

# "THE BOOK OF PSALMS"

## Psalm 16 - David's Golden Secret

### Objectives in Studying this Psalm

- 1) To observe the use and possible meaning of the word "Michtam"
- 2) To consider David's trust in the Lord and his preference for God's people
- 3) To note the Messianic prophecy of the resurrection of Christ

### Summary

The heading describes this psalm as **A Michtam of David**. The meaning of "**Michtam**" is uncertain, though rabbinical sources guess it to mean "a golden poem" (ISBE). Another suggestion is that it means "a mystery poem" (Leopold). The psalm does reveal David's trust in life and hope in death, and so I have called it "**David's Golden Secret**".

David's secret was that he placed his trust in the LORD (Jehovah), along with delighting in His saints on the earth (God's people). He found the LORD to be a good inheritance, and sought to bless Him for His counsel. Having set the LORD always before him and at his right hand, David was confident he would not be moved (**1-8**).

David's secret was also that he had great joy and hope for the future, even for his flesh (body). The basis for his confidence appears at first that he (David) would not be left in Sheol (Hades, the realm of the dead) nor would he see corruption. Yet we learn from Peter and Paul that David was prophesying of the resurrection of the Messiah (cf. **Ac 2:25-31; 13:33-37**). Of course, Jesus' resurrection ensures that one day we (and David!) will also be raised from the dead (cf. **1 Co 15:20-23**), which serves as the basis for our hope (**1 Pe 1:3**). The psalm ends with a statement of confidence in the Lord's future provision and the blessings in His presence (**9-11**).

### OUTLINE

#### I. His Refuge In Life (16:1-8)

##### A. The LORD is his Lord (1-4)

1. An introductory plea...
  - a. For God to preserve him
  - b. For he has placed his trust in God
2. The LORD is his Lord...
  - a. His goodness is nothing apart from Him
  - b. He delights in His saints, the excellent ones on the earth
3. Those who hasten after another god...
  - a. Their sorrows will be multiplied
  - b. He will not offer their drink offerings of blood
  - c. He will not take up their names on his lips

##### B. The LORD is his portion (5-6)

1. His inheritance and his cup
2. Who maintains his lot...
  - a. The lines have fallen in pleasant places
  - b. He has a good inheritance

##### C. The LORD is his strength (7-8)

1. Whom he will bless for His counsel, and the instruction of his heart in the night seasons
2. Whom he has set before him at his right hand, so he shall not be moved

## **II. His Hope In Death (16:9-11)**

### **A. His joy and assurance (9)**

1. His heart is glad, his glory rejoices
2. His flesh also rests in hope

### **B. His hope of the resurrection (10)**

1. God will not leave his soul in Sheol
2. God will not allow His Holy One to see corruption

### **C. His anticipation of the future (11)**

1. God will show him the paths of life
2. In His presence is fullness of joy
3. At His right hand are pleasures forevermore

## **Review Questions For The Psalm**

**1) What are the main points of this psalm?**

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**2) What are the possible meanings of the word "Michtam"?**

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**3) Who is the author of this psalm?**

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**4) In whom did David place his trust? (1)**

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**5) In whom did David find great delight? (3)**

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**6) What happens to those who hasten after another god? (4)**

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**7) What did David consider as the portion of his inheritance? (5)**

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**8) Why does David bless the Lord? (7)**

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**9) What had David done? What was the result? (8)**

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**10) What was David's attitude regarding the future? (9)**

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**11) To whom is verse 10 applied to by Peter in Acts 2?**

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**12) What will be found in God's presence and at His right hand? (11)**

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