



The Joy of Knowing the Messiah

Psalm 16

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JUST as road signs point us to the ultimate destination, so messianic Psalm 16 points to the ultimate Deliverer, the Messiah! Come on a journey with the present writer and see!

The Psalm spoke of David's testimony in life (and in the face of death) depicted great David's greater Son's triumph over life and death. It reflects a messianic "shadow" as the verses unfold. In Jesus Christ (the Anointed One), this "shadow" is transformed into "Substance" (Cf. Col 2:17), for all the Scriptures "bear witness to Him" (Jn 5:39). Well may we say with Peter as he preached on the Day of Pentecost concerning Psalm 16: it's all about "**Him**"! (Acts 2:25).

Along with Psalms 56-60, Psalm 16 has a uniform title: *A Michtam of David*. Some have understood *michtam* to mean *golden* (KJV), and well it is in terms of the *golden truths* from David's experiences that point ultimately to the Messiah. Others derive another meaning from the Hebrew word: *to impress, or engrave*, the connotation being that the truths of these six psalms are of utmost importance and should be preserved for perpetuity by an *inscription or an engraving*. Thus these six psalms are designated *epigram psalms* (poems).

Combining these two interpretative approaches provides spiritually attuned readers with *golden truths* and *glorious treasures* to enrich, encourage and enjoy – **in Christ!**

I. The LORD – David's Portion in Life!

In verses 1-8 of Psalm 16, David reviewed how he came to know and trust



the LORD. He began with an overall summary of his testimony: "Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust" (vs 1). His simple prayer of faith was that God would "watch over" him (so the Hebrew implies) as he exhibited total dependence on Him.

In verse 2 we see David's exclusive trust in the LORD. He has *no goodness* apart from Him. The story is told of a poor widow in fourteenth century Europe. She had several ill-nourished children who desperately needed nutritious fruit to balance their daily rations of bread and water. Passing by the rich estate of the King one day, the widow looked longingly at the vast vineyards and orchards – all laden with summer fruit. The King's daughter saw her gazing, and approaching her, asked for her story. Deeply touched, the Princess quickly

picked grapes and fruit and gave it to the teary widow who offered her last coins in gratitude. "My Father does not need your coins, he has everything!" the Princess replied. So it was with David (and with all believers), his "goodness (was) *nothing* apart from (the LORD)". He is the all Sufficient One and His goodness (the riches of His glory) are imparted to us in the Messiah and his blessings when once we are reconciled to him by faith! (Eph 1:3; 2:8-10).

Based on his commitment to his LORD, David then described the society of friends with whom he identified (vs 3-4). They were the saints, the godly ones of his people, who followed the LORD (Cf. Ex 19:6). As for the ungodly who "hasten after other gods", David would not even mention them but rather affirmed their experiences to "multiplied sorrows"! (vs 4).



How true this is; the lot of the ungodly is so often the way of sorrow, grief and death as Judas Iscariot so graphically illustrated!

Rejoicingly, David next extolled the LORD for His blessings (vs 5-6): “O LORD, You are **the portion** of my **inheritance** and **my cup**” (vs 5a, *emphases added*). The picture language he used here is rich and beautiful. The *portion* carries the idea of *something weighed out; a division or ration apportioned to someone* (as in food/goods). By implication, the thought is of a ‘lot’ of land (cf. vs 5c). The “inheritance” is by definition, “an allotment (of land)”. When David referred to “my cup”, he completes the picture of all the LORD is to him and how all sufficient are His all embracing blessings! The Hebrew word comes from a root that means “to hold together” (as in a cup or container). In context here, it adds to the composite idea of the “portion”, the “inheritance” and the next-mentioned word “lot” (verse 5d), by highlighting the all encompassing boundaries (cf. “the lines have fallen to me in pleasant places” vs 6a) of His LORD’s all sufficient blessings! Everything David needs now and in the future is sourced **in Him** – the Messiah! Are not the hymn writer’s words so true?

