

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

#10 – “YAHWEH-Tsidkenu: The LORD Our Righteousness”

April 3, 2005

¹“Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. ²Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the LORD. ³“I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. ⁴I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the LORD. ⁵“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.” *Jeremiah 23:1-6 TNIV*

Introduction: As we have studied the Biblical names of God together, we have observed that many of the most significant names were given to God, or chosen by God in moments of triumph for God’s people. It is interesting that one of the most powerful prophetic names that God chose for himself was offered at a time of great despair: *YAHWEH-Tsidkenu* (pr. tsed-ken-oo), or “the LORD Our Righteousness.” In this name, we discover that our God stands in victory on the other side of life’s greatest desperation.

- I. What’s in the Name YAHWEH-Tsedkenu?
 - A. YAHWEH-Tsedkenu is the name God chose for himself through His prophet, Jeremiah, to give hope to his people at a seemingly hopeless time.
 - B. “Tsedkenu” means “Righteousness” or “Righteous Savior” and refers not only to God’s absolute morality, but also to the righteous savior that God would send to redeem us.
 - C. “Tsedkenu” is derivative of the Hebrew root word “Tsedek,” which means literally “stiff” or “straight.”
 - D. Jeremiah spoke his prophecy in the 6th Century BC, when Judah was about to be taken captive by Babylon.
 - E. Judah was about to be “raped” by a Babylonian army and her people made slaves because of their corruption, idolatry, wickedness, and general unfaithfulness to Yahweh.
 - F. Even though God’s people had learned little from their captivity in Egypt just 100 years earlier, and the time of repentance had passed (II Chronicles 36:15-16; II Kings 23:26-27), Yahweh wanted them to know that he would still be their “Righteous Savior” once the trials had passed.

- II. YAHWEH-Tsedkenu is Righteous and Demands Righteousness!
 - A. Righteousness is God’s holiness in action through His dealings with His people (the value catalyzed).
 - B. Yahweh himself is perfectly righteous.

I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his ways are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

Deuteronomy 32:3-4
 - C. Because God’s nature is absolutely pure, He cannot accept anything less than moral perfection in people, who He created “in His image” (*Belief=Imagio Dei*).

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy. *1 Peter 1:15-16*
[Jesus said], “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” *Matthew 5:48*
 - D. Anything less than moral perfection, whatever corrupts the image of God in us, is sin that is judged by God.

For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. *Ecclesiastes 12:14*
 - E. No person except Jesus has ever been truly righteous, and the “righteousness” of humans is filthy in God’s sight.

“There is no one righteous, not even one: there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” *Romans 3:10-12*
All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteousness is like filthy rags; we shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. *Isaiah 64:6*
 - F. It would be impossible for us to be reconciled to God and receive salvation were God not our righteousness himself!
 - III. Jesus Christ, Our Righteous Savior, is Our Righteousness!
 - A. Jesus was the King, the righteous Branch of David, who was prophesied by Jeremiah.

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham. . . Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah. *Matthew 1:1, 17*
 - B. