

# The Spectacle of Victory

Psalm 16

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A Messianic psalm is one that has to do with Jesus the Messiah. Psalm 16 is all about joy. God expects His people to experience genuine joy in Him (Deut. 28:45-47). While it is important to have humble gratitude, it is also important to have the fullness of joy – to brim over with delight and happiness. Psalm 16 was written by king David and has no instruction or command. It is a testimony of him experiencing the fullness of joy.

## 3 Parts to the Joyful Spectacle of Psalm 16

### **I. Desperation (v1)**

The psalm begins with a cry for help (v1). David was being pursued by wicked enemies, and his life was in danger. He was in a place of fear, worry, and despair. The starting point of the fullness of joy is often despair. Commit your despair to God. Let Him use your despair to bring about the fullness of joy! Psalm 16 begins with despair and leads into a spectacular journey to the promise of the fullness of joy.

### **II. Decision (vv2-8)**

In his despair, David was faced with a choice to either wait upon God or turn to other gods to save him. While we might not be tempted to turn to other gods, our temptation in the individualistic culture today is to turn to ourselves. David has six considerations in his decision making:

#### **1. What is good for me?**

v2 – God was David's ultimate good.

#### **2. Who are the people I want close to me?**

v3 – David wanted to keep the delightful people of God close.

#### **3. What would decrease my sorrows?**

v4a – *"Multiplied gods only bring multiplied sorrows."*

#### **4. Who sustains me today?**

v5a – God was David's source of abundant, daily sustenance (Ps. 34:8a; 23:5).

#### **5. Who determines my inheritance tomorrow?**

vv5b-6 – David uses inheritance language from the days of Moses and Joshua. God determined David's inheritance. God was David's inheritance (Deut. 18:1-2)!

#### **6. Who gives me wisdom?**

v7 – It is God who instructs David through the meditation of his heart.

David's six considerations are all based on the pursuit of joy (v8). David's despair had turned into confidence.

### **III. Deliverance (vv9-11)**

As David made his decision, there was gladness of heart (v9). David's joy came because he was certain of God's deliverance (v10). As David set God at his right hand, he also found himself at the right hand of God, abundant with the fullness of joy (v11).

The apostle Peter quoted Psalm 16 (Acts 2:27) and presented a problem (Acts 2:29), which finds its explanation in Psalm 16 being prophetic and about the Messiah that was to come: Jesus Christ (Acts 2:30-32). Psalm 16 is a psalm of the Saviour. It foretells Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

For the joy that was set before Him, Jesus submitted to the Father's plan for Him, and endured the cross (Heb. 12:2). God did not abandon Jesus to the grave or leave His body to corruption. God led Jesus to the path of life – He raised Him back to life and sat Him at His right hand to forever bask in the fullness of joy. The spectacle of Psalm 16 is the spectacle of the victory of Jesus Christ upon the cross.

Jesus invites us to come to Him with our despair and trade it in for the fullness of joy. The fullness of joy is not at the right hand of a miracle or in the presence of a divine. The fullness of joy is God Himself! God is our inheritance and joy. We have a foretaste of this joy through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14).