*All that I need is in Jesus,
He satisfies, joy He supplies;
Life would be worthless without Him,
All things in Jesus I find!*

It was said of the late King George VI, that his personal faith in the LORD was strengthened by his regular attendance whenever he could at a Brethren Assembly Bible Study and Prayer meeting. On one occasion, the King visited Canada and on the West Coast of that vast land, was asked to attend an official meeting at which one of the First Nation Chiefs would be present and would sing for him. Everyone waited expectantly as the Chief came to sing what all thought would be one of his people’s traditional songs. How shocked they were when Chief Whitefeather opened his mouth and with a rich, melodious, baritone voice he sang:

*I’d rather have Jesus than silver or gold
I’d rather be His than have riches untold;
I’d rather have Jesus than houses or land
I’d rather be led by His nail-pierced hand –
Than to be the king of a vast domain,
And be held in sin’s dead sway;
I’d rather have Jesus than anything,
This world affords today!*

Two more verses followed. The stunned officials were silent, wondering what the King would do. The King got up, walked across to the Chief and shaking his hand said: “And so would I!”

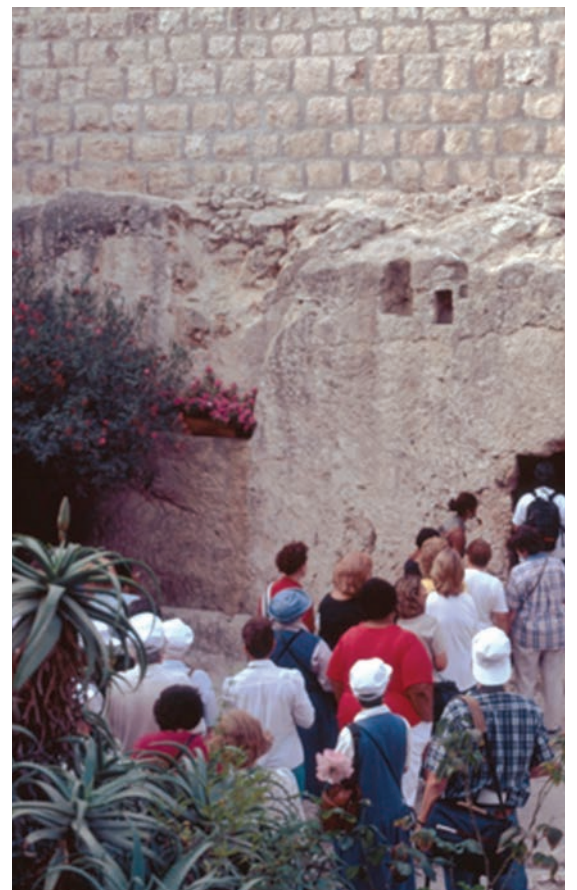
Jewish or gentile friend, how about you?

But David had more insights to share: He was *guided* by God (vs 7); he was *guarded* by God (vs 8); and as he went on to show, he was *gladdened* by God (vs 9), in this life and with prospect of the next!

No wonder the result of this wonderful and full life replete with all the Lord’s blessings was a song of praise from his grateful heart, (vs 7-8): “I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel” (vs 7a). In this doxology, David spoke well of i.e. “bless” his all sufficient LORD because He instructed his “heart” (literally, *kidneys!*) by night and, by implication, by day. He can testify to this because he has “set the LORD always before (him)” and “He is at (his) right hand (for evermore)” (vs 8b,11). David would never be shaken (cf. Ps 15:5b) from his walk of integrity and stability so long as he reckoned on the LORD’s powerful

strength described as being at his right hand. That the later King did not do this relative to Bathsheba (2 Sam 11:1-4ff) does not abrogate nor nullify the spiritual truth of David’s statement, even though through his sinful attitude and actions, he blatantly denied it.

The names David used for God in this first section of Psalm 16 are freighted with significant meaning. They are ‘Ei’ – *God*,



(vs 1); ‘Elohim’, God – Adonai, Master, (vs 4) and ‘YHWH’ – Yahweh, LORD (vs 5). For David, the God whom he trusted, loved, praised and served was the One whom he worshipped as his **Maker** (vs 1), his **Mediator** (vs 4) and **sovereign Master** (vs 5). Is He the same to you?

II. The LORD – **David’s Preserver in Death!**

In the second part of Psalm 16, David spoke of his LORD as the One who would preserve him in the face of death (vs. 9-11). The text reads:

Vs9 – *Therefore my heart is glad,
and my glory rejoices.*

My flesh also rests in hope

Vs10 – *For You will not leave my soul
in Sheol*

*Nor will You allow Your Holy One to
see corruption*

Vs11 – *You will show me the path of life;*

In Your presence is fullness of joy;

*At Your right hand are pleasures
for evermore.*



In these telling words, David testified of his glad confidence in the LORD even in the face of death. He had every reason to rejoice – even though he may die physically, his flesh would rest (literally: *dwelt securely*) in hope (vs 9). He went on to give the reason for his gladness: God would not leave his “soul” (Hebrew: *nephesh*) in “Sheol” (the abode of the departed [spirits]) – verse 10.

Though details of all that this would entail may not have been fully comprehended

by David, the basic truth certainly captivated his attention and was a present reality for him.

Then with messianic connotations he (prophetically) identified God’s Holy One would not see (Literally, *undergo*) corruption (vs 11). Godly as David was as “the man after God’s own heart” (Acts 13:22), this was not a ‘selfie’ picture of himself and God in frame! Later revelation in Scripture shows unquestionably that this title referred to none other than the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:25-26; 13:35-37). Yes, David would be “**delivered** from death”, but the One of whom this whole passage spoke would be “**resurrected** from death” (Acts 2:25-28; 4:10; Rom 1:3-4; 1 Cor 15:1-58 etc). Thus David testified of his assurance that death posed no threat to him because God, in grace, would show him “the path of life” (vs 11). That path would be just as he had experienced in life, a path of God’s blessing and fellowship. This experiential blessing and fellowship could not, and would not be interrupted by death and the grave. David’s LORD was his “preserver” – even in the face of death, whenever that time would come!

As believers, with the full revelation of God on these matters in His Word, we know that:

- Jesus the Messiah conquered the grave (Lk 24:6; 1 Cor 15:20)
- His resurrection was real and attested by many witnesses (1 Cor 15:8-10)
- Paul lived and ministered in the reality of it (2 Cor 5:8; Phil 1:21-23)
- The same power of the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, is the power that “quickened us who were dead in trespasses and sins” and raised us to “new life in Him” (Eph 1:19-20ff; 2:1-10; Gal 2:20; Rom 5:10; 6-8)

While the last verse of Psalm 16 spoke of “fullness of joy” in God’s presence, and “at (His) right hand are pleasures for evermore”, we are not told of

what those blessings entail. They were yet future to David, and the same applies to us. We can wait confidently, however, that when “faith turns to sight” and His promises are realized, we will not be disappointed! It’s like the present writer being away on ministry and his special needs son eagerly waiting his return with a present. Cameron keeps asking his mother: “What will it be?” Day after day, he repeats the same question, to which comes a loving reply: “You’ll just have to wait and see!”

Are you waiting for the LORD like that? Did you ever thank Him for dying for you and being your eternal “Preserver” like David found Him to be, and as thousands of other believers have done since then? You will not be disappointed, now or in the future!

III. The LORD – **God’s Provision for Life & Death!**

We trust this study has truly blessed your heart with its “golden truths” and its “glorious treasures”. Hopefully your soul has been enriched, your spirit has been encouraged and your eternal outlook one of great enjoyment!

If we were to boil the Psalm down to its essential message, we would have to again echo the summary words of David in verse 1: “Preserve me, O God, **for in You I put my trust**”. That trust was in a never failing LORD who was his “portion” and who by His faithfulness, “preserved” (watched over) the king in life and as he eventually would come face to face with death. This gave him unbounded confidence and assurance – now and for all eternity!

Are you assured you are also eternally “watched over” or “preserved” by Jesus Christ, because of His death, burial and resurrection? This gospel message is not only “good news” (1 Cor 15:2-3), it is **THE BEST NEWS** you will ever hear! What an incredible gift and **provision** available to “whosoever will may come” and receive it, right now!

CONFERENCE MUSINGS ...

"HELLO, it's so nice to finally meet you!" This was the extended greeting that was repeated many times throughout the recently held FOI Perth Conference (as well as at the Sydney Conference), as I connected with so many of our FOI subscribers and supporters. Many great conversations have taken place over the telephone in the past six years and to at last put a face to the voice was indeed special. Thank you to those dear friends who came and introduced themselves to me.

The weeks leading up to the conferences was especially busy and also very exciting as together, the team planned and prepared for the visit of our special guests from Israel, Meno Kalisher and his wife Anat.

How blessed are we to have heard Meno share first hand about life and ministry in Jerusalem and especially the work generating from Jerusalem Assembly, House of Redemption, where Meno is the Senior Pastor. To sit under his teaching as he expounded the scriptures was inspiring! Special to note, was Meno's translation from the Hebrew to English which made the text more simple and easy to understand!

From an organizing perspective, the team was pleased with how these major events unfolded. The Perth Friday night dinner was something special as invited guests enjoyed a delicious kosher meal in an intimate setting decorated by Lorene Vigus. It would be remiss of me not to comment on the beautiful cake decorated with the

Israeli flag (all edible!) which Lorene had baked and decorated. It not only looked good but tasted superb!

Saturday morning saw a line up of people eagerly waiting at 8:30am to register and receive their bag of free FOI resources which included extensive conference notes. As well as Meno Kalisher, the other speakers at the Perth conference included Pastor Colin Lituri, Senior Pastor of the host church, Woodvale Baptist, Dr Deane Woods, Kevin Vigus, Ben Szumskyj. Each speaker gave a biblical perspective of the place of Israel in God's plan for His chosen people and nation.

Morning and afternoon teas, together with lunch, was enjoyed by all the participants and gave further opportunity for fellowship and to browse the extensive FOI book/resources table. Many positive comments pertaining to the conference were exchanged and it was especially gratifying to hear some ask, **"When is the next conference?"** As the FOI Team met together with Meno and Anat for a debrief and prayer time, it became obvious that the Lord had already laid on each of our hearts the desire to plan towards another conference, possibly in two years time, God willing. Meno and Anat both expressed how much they loved being in Australia and would like to be invited to return. Stay tuned and plan to be at the next FOI Australia Prophecy Conference!

Many people from the local church showed a willingness to help out where needed – I thank you so much! I especially express

"IT'S so great to see you!" How often I heard these words, and said them, at the recent conference in Sydney when meeting customers that until then I had only talked with on the phone. Imagine what heaven will be like, greeting friends, both old and new!! What a joy it is to know that one day I will meet the rest of our FOI friends – if not on earth, then in heaven. It was clear from the conversations happening between sessions that I wasn't the only one to enjoy the fellowship of others. Conference attendees were clearly

excited to be meeting with like-minded believers while enjoying great teaching, with the conference providing the opportunity to hear Meno Kalisher from Jerusalem along with FOI representatives Dr Deane Woods and Mr Kevin Vigus, and Pastor Ken Lesta of Emmanuel Baptist Church – what a weekend! Please pray with us as we plan future conferences, and pray too that God will make it possible for you to attend and be blessed also. See you there!

Catherine



thanks to my special friends, Alan and Meryl who hosted me while in Perth (my first visit to this 'State of excitement') and who helped out in so many ways throughout the conference. May the Lord abundantly bless and keep you as you serve Him.

With a grateful heart,

Sue



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