

To Know the Path of Life: **שְׁוִיתִי יְהוָה לְנִגְדֵי תָמִיד**  
Psalm 16

<p>1 מִכְתָּם לְדָוִד שְׁמַרְנֵי אֵל כִּי־חָסִיתִי בָךְ : 2 אָמַרְתָּ לַיהוָה אֲדֹנָי אַתָּה טוֹבָתִי בַל־עָלִיד : 3 לְקַדוֹשִׁים אֲשֶׁר־בָּאָרֶץ הַזֶּה וְאֲדִירָיו כָּל־חֲפֻצֵי־בָם : 4 יִרְבּוּ עֲצוּבוֹתֵם אַחֵר מִתְּרוּ בַל־אֶסְפֹּךְ נִסְכֵיכֶם מִדָּם וּבַל־אֶשָּׂא אֶת־שְׁמוֹתֵם עַל־שִׁפְתָי :</p>	<p>A <i>miktam</i> of David. 1 Keep me safe, El, because I take refuge in you. 2 I say to <b>I AM</b>, “You are the Lord; I have <b>no</b> good thing apart from you.” 3 As for the holy ones in the Land, they, —indeed the noble ones—are those in whom is all my delight. 4 Their pains will increase who have acquired another god. I will <b>not</b> pour out to them libations of blood, <b>nor</b> take up their names on my lips.</p>
<p>5 יְהוָה מְנַת־חֶלְקִי וְכוֹסִי אַתָּה תוֹמִיד גּוֹרְלִי : 6 חֲבָלִים נָפְלוּ־לִי בְנֵעָמִים אֶךְ־נִחַלַת שְׁפָרָה עָלַי : 7 אֲבָרֶךְ אֶת־יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר יַעֲצֵנִי אֶךְ־לַיְלֹוֹת יִסְרוּנִי כְלִיּוֹתַי : 8 שְׁוִיתִי יְהוָה לְנִגְדֵי תָמִיד כִּי מִיְמִינִי בַל־אֶמוֹט :</p>	<p>5 <b>I AM</b>, my allotted portion and my cup, you hold my lot. 6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, the inheritance is beautiful to me. 7 I will bless the <b>I AM</b>, who counsels me; indeed, at night my conscience (lit. <i>kidneys</i>) instructs me. 8 I place <b>I AM</b> always before me; because he is at my right hand, I will not be toppled.</p>
<p>9 לָכֵן אֶשְׂמַח לְבִי וַיִּגַּל כְּבוֹדִי אֶךְ־בְּשֵׁרִי יִשְׁכַּן לְבֶטֶח : 10 כִּי לֹא־תַעֲזֹב נַפְשִׁי לְשֵׂאוֹל לֹא־תִתֵּן חַסִּידְךָ לְרָאוֹת שְׁחַת : 11 תוֹדִיעֵנִי אֶרְחַ תַּנִּים שִׁבַע שְׂמֵחוֹת אֶת־פָּנֶיךָ נַעֲמֹוֹת בְּיְמִינֶךָ נִצְחָה :</p>	<p>9 Therefore my heart <b>rejoices</b> and my glory (lit. <i>liver</i>) exults, indeed, my body rests secure, 10 because you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, nor will you allow your devoted one to see corruption. 11 You will make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with <b>joy</b> in your presence, with pleasures at your right hand forever.</p>

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**Psalm 16**

A *miktam* of David.

- 1 Keep me safe, El,  
because I take refuge in you.
- 2 I say to **I AM**, “You are the Lord;  
I have **no** good thing apart from you.”
- 3 As for the holy ones in the Land, they,  
—indeed the noble ones—are those in whom is all my delight.
- 4 Their pains will increase who have acquired another god.  
I will **not** pour out to them libations of blood,  
**nor** take up their names on my lips.

**I. Confession of Trust: Loyalty**

- a. Petition and trust [summarized]
- b. Sole loyalty to I AM
- c. Sole loyalty to the people of I AM
1. Delight in people of I AM
  2. Refusal to join apostates  
(cmp. Psalm 1:1 – *not, nor, nor*)

- 5 **I AM**, my allotted portion and my cup,  
you hold my lot.
- 6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
indeed, the inheritance is beautiful to me.
- 7 I will bless the **I AM**, who counsels me;  
indeed, at night my conscience (lit. *kidneys*) instructs me.
- 8 I place **I AM** always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I will not be toppled.

**II. Cause for Trust: God’s gifts and presence**

- A. Inheritance from I AM
- B. Instruction & protection from I AM
- counsel* at night—>
- >continual *trust*
- >eternal *security*

- 9 Therefore my heart **rejoices** and my glory (lit. *liver*) exults,  
indeed, my body rests secure,
- 10 because you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
nor will you allow your devoted one to see corruption.
- 11 You will make known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with **joy** in your presence,  
with pleasures at your right hand forever.

**III. Ultimate Confidence Beyond the Grave**

- A. Confidence of God’s presence in death  
Result: Ecstatic JOY for a body secure
- B. Confidence of God’s presence after death  
forever more  
Result: Sated with JOY forever

## Refugee, Psalm 16 (Karen Dabaghian)<sup>1</sup>

I often forget that a person who finds refuge in God is, of all things, a refugee – a person fleeing from destruction and loss, and fleeing to a place of new beginnings. It took a few readings of Psalm 16 for me to see the woman on the road, the refugee who sees everything she's clung to go up in smoke. Everything that has defined her life in the present and everything that she has invested in for the future, everything must be left behind. The refugee flees empty-handed; only then can she receive Levi's legacy – God Himself will be her portion.

As I write this poem, I am in one of my too-familiar seasons where I am overcome by loneliness and longing too deep for words. David's psalm this morning created rhetorical space where I could understand – and thus bear – these emotions for the moment. I am the refugee. Those are my bare feet. The promise too is mine, that God Himself will be my portion.

### Refugee

*(Psalm 16)*

Bare feet on a dusty road a threadbare dress that hangs immodestly from her shoulders. She carries all she needs in the palm of her hand a slow smile spreads across her tear-stained face.

Everything up in flames a burnt offering that billows dark smoke heavenward. Old friends rush past in terror burdened by all they carry offerings to a makeshift god.

Surrounded yet alone arms reach with thanks to God who is her portion her land her inheritance. Her dusty feet planted on the bank of the river that flows from the City of God.

Look again!

Bare feet shod in peace dress white as snow cascades from her shoulders to the ground. Her face radiant beneath the whisper of a veil she knows he comes for her.

The refugee the bride,  
the dusty road the  
threshold  
of eternity.

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<sup>1</sup> Karen Dabaghian, *A Travelogue of the Interior, Finding Your Voice and God's Heart in the Psalms* (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2014), 266-67.