

Psalm 16

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

A Mikhtam ¹ of David.

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A1 DAVID'S TRUST IN THE LORD IN LIFE.² 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 ³ 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.⁴

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.

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).