

## PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

### Psalm 16:1-11 (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> Preserve me, O God, for I take refuge in You.

<sup>2</sup> I said to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good besides You.”

<sup>3</sup> As for the saints who are in the earth, They are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight.

<sup>4</sup> The sorrows of those who have bartered for another *god* will be multiplied; I shall not pour out their drink offerings of blood, Nor will I take their names upon my lips.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You support my lot.

<sup>6</sup> The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me.

<sup>7</sup> I will bless the LORD who has counseled me; Indeed, my mind instructs me in the night.

<sup>8</sup> I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely.

<sup>10</sup> For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

### Psalm 16: Faith in the Presence of God

This psalm is used twice by the apostle Peter (and once by Paul) in the New Testament. Some believe it was written in the early part of David’s reign as king. The living God Himself was David’s portion and inheritance. The Lord stood by him and was the joy of his heart. The Lord would fill him with joy and gladness forever. In God was all that was desired for the present and for the future. David’s treasure was in heaven. God’s greatest gift is Himself and the blessing received in Christ Jesus. Christians are heirs to a rich inheritance.

In [Acts 2:25–31](#) and [1 Peter 1:11](#), Peter makes reference to [Psalm 16:8–10](#). It is a clear statement of belief in the Old Testament of a blessed future. It is recognized by interpreters both past and present as being one explanation of the fact that the Spirit of Christ, which was in David as a prophet, moved him to write as he did. While this psalm expressed fully David’s own hopes, it signifies beforehand the glory that should follow in the resurrection of Christ.

In [Acts 2:29–31](#) Peter says,

[Acts 2:29-31 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>29</sup> Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

<sup>30</sup> And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT *one* OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE,

<sup>31</sup> he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.

The language used is very remarkable. Using [verses 8–11](#) in this [16th Psalm](#) as proof of the resurrection of Christ, Peter tells us that David spoke as a prophet, that his great descendent would be the Messiah and that God would place Him on His throne. David foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of Christ. The application of this psalm ([Acts 2:29–32](#); [Acts 13:35–37](#)) is based upon the fact that the prophecy was not fulfilled in David but in Jesus. David expressed confidence in God’s protecting care in his life and his hope of a life to come.

[Acts 13:35](#) also quotes [Psalm 16:10](#). The apostle Paul used this Old Testament text to substantiate the resurrection of Jesus to the audience in Antioch in Pisidia.

[Psalm 16:11](#) states, “*In Your presence is fullness of joy.*” The joys of heaven never fade, never wither and never die. They are constant and everlasting. We know that this mortal shall put on immortality, and that the body of the believer is to be fashioned like Christ’s glorious body. The Christian shall see Christ, shall be welcomed into the joy of his Lord, shall behold His glory and shall be like Him. Tears will be wiped away from all faces.