

## Psalm 16 – The Resurrected Christ

By Tom Moore

*“I have set Jehovah always before me: Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth; My flesh also shall dwell in safety. For thou wilt not leave my soul to Sheol; Neither wilt thou suffer thy holy one to see corruption. Thou wilt show me the path of life: In thy presence is fulness of joy; In thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore” (Ps. 16:8-11).*

In this historic Psalm we find a dual prophecy. There was a message for the day when the prophecy was given, and that message becomes in a deeper sense a message for a distant day. David wrote of his belief that God would take care of him even beyond the grave, but his words had a much deeper and noteworthy meaning – it was a prophecy of the resurrection of Christ.

Peter quoted Psalm 16:8-11 in the first gospel sermon on the day of Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:25-28), and gives the explanation and significance of the prophecy (Acts 2:29ff). So significant was the resurrection of Christ to the gospel message that Peter used this miraculous and marvelous event as the crowning concluding point to his sermon. So weighty and powerful was this point that those assembled on that day were “pricked in their heart” and cried out “what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37). They realized that the one they had crucified was now raised from the dead and seated on the right hand of God. Peter replied, “Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). “They then that received his word were baptized: and there were added unto them in that day about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41).

The significance of the prophecy and the resurrection of Christ is clearly seen in 1 Corinthians 15. The apostle Paul declared,

“Now I make known unto you brethren, the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye received, wherein also ye stand, by which also ye are saved, if ye hold fast the word which I preached unto you, except ye believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which also I received: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried; and that he hath been raised on the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

“If Christ hath not been raised, then is our preaching vain, your faith also is vain” (1 Cor. 15:14). “If Christ hath not been raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also that are fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most pitiable. But now hath Christ been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of them that are asleep” (1 Cor. 15:17-20).

In this messianic psalm we discover the Son of God’s reliance upon His Father. “I have set Jehovah always before me: Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved” (v. 8). Nothing

would swerve the Lord from His purpose; nothing would prevent Him from fulfilling His Divine purpose, in reference to the salvation of mankind.

We also learn of the Lamb of God's resurrection by His Father. "Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth; My flesh also shall dwell in safety. For thou wilt not leave my soul to Sheol; Neither wilt thou suffer thy holy one to see corruption" (vs. 9-10). Therefore the faithful in Christ have hope of eternal life.

And we see Jesus' reign with His Father. "Thou wilt show me the path of life: In thy presence is fulness of joy; In thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (v. 11). Jesus is now at the right hand of God (Acts 2:33), where He is now preparing us a mansion (Jn. 14:3), and now we await His return with great anticipation and hope. "But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Pt. 3:13).

Remember, "For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" (Rom. 6:5).