

Psalm 16 is considered to be a Miktam. While the superscription is given at the beginning of the Psalm, the meaning is uncertain. At best, it carries the connotation that the Psalm is perhaps musical, possibly derived from the verb “to cover”. Regardless, this Psalm, written by David, gives his perspective upon facing troubles that necessitate a refuge or shelter from the situation he faces. His hope in the midst of trouble gives the reader perspective and great encouragement.

Psalm 16

Taking

Refuge

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Life will deliver a variety of storms as we navigate our days. Sometimes these storms come to us unexpectedly, vicious and destructive. Other times, due to circumstances, we can see their approach and prepare. Then there are those storms we invite, bringing struggle and peril upon ourselves because of sinful decisions. Through it all, we can expect to encounter “storms” that require a response, one of which may be to seek a refuge.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHAT is one “storm” you’ve recently faced, or are currently in the midst of?

WHEN you consider recent storms, **ARE** they scenarios you helped create (perhaps because of sin), or are they due more to circumstances allowed by God?

HOW do you find yourself tempted to seek refuge in other “gods” when you face difficult circumstances?

WHERE do you find yourself going to escape the “storms” of life (alcohol, entertainment, pornography, etc.)?

WHAT does God offer His children in the midst of all the difficulties life may present?

Psalm 16

Taking Refuge

Read Psalm 16

OBSERVATION

In vs. 1, what does David request?

What contrast does David make in vs. 2-4?

According to vs. 5-8, what has David received from the Lord?

Where is the Lord, according to vs. 8, and how does this affect David's outlook?

What is the "connecting word" that begins vs. 9, and what is true in vs. 9 because of what comes before it in vs. 5-8?

In verse 10, what does David say he will not see, and *why*?

As the Psalm concludes in vs. 11, what do you observe to be the three truth statements given?

INTERPRETATION

As the Psalm begins, why does it appear that David is in need of a refuge?

As you consider the contrast David makes in vs. 2-4, what does David say he will not participate in, and why is this decision crucial? Consider Numbers 4:5-10 for insight.

As you consider David's perspective amidst the "storm" he faces, where does his perspective lean (vs. 6)? How does this shape his attitude in regards to his circumstances?

What is the significance of the Lord's position to David in vs. 8? Consider Psalm 110:1 and Ephesians 1:19-21 for insight.

How does the LORD's position affect David's outlook on his circumstances?

What is Sheol? See Job 14:13-15 and Psalm 49:15. Why does David's confidence in the LORD's protection from it give cause for hope and joy?

How does Peter use this same Psalm in Acts 2:23-36 to declare the hope of the resurrection?

APPLICATION

Where do you find yourself seeking refuge or shelter in times of life's storms?

How does God offer hope in Christ from these storms, specifically from Psalm 16?