

## Psalm 16

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

A Mikhtam <sup>1</sup> of David.

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### A1 DAVID'S TRUST IN THE LORD IN LIFE.<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>3</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> *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)*.

<sup>2</sup> 16:1, 9 - The broad divisions of this outline are adapted from *RSB*.

<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

**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  
Prepared by James T. Bartsch  
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Email Contact: [jbartsch@wordexplain.com](mailto:jbartsch@wordexplain.com)

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<sup>4</sup> 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](#)).