

Psalm 16

¹ Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing."

³ As for the saints who are in the land,

they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight.

⁴ The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods.

I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips.

⁵ LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup;

you have made my lot secure.

⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;

surely I have a delightful inheritance.

⁷ I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

⁸ I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand,

I will not be shaken.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

my body also will rest secure,

¹⁰ because you will not abandon me to the grave,

nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

¹¹ You have made known to me the path of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence,

with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

You Will Fill Me with Joy and Peace in your Presence

1. Your Holy One Will not See Decay

2. The Boundaries Lines Have Fallen for Me in Pleasant Places

The words of the coming Messiah were breathed out by David a thousand years before they would be fully realized. And just as promised the Holy One did not see decay, but he rose and now all those who believe in Jesus can speak with confidence of dwelling with the Lord in peace and the security of God's kingdom of heaven.

Psalm 16 is a Messianic Psalm that is known for its promise of the resurrection of the Christ. David may be credited as the author and the one who put it to tune and paper but it is the Messiah's voice. We know that to be true for a number of reasons, including Peter's detailed explanation in Acts chapter 2. But from the context, we can see it already here in the text of the Psalm. David did not always set the Lord before him. He lost sight of God's righteous ways, he sinned greatly. Scripture records for us his most famous exploits and also his most famous sins. The one who slayed Goliath, could not tame his own lusts. The one who expanded Israel's borders to their historic limit could not

conquer temptation. To the list of adultery, deception, murder, add countless other iniquities and the scales were clearly tipped against David. David was a great king, he was a hero of Biblical proportions, but he was a sinner, just like all of us. As a sinner he was born in sin, he lived in sin, and therefore death came for him just as death comes for us all. David would die and his body would return to the dust from which God formed us.

But in this prayer, we are reminded of the living hope that God gives to his people through faith in the Messiah. David speaks as one made holy by God. David speaks of eternal treasures that he would enjoy. He speaks of a kingdom that will not end with borders that blissfully fall where God sees fit. This prayer of the Messiah becomes David's because of the gracious arrangement that God would make, and he would stamp this plan with his signet of approval when the seal of the tomb was broken.

The Holy One please the Father and therefore he would not see decay. Therefore, in the Messiah's substitutionary righteousness sinners are declared holy, in his sacrificial death they are proclaimed forgiven, and through his glorious resurrection we are assured that the King's ransom has been paid and the inheritance of God is poured out upon all those who believe. The glories of heaven, the joy of being in the Lord's presence and eternal pleasures held safely for us at God's right hand. These are the treasures that Christ has won and has stored up for those who are blessed to dwell in his kingdom, and by God's gift of faith that includes you and me.

Oh, how the boundaries have fallen for us in pleasant places. We who should have been shut out and walled off from any blessing of God are instead welcomed into his presence because of the death and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah! Castoffs are made citizens of heaven, not because of anything that we have done, but because of his mercy and grace, because of his cross and empty tomb. Like David, we are those who cannot control our lusts. We lie. We deceive. We turn our focus from God and as we try to navigate the road of life by our own wit and power. But in our sinfulness, we diverge from God's will and go our own way. We lack trust in God. We act on our sinful instincts. We follow the ways of our sinful nature and chase after the gods of the day. We put our trust in bank accounts and retirement funds. We wrap up our joy in leisure and experience. We pour out our offerings, our time, ourselves to everyday idols that prove powerless to bring us lasting treasures. And yet we put them out in front of our God. We lean on them only to have such things crumble under us. Where are we to turn when all these are idols of materialism and wealth and health and false security are taken away? -- -- Where are we to turn when all of that slowly comes back? --- Do we put our trust in God for now, until those things return and then we go back to normal? Or can we take this moment to see what is truly important and ultimately reliable? God is our refuge. He is the one who will not disappoint us. He alone is faithful and true. He is the one who supplies us with lasting treasure, with true security, with eternal, endless, and unlimited joy for he has brought us into the kingdom of the Son that he loves.

And so in his mercy, the Savior comes and he calls us to us. Peace be with you. Even though he points out our sin and our lack of faith he does not leave us crushed and without hope. He announces that our sins are forgiven. Feel his gracious breath on your face as he speaks those words of peace. Our Redeemer is the Lord of life who changes our

course and saves us from being thrown out of God's presence forever and instead he gives us a place in his heavenly kingdom.

The perfect life that he carried out in David's place, in my place, in your place, makes us holy ones. We were so precious to him that he would endure humiliation and suffering and unparalleled agony so that multitudes of sinners would be spared from the punishment that our sins deserved. This was his portion, and this was his cup. This was the mission that the Father had sent him on, and the Son trusted perfectly in the Father. He was and still is fully devoted to the care and the service of God's holy people. ***As for the saints who are in the land, that are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight.*** It was his delight to take care of our greatest need, he will certainly take care of his holy and precious people now and always.

And so when we are troubled look at his love and there he also gives you peace. Consider how much he loves you. Look at how much he loves his heavenly Father. Even in the dark night of turmoil and agony as he faced the nightmare scenario in the Garden of Gethsemane he would show love and commitment to us. Filled with agony and sorrow in the Garden, betrayed by his friend, facing desertion from his disciples; injustice and hatred stalking him, wickedness and sheer brutality would soon surround him, yet he knew that his Father had a plan and purpose. And so he was committed to the Lord. He was committed to us and so he would call out to his Father, trust in his instruction, and then he would drink the cup of suffering placed before him. He would welcome his portion and his lot, for this was the Lord's will. With agony he cried out in the darkness of separation on Golgotha, but then knowing all was completed he cried out, "It is finished." And then with words bitter with agony yet sweet with confidence, he would commit his spirit into his Father's hands, knowing the rest of the Father's plan.

Therefore, my heart is glad, and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. According to God's promised plan, on the third day, Jesus would rise from the grave. These are not David's words, but they became his through the work of the Messiah. They would become ours through the work of our Savior. The Holy One rises to life as the firstfruits of the resurrection, and therefore we will rise from the dead, and we will live and reign with him, body and soul, in the glories of heaven for all eternity.

And so it is that the Lord was pleased with the life he lived and laid down for you. As he raised up his Son from the grave and granted him his eternal inheritance, we know that those same blessings are ours through faith in our living Redeemer. We shall live in his peace and even when death comes near. By faith, we know that we will rest secure, because he will not abandon us to the grave, but he will raise us to joys eternal.

The one forsaken and cut out of God's will on the cross is raised from the dead and given back the status of Sonship that is rightfully his. And this is not just any ordinary sonship but his Father is the Almighty God, and thus he inherits a kingdom that will have no end. From the river to the ends of the earth, and this kingdom will be filled with eternal blessings - peace, and joy, and bliss far beyond the pleasures of this world. *You will bless me with eternal pleasures at your right hand.* This is the inheritance given by the Father as he is pleased with his Son. This is the inheritance and the blessings given to those who are claimed as his sons and daughters by the gift of faith.

Right now we are probably getting a little bit agitated about our boundaries. Those walls seem to be pressing in a bit, and we might even feel forgotten and cut off and kept from the freedoms that we enjoy. We might also be feeling the pinch of financial uncertainties and declining investments, questions about our future, our health, and what we will be handed down to future generations. But God reminds us of the kingdom that is ours through Christ and the blessings that cannot be taken away. An inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade, is kept safe for us and for our children at his side. Our Lord cares so much for you and me that He became poor so that we might have eternal riches. Even though we are a bit locked in we are free from sin and guilt and shame. In Christ we are free. We are even free from the fear of death and hell for our Redeemer lives. In Christ, we will dwell in the presence of God, in the endless and eternal realms of heaven. In Christ, we will live in the abundance of peace and freedom and goodness that is heaven. And that peace is already ours. To those locked behind closed doors due to the fear of death, he says. ***Peace be with you.***

As he comes to the disciples notice that he does not take the danger away, nor does he suddenly remove them from it, but in his wisdom and goodness, he gives them words of reassurance and peace. He gives them his Word of forgiveness and love. He gives them His Spirit. He would be their refuge. He would be their peace.

Doubt and fear may still surround us, but we can rest secure in the eternal blessings that the Lord has given us. The Lord is your refuge. Whatever your lot in life, whatever cup has been placed before you, however hard the road has become because of this unexpected detour, you have peace in knowing that you are held firmly in the Father's care. Through faith in Christ, our Holy One raised from the dead we have the confidence that we are members of Christ kingdom. You are sons and daughters of the King. You are saints and people made holy and the Lord delights in you. We are citizens of heaven, who live in the peace that Christ brings, and one day we will be surrounded by the eternal pleasures of our Lord's heavenly kingdom. This is our inheritance. And we will dwell in his peace now and forever for the Lord is our refuge.

As this was the prayer of the Messiah, it is now also our prayer through God's benevolent gift of faith. ***Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge... You fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand....*** ⁶ ***The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely, I have a delightful inheritance.***

And so in this time of uncertainty, in this time of limitation, and boundaries, in this time of health and financial crisis, know that God has brought you into his kingdom and the boundless treasures of heaven are stored up and kept safe in heaven for you. Know that you are precious to God and you are shielded by God's gift of faith until the Lord brings you to your eternal home. *Oh, the boundary lines of Christ's kingdom have fallen in pleasant places* for you and for me, for in his grace, he comes near as he speaks to us with words of comfort and joy. To you who are behind closed doors, your living Lord speaks words that chase away your doubt and fear, as he says to you. ***Peace be with you.*** Amen.