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Psalm 16

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



**Learn the
Bible
at Home**

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 16.

Topics.

- In God I take refuge; I have no good apart from you.
- David would not take the names of other Gods on his lips.
- I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand.
- God, will not let His Holy One see corruption.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they consist of five books covering the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

BOOK ONE (PSALM 1-41)

PSALM 16:1-3

1

A Miktam of David.

In God I take Refuge; I have no Good Apart from You.

- **Psalm 16:1-3:** Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. ²I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." ³As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

David's prayer, "Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge," means keep me for eternal life. David's faith was such that whether alive or dead he knew he would be with the LORD, this is why he says, "In you I take refuge," meaning in God David trusts his life regardless of his outward circumstances (good or bad) David trusts God to raise him to eternal life where there are pleasures forevermore (v11). David's next greatest joy (after having God's love dwelling within) was to be in the company of others who had the same passion and faith as he did.

I have no good apart from you: the love of God was so rich in David's heart and mind that for him God was his life. David's faith in God was not something he managed to fit into his daily routine, duties and responsibilities, God was his life. David's relationship with God could be likened to a married couple who are deeply in love with each other, it matters not where the husband is or what he is doing or how far away from his wife he is, she is always with him by love. Her presence never leaves his mind and his heart. It would be right and truthful to say that she dwells within him by love (this principle of course also applies to the husbands' wife). This is the relationship David had with God; the greatest thing David sought after was the "Steadfast Love of the LORD" God's love was not only the spiritual strength of his heart and mind, but also his greatest treasure and his greatest joy.

The excellent ones, in whom is all my delight: (v3) how beautiful is this to describe those who are faithful toward God. It does not mean excellent without sin, but excellent in faith toward God.

PSALM 16:4-5

David would not take the names of other gods on his lips.

- **Psalm 16:4-5:** 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. ⁵The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

Idols and pagan gods were so offensive to David he would not speak their name this is not because they had any power within themselves, but because they are a fantasy of the mind and are an abomination before God. David says, "Sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply," a brief overview of the following words of the apostle Paul will give some understanding how belief in idol's and other gods multiply sorrow.

- God is not an image formed by art and the imagination of man (Acts 17:29).

When a person worships an idol their imagination is involved, the idol is simply what links their mind to the god of their imagination. Though there is no power in idols there is power in human imagination. This is because the human nervous system does not have mind of its own, but simply responds to the mental movie played out on the screen of the imagination and affects the emotions and outward behaviour accordingly. If the idol they are worshipping is a symbol of a benevolent god they will naturally feel good emotions when worshipping that illusionary god, but if the idol is a symbol of a vengeful and wrathful god their emotions will react in fear and terror. This shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that our emotions cannot be used as evidence that the God we believe in is the God of the Bible nevertheless that does not mean emotions should be ignored. Providing a person's faith is based on the words of Christ they should fully embrace the wonderful emotions the Good News of the Gospel produces in the heart of those who fully believe and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness and eternal salvation.

2

For further information see the title:

- Demons, in Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Drink offerings of blood: (v4) during ancient times it was common for those who belonged to pagan faiths to drink the blood of animals, by doing this they believed they were taking the life and strength of the animal into theirs. During the Roman era the Romans would tie a bull on a steel wire mesh about three feet above the ground, the religious sinner would sit under the steel mesh and the priest would cut the bulls throat, the blood would flow down through the mesh and literally saturate the man or woman sitting under the bull and in this way they were made spiritually clean by the blood. This is another reason belief in another god multiplies sorrow it opens the mind up to all sorts of fantasies in one's life and robs the mind and intellect from common sense, reason and logic and of course will not deliver its promise of eternal life in everlasting glory. David's statement, "The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot," (v5) not only means God is David's life, but also carries the idea that God is in control of his life so that whatever befalls David good or bad is within God's plans and purposes.

PSALM 16:6-8

I have set the LORD always Before Me; He is at My Right Hand.

- **Psalm 16:6-8:** The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. ⁷I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. ⁸I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

No matter what was going on in David's life good or bad he was always in a constant awareness that the LORD was always with him and that the LORD was his mental and spiritual strength. His faith was such that neither David nor the LORD could be separated. The joy and gladness of his whole being came from his knowledge that he had a beautiful inheritance of fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore.

The faith that David lived by: many people believe in Christ, they believe that Jesus lived; that he was a perfect man who was the Son of God, and that he died on the cross to save sinners and rose again, but the true meaning of believe or faith goes far beyond just having knowledge of what is true. The full meaning of believe embraces also the act of trusting and relying on another with full confidence and assurance that they will do what they have promised, it is putting one's life in the hands of another. This is the faith David had in God.

PSALM 16:9-11

God, will Not Let His Holy One see Corruption.

- **Psalm 16:9-11:** Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. ¹⁰For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. ¹¹You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

David was not only a king, but also a prophet and as a prophet he makes the following prophet statement, "His flesh (referring to his body) is secure, because God will not abandon him to the Sheol (the grave) or let God's Holy One see corruption. This statement shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that he knew the following three things:

1. He would be resurrected from the grave.
2. All the faithful who belong to the LORD would also be raised.
3. The body of God's Holy one (the Lord Jesus Christ) would not be left to decay in the grave (tomb), but would be raised to glory.

Though Christ did not appear during the Old Testament age, the faithful were still saved by faith in him, because they by faith looked:

- Toward the Holy One to come (whose body God will not let see corruption in death) (Psalm 16:9-11).
- Toward the promised seed of the woman spoken of in Genesis. (Gen. 3:15).
- Toward the promised seed of Abraham. (Gen. 26:4) (Gal. 3:16).
- Toward the prophet Moses said was to come like him. (Deut. 18:15) (Acts 3:22) (Acts 7:37).
- Toward the promised seed of David. (Psalm 89:4) (Psalm 132:11) (Jer. 23:5) (Matthew 1:1).
- Toward the Messiah the Christ all the Old Testament prophets and the Scriptures speak of such as (Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53). The Lord Jesus himself said, "I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book (Heb. 10:7) (the scroll of the book refers to the Scriptures).

Added to this even though Old Testament Israel offered animal sacrifices to God they were not saved by them; they were a type and shadow of Christ the Lamb of God without blemish the Saviour to come and it is his blood that cleanses them. This is because the power of Christ's cleansing blood flows back to the foundation of the earth so that the faithful of the Old and New Testament are saved by the same Saviour and the same Redeemer. In the book of Revelation, it is written:

- All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8).

And Peter wrote:

- You were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot foreordained before the foundation of the world and manifest in these last times for you. (1 Peter 1:18-20).

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that Jesus was not only the central focus of God's eternal mind and of His eternal plans and purposes for mankind's salvation and for eternity, but also the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The cleansing power of Jesus blood shed on the cross of Calvary doesn't just cover and cleanse only those who have come to the Lord after his death and resurrection, but flows all the way back to the foundations of the earth to Adam and Eve like an invisible spiritual river cleansing all the faithful of the Old Testament from the fall of Adam onward who by faith looked to the appearing of the promised Messiah the Christ.

David's perspective of eternal life

Is, fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
