

Sunday, April 9, 2023 | Jesus in the Psalms

Week 4 | Psalm 19 | "The Everlasting Refuge"

Pastor Bob started our present series, Jesus in the Psalms, a couple weeks ago. And so far, he's expertly shown how the Lord can be seen in both Psalm 23 and Psalm 118.

Last week, we unpacked the 22nd Psalm. And, as we saw, much of what occurred the day that Jesus was crucified had been foretold in that very psalm. Interestingly, all four Gospel writers—who clearly wanted to ensure that the parallelism between Psalm 22 and the Passion would not be lost—made **five** separate allusions to that passage, often directly quoting from it. And so, through the lens of Psalm 22, we learned **five** ways that Jesus was portrayed by the Poet of poets, King David.

Today, we'll be turning to Psalm 16. And, as well see, this Psalm will be quoted at a pivotal point in the church's history in Acts 2. In fact, it will be one of three passages that convinced over 5,000 people that Jesus was the Messiah. However, before we can understand its implications in the N.T., we must first understand its implications in the O.T. Because while there is an excellent truth embedded in this Psalm, it does not only hold a promise for Christians, but for all saints of God, past, present, and future.

David shows us that the Lord is three things in our life:

i. **The Lord is our refuge in life (vs. 1-4).**

READ: Psalm 16:1-4 (ESV)

A Miktam of David.

¹ **Preserve** me, O God, for in you I take **refuge**. ² I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have **no** good apart from you." ³ As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my **delight**. ⁴ The sorrows of those who run after another god shall **multiply**; their drink offerings of blood I will **not** pour out or take their names on my lips.

That David would ask God to "preserve" him and that he would "take refuge" in God assumes that, when the Israelite King wrote this, he must've felt some insecurity.¹ What that could've been, we cannot know for sure. However, we need not know the specifics to relate to a man

¹ Goldingay, John, *Psalms*, Volume 1: Psalms 1-41, The Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms, (Grand Rapids, MI; Baker Academic, 2006), p. 229.

who felt anxiety, fear, and risk in this life, so he sought reassurance from God. Who among us has not prayed, "Lord, I am scared. Protect me!"

To prove that he does, in fact, make God his refuge, David then points out three things: he has no good apart from God, he delights in the "excellent ones," and he will not worship other gods.

ii. **The Lord is our ration in life (vs. 5-8).**

READ: Psalm 16:5-8 (ESV)

⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. ⁶ The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. ⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. ⁸ I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

So much has been said about the life to come for those who make Jesus their Lord and Savior. And, rightly so. However, it should not be overlooked that God does not give us only life later but now. He is our ration in this life right now. As David said, Yahweh was his "chosen portion," "cup," and "lot" in life. The Israelite King put all his eggs in one basket, which was the Lord.

And, like with point one, because David made the Lord his ration in life, there were three consequences to that decision. First, the King concluded that the borderlines had "fallen" into "pleasant places" such that he could say that his "inheritance" was "beautiful." Second, the Lord gives David "counsel" both during the day and night. His kidneys, guts, "heart," or insides "instruct" him in the way of the Lord. And, lastly, because God is his ration in life, the Lord's presence is near to David. God is literally at his right hand, making it so that he does not shake, totter, or move. The Poet king knows he will not stumble when the Lord is near.

iii. **The Lord is our rescue in death (vs. 9-11).**

READ: Psalm 16:9-11 (ESV)

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.
¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.
¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

"Sheol" refers to the grave, also thought of as hell, and "corruption" refers to decay and total isolation, also thought of as the "pit." This means that, for David, his confidence in the Lord

during life was so strong that, even in death, he would say that his “heart is glad” that his “whole being rejoices” and that his very flesh “dwells secure.” That, despite death, God made known to David the “path of life,” a path that is to be found in God’s “presence” at his “right hand” where “joy” is in its fullest state and “pleasures” do not end. Here, David’s confidence is so strong that he concludes that there must be an afterlife and, in even that state, the Lord will preserve his life. He knows that he will be rescued even if he should die. “The psalmist conceives of life in fellowship with God both in this world and beyond.”²

“But how,” might you ask, “did David have such a hope for security, joy, and pleasures that last for all time?” Because, dear Christian, when David spoke here, he was talking about the hope of Jesus Christ.

READ: Acts 2:22-32 (ESV)

²² “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, “I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹ “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne,³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

How could David, who knew he was going to die (cf. 2 Sam. 7:12–13), write in Psalm 16:10 that he believed that God would not “abandon [his] soul to Sheol or let your holy one see corruption”? Because, as a prophet, the Poet King foresaw, in some sense, the resurrection of Jesus Christ (cf. Ac. 2:29-32). Thus, David, like all Christians today, understood that if the

² VanGemeren, Willem A., *Psalms*, The Expositors Bible Commentary, Revised Edition, Volume 5, (Grand Rapids, MI; Zondervan Academic, 2008), p. 192.

Messiah—his descendant—conquered death, so, too, would he (cf. Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:22–23; 1 Thess. 4:16). For the promises that we're for David's line we're also for David just as Christians share in the inheritance of Christ.

We like to think of Easter as a Christian holiday. And, rightly so, as it has sustained the hearts of Christians for the past 2,000 years. But let us not overlook that because the resurrection was an O.T. prophecy fulfilled in the N.T. Easter has been securing the hearts of saints of every age, even those who lived and died centuries before the time the Christ.

King David looked forward to the resurrection declaring, “I shall not be shaken” (Psa. 16:8), just like we look back to the day that Jesus rose from the grave and sing, “Because He lives...I can face tomorrow...All fear is gone...And life is worth the living...Just because He lives.”

No greater truth can quiet a restless heart, soothe an anxious mind, or steady a troubled soul quite like Easter.

So, what's the takeaway?

If the Lord is your everlasting refuge, he will preserve you both in life and death.

READ: Philippians 1:21 (ESV)

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Video Description

Jesus in the Psalms | Week 4 | “The Everlasting Stronghold”

TEXT: Psalm 16

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Pastor's manuscript can be found here: