

## Psalm 16: Resurrection Now and Forever

### I. Psalm 16 – A Psalm of Confidence

- A. Psalms of Confidence are written in a reflective posture and exhibit a serene trust and forward-looking expectation of God-given peace no matter what may come.

*“The confession of confidence in God exemplifies a deep trust in the Lord in both life and death... He celebrates the goodness of God that he has experienced in life. It may be that he reflects on past troubles, but the thrust is on his confidence in the Lord with respect to the future.”* – Willem A. Van Gemeren, *Expositors Bible Commentary*

### II. Psalm 16

*A Miktam of David.*

*Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.*

<sup>2</sup> *I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord;  
I have no good apart from you.”*

<sup>3</sup> *As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,  
in whom is all my delight.*

<sup>4</sup> *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.*

<sup>5</sup> *The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;  
you hold my lot.*

<sup>6</sup> *The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.*

<sup>7</sup> *I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.*

<sup>8</sup> *I have set the LORD always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken*

<sup>9</sup> *Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices  
my flesh also dwells secure.*

<sup>10</sup> *For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
or let your holy one see corruption.*

<sup>11</sup> *You make known to me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

(Psalm 16)

1. What, specifically, is the foundation for the Psalmist’s confidence?

*“I call ‘piety’ that reverence joined with love of God which the knowledge of his benefits induces. For until men recognize that they owe everything to God, that they are nourished by his fatherly care, that he is the Author of their every good, that they should seek nothing beyond him—they will never yield him willing service. Nay, unless they establish their complete happiness in him, they will never give themselves truly and sincerely to him.”*  
– John Calvin, *Institutes*, 1.1.2.

2. If God is his delight, where does the Psalmist long to dwell on earth (vv.4-5)?

*“We ought, therefore, highly to value and esteem the true and devoted servants of God, and to regard nothing as of greater importance than to connect ourselves with their society; and this we will actually do if we wisely reflect in what true excellence and dignity consist, and do not allow the vain splendor of the world and its deceitful pomps to dazzle our eyes.”* – Calvin, *Psalms 1-35*, 219.

3. From what section of Israel’s history does the Psalmist draw to describe God as his “inheritance”, “cup”, and “lot” in vv. 5-6?

4. How are we to understand vv. 9-11 in light of David's own life? How does the New Testament clarify vv. 9-11?

*"And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God..."* (Job 19:26)

*Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know--<sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.<sup>24</sup> God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.<sup>25</sup> For David says concerning him,*

*"I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;*

*<sup>26</sup> therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
my flesh also will dwell in hope.*

*<sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One see corruption.*

*<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'*

*<sup>29</sup> "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.<sup>30</sup> Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne,<sup>31</sup> he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.<sup>32</sup> This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. (Acts 2:22-32)*

5. What does it mean that the risen Christ is the "firstfruits" of those who have died in Him (see 1 Cor 15:20)? What role did the term "firstfruit" play in the Old Testament (Ex 23:19, Neh 10:35)?

*"... Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.<sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.<sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.<sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ." (1 Cor 15:20-23)*

6. Are the Christians' benefits of Christ's resurrection solely limited to the future (i.e., our future bodily resurrection)? In other words, how is the Christian life itself a foretaste of Christ's (and our) resurrection?

*"... even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved--<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus..." (Eph 2:5-6)*

*"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above..." (Col 3:1)*

7. How are we to know more is yet to come?

*In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,<sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Eph 1:13-14)*

*For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened--not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.<sup>5</sup> He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. (2 Cor 5:4-5)*

"When Jesus walked out of the tomb by the power of the Holy Spirit and the authority of his Father in heaven, he was signaling to us what we can expect in union with him... The resurrection of Jesus is the dawning of the new age, a glimpse of what it is not come in the here and now. A bit like a trailer for a big forthcoming movie that ends in bold letters – COMING SOON!" – Derek Thomas, Ref21

**And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." (Rev 21:5)**