitment to God (verses 5-8).
- D. Protection: the confidence in God (verses 9-11).

### **Notes**

Title: “Michtam of David.” Five other psalms have the title of “Michtam” (see Psalm 56-60). The meaning of “Michtam” is uncertain. It could mean something like an epigram or inscription poem (see Isa. 38:9 for *michtab*, “writing”). Psalm 16 is attributed to David by Peter in Acts 2:25. This psalm is about David and Jesus, “the son of David” (Mt. 1:1).

Verse 1: Note the use of “God” (Heb. *el*, from *elohim* = mighty one) here in addition to “Jehovah” (Heb. *yahweh* = eternal one) and “Lord” (Heb. *adonai* = master) in verse 2. The psalmist taking “refuge” in God is a common theme (see Psa. 2:12; 5:11; 7:1; 11:1; 14:6).

Verse 4: The psalmist avoided idolatry and the worship of false gods. The “drink-offerings of blood” (KJV) were idolatrous blood sacrifices (see Psa. 106:36-38).

Verse 5-6: “Portion”, “cup”, “lot”, “lines” and “heritage” (KJV) are all references to the psalmist’s inheritance. However, the inheritance belonging to the psalmist is not a physical piece of property handed down to him from his ancestors (Num. 26:52-56; Josh. 14:1-5). His (spiritual) inheritance is the Lord himself. The Lord provides all the psalmist truly needs.

Verse 7: “My heart (reins, KJV) instructeth me in the night seasons” is a reference to the psalmist praying and meditating on God’s word at night (see Psa. 119:55).

Verse 8: “At my right hand” is the place of power, authority, and control. The psalmist places the Lord at his right hand so that the Lord can govern and guide the psalmist’s life.

Verse 10: “Sheol” (hell, KJV) is a reference to the grave or the realm of death (see Psa. 6:5; 9:17). The psalmist cries out for preservation (verse 1) and is expecting to “dwell in safety” (verse 9) and walk the “path of life” (verse 11). He has confidence that he will

not be touched by death (verse 10). He may also believe that he will be raised from the dead (see Psa. 49:14-15).

Verses 8-10: These verses are quoted by Peter in Acts 2:25-28 and applied to the resurrection of Jesus. Verse 10 is also quoted by Paul in Acts 13:35 and applied to Jesus.

## **Questions**

1. What does the psalmist cry out to God for and why (verse 1)?
2. What attitude does the psalmist have toward Jehovah (verse 2)?
3. What attitude does the psalmist have toward the saints (verse 3)?
4. What will happen to those who worship (offer gifts) to another god (verse 4)?
5. What is the Lord to the psalmist and what does the Lord do for the psalmist (verse 5)?
6. What does the psalmist have as a result of the Lord (verse 6)?
7. What does the psalmist promise to do and why (verse 7)?
8. What position has the psalmist given to the Lord and what does he believe about himself (verse 8)?
9. What attitude does the psalmist have and where does he believe he will dwell (verse 9)?
10. What does the psalmist believe that he will not experience (verse 10)?

11. What does the psalmist believe he will experience from the Lord's presence (verse 11)?

### **Applications for Today**

1. The Lord God is our refuge (verse 1). Why is God a good refuge (Heb. 6:18)?
  
2. We should have no good in life beyond the Lord (verse 2). What did another psalmist say about the Lord in Psalm 73:25?
  
3. We should want to be with the Lord's saints, not with those who worship false gods (verses 3-4). What does Paul write concerning the fellowship of worldliness (2 Cor. 6:14-18)? What does James write concerning worldliness (Jas. 4:4)? What does John write concerning worldliness (1 Jn. 2:15-17)? What is a modern idol that we must avoid (Col. 3:5)?
  
4. The Lord provides all that we truly need (verses 5-6). What will the Lord do for those who put him first in their life (Mt. 6:33; Phil. 4:19)?
  
5. The Lord will give his saints counsel and instruction and we must be open to it (verse 7). What must we do concerning the Lord's wisdom (Col. 1:9-10; Jas. 1:5)?
  
6. There is confidence and hope in the prospect of a resurrection (verse 10). How do Peter (Acts 2:25-28) and Paul (Acts 13:35) apply Psalm 16:10 to Jesus? What does the resurrection of Jesus do for us (1 Pet. 1:3-4)?
  
7. God shows his people the "path of life" (verse 11). Where is the path of life to be found today (Prov. 12:28)?