

Psalm 16ⁱⁱⁱ

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *

I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

²All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *

upon those who are noble among the people.

³But those who run after other gods *

shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴Their libations of blood I will not offer, *

nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.

⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; *

it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *

indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; *

my heart teaches me, night after night.

⁸I have set the LORD always before me; *

because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *

my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰For you will not abandon me to the grave, *

nor let your holy one see the Pit.

¹¹You will show me the path of life; *

in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

ⁱⁱⁱ **About the About the Psalm 16**

This song of trust in God seems to be set in a context where some Israelites worship other gods (v. 4). The speaker may be a Levite (vv. 5-6) for, when the lands of Israel were parceled out by lots shaken in a cup, the Levites' allotted inheritance was the cultic service of God. Though the psalm is one of supplication, the petition itself takes only one half of a verse (v. 1). The remainder of the prayer is a meditation on the reasons the psalmist can turn to God in this time of need. Some scholars believe this psalm to be written by a foreigner in Israel, who has put his faith in Israel's God.