

## Psalm 16

English Standard Version

### A Miktam of David.

<sup>16:1</sup> 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.

### **Observation (What does it say?):**

*Mark (underline, circle, etc.) what you notice:*

- Repeated words or ideas
- Comparisons or contrasts
- Unusual or symbolic language
- Other observations

### **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

*After observing the passage:*

- What parts seem clear and straightforward?
- What parts seem unclear or confusing?
- What questions come to mind as you read?
- How do verses 3-4 relate to verse 2 and the rest of the psalm?
- Write one or two words for each verse to summarize the flow of the psalm. What is the writer’s thought process from “Preserve me” to “pleasures forevermore”?

### **Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- What circumstances in your life make it hardest to relate to the psalmist’s attitude?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?
- What part of this passage would be the most challenging for you to apply?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

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**Inductive Bible Study**

(A few general ideas)

**Observation**  
**(What does it say?)**

*What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?*

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

**Interpretation**  
**(What does it mean?)**

*What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?*

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

**Application**  
**(What does it mean for me?)**

*What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?*

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**