

Psalms Chapter 16 Commentary

Michtam of David

Ps 16:1 ¶ "Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust."

Michtam means *engraving or a poem*. I do not know what qualifies as Jewish poetry but certainly can understand what King David wants with these words: "**Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.**" David is asking God to engrave upon his heart, and mind, full faith and trust in Him. We have a similar scripture of engraving in the New Testament: **Heb 10:15-17; 15 "Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, 16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."**

King David says to us; what we all should be praying: "**Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.**" These are words that should not just be mouthed, but they should be lived out in our lives, in such a way that all may see that our trust is in Jesus Christ. Why? Because we believe, as Jesus has told us, that Jesus is the door through which we may approach to our God, and Jesus has already provided the eternal forgiveness of our sins and given us eternal life. As Peter said in: **Joh 6:68-69; 68 "Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God."** We have no other place to go, nor to place our trust.

2 "O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee; 3 But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight."

King David tells us: The Holy Spirit of God lives in me. He acknowledges publicly his faith and trust in God.

Recognizing that God is perfect and there is nothing he, or we, can do to add to God's excellency, King David says to God: I will use the goodness you have given to me to help thy people here on the earth. I will give my assistance to those who are doing their very best to worship you in Spirit and Truth, for it delighteth my soul to be in divine communion and fellowship with thee and thy people.

This scripture says the same thing to us. We cannot add to the excellency of God in any way. We can, however, be good and kind to one another in our walks as a Christian in this life. I believe that we can see that David is saying to us what Jesus says to us in: **Mt 22:37-40; 37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."** How is the law fulfilled? If we love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind, and our neighbor as ourselves: we are utilizing the goodness God has given us, to the glory of God's name, and distributing to the fellowship of the saints. David is saying: because you have helped me, and I cannot help you in return, I will help those that you love, which is loving thy neighbor as thyself.

4 "Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips."

King David understands that those who worship "little g" gods are heaping sorrows to themselves. King David understands that the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal. King David tells us that he will not partake in their offerings, and he will not even make mention of the names, of the "little g gods." This is directly in accordance with "**thus saith the Lord,**" seen in: **Ex 23:13 "And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth."** The same should be true in our walks and talks as a Child of God. Why should we not mention the names of "little g" gods? If we mention the name of the "little g gods," in any manner, other than to point out they are abominable to God, then we are raising the "little g gods" to a plain of exaltation, and they have become idols to us.

5 "The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot."

"**The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance**" God indwelt me with His Holy Spirit when Samuel anointed me to be King over Israel. His Holy presence has remained with me and will continue with me.

"and of my cup" David tells us that God is the keeper of my soul and body. All that I have: I owe to God's goodness and kindness to me, and God is the one who keeps me safe.

6 "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage."

Lines means measure, wherefore, we understand that David is telling us: the measure of God's grace to me has made my habitations very pleasant. David says that I have a goodly heritage, because it is filled with the promise of the Messiah coming through my lineage, and after death of this mortal body, I shall be resurrected by Jesus Christ and ever be with the Lord.

This is a promise that every child of God can claim, and it should bring great peace and comfort to our hearts, minds, and souls, to know that we will be in the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ. We have received a goodly heritage, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and King.

7 I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons."

David says: I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel, which is resolve of the will to do as commanded by God. David says: my reins instruct me in the night seasons. Reins means the essential inward parts. This tells us that David is indwelt with the Holy Spirit of God in his mind and heart, and when the times are dark and it seems that everything will fall apart, the Holy Spirit instructs him to hold fast to the Lord, assuring him that whatever man may do to him, it will come out right in the end, because he is a chosen Child of God. God says the same thing to you and me today.

8 ¶ "I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved."

David tells us that he has set God, and God's commandments, before his self. David declares that God is his possessor, and as possessor of his mind, body, and soul: David shall not be moved from worshipping and following God. We should be able to make this same application to our Christian lives. We should have the same confidence. Through the Holy Spirit power in us, we can come boldly to the Lord in prayer and thanksgiving.

"because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." Where is Jesus today? He is on the throne of God at the right hand of the Father God. Where are we today? In the Hand of Jesus, who is on the throne on the right hand of God. Where is Jesus's hand? In the hand of God the Father, as seen in: **Joh 10:27-30; 27 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and my Father are one."** This is why David would not be moved from serving the Lord, and why he believed that he would not be moved from that position. The same is true for us today because our steadfastness of faith is rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ.

9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope."

David tells us that because he knows that he is a child of God, he is secure in God's salvation, and his heart is glad. The Holy Spirit within him is his glory and it rejoices. He further declares; though I die in body and lose my mortality; in the grave my body shall rest in hope, awaiting the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ.

10 "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

"For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell;" King David understood that his soul would not be in hell (hell meaning captive to eternal death, nor in the grave) while his body slept. David understood that his soul would rise to be with God in heaven. We have the same belief and understanding.

"neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." God had revealed to David that the Messiah would come to earth in a body of flesh, and that mortal body would die a mortal death and be put in a grave. David also prophetically saw that the sinless body of Jesus would not see corruption but understood that Jesus would be raised from the dead in a glorified body.

We know this to be true because of what we read in the New Testament in: **Ac 2:25-31; 25 "For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: 26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: 27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."**

28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. 29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day. 30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption." Isn't it amazing at the things that God revealed to the Old Testament saints?

11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

David understood; the blessing of being identified as a child of God, on earth, which was to be shown the path that leads to eternal life, which is filled with the presence of God by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which yields pleasures all the days of his mortal life. We know David understood this from:

- **1Sa 16:13 "Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward."** God tells us here that the Holy Spirit was with David all the days of his life, from this time forward.
- **Ps 51:12 "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."** When David fell in transgression against God, and God was punishing him for his transgression here in time, David realized that he had lost the joy of the blessings of God. Under the judicial wrath of God, in the great bowels of despair, David cried out to God to restore the joy of God's salvation to him. David understood that without that joy in his life, all would be lost that was precious to him.

David also understood that the resurrection, of the dead in Christ, was to an eternity filled with the pleasure of being in the presence of Jesus Christ.

Wherefore, if God could reveal to King David the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ to eternal life in Christ; we should not be surprised, or doubtful, of this same revelation to us today. After all, we have the fulfilled prophesy of this eternal resurrection demonstrated by Jesus, who was the first to be eternally resurrected, seen in: **1Co 15:20 "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."** Since Jesus is the first body to be resurrected from the dead in a glorified, immortal, body, and the first such resurrected body to ascend to the eternal heaven, he has established a way that all of God's people may follow in the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ.

Wherefore, we give thanks and praise to Christ Jesus for being the way, the door, the truth, and the life. We praise God, that Jesus was willing to sacrifice himself on the cross and thereby save all of God's people unto the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ, to an eternity of joyfulness, basking in the glory of our Saviour. Hallelujah! Praise, ye the Lord!