Psalm 16

"David's Reliance Upon Yahweh in Life and in Death"

A Mikhtam of David.

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A1 DAVID'S TRUST IN THE LORD IN LIFE. 16:1-8

B1 David's Total Dependence upon God 16:1-2

C1 Prayer for preservation: {1} Preserve me, O God, for I take refuge in You.

C2 Affirmation of reliance: {2} I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good besides You."

B2 David's Attitude Toward People 16:3-4

C1 His delight in the saints: {3} As for the saints who are in the earth, They are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight.

C2 His rejection of those who worship another God

D1 His pronouncement of judgment upon them: {4} The sorrows of those who have bartered for another god will be multiplied;

D2 His refusal to support their worship: I shall not pour out their drink offerings of blood,

D3 His refusal of association: Nor will I take their names upon my lips.

B3 David's Satisfaction with Yahweh 16:5-6

C1 His satisfaction with Yahweh as his inheritance and his help: {5} The LORD is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You support my lot.

C2 His satisfaction with his allotment in life as a worshiper of Yahweh: {6} The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me.

1 Mikhtam (also used in the headings of Psalms 56-60) is uncertain. It is apparently derived from a verb meaning, "to cover," and may indicate psalms dealing with protection (covering) from one's enemies or psalms recited silently (with lips covering the mouth), Ryrie Study Bible (RSB).

2 16:1, 9 - The broad divisions of this outline are adapted from RSB.

3 16:4 - their names: The names of idolaters. Or, perhaps, as Allen P. Ross, “Psalms,” The Bible Knowledge Commentary, states, the names of the false gods.
**B4  David's Constant Fellowship with Yahweh  16:7-8**

**C1** His blessing of Yahweh, his Counselor:  
{7} I will bless the LORD who has counseled me; Indeed, my mind instructs me in the night.

**C2** His affirmation of stability because of his constant active dependence on Yahweh:  
{8} I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

**A2  DAVID'S TRUST IN THE LORD IN DEATH. 16:9-11**

**B1** His Continual Joy and Security:  
{9} Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely.

**B2** His Confidence of Resurrection:  
{10} For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.  

**B3** His Confidence of Unending Success and Joy in the Presence of Yahweh:  
{11} You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

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_Expanded Analysis of Psalm 16_  
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4 16:10 - Sheol, decay: David expressed confidence that Yahweh would resurrect him after death (see also RSB); or, possibly, that Yahweh would protect him from death in the occasion prompting the composition of this psalm (see Allen P. Ross, _TBKC_). The expression "Holy One" meant David as he wrote the psalm. Unbeknown to him, God's longer-range prophecy was of His Resurrection of the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, as affirmed by Peter in Acts 2:24-32 (where he quoted Ps. 16:8-11 in its entirety) and by Paul in Acts 13:35 (where he quoted only the last half of Ps. 16:10).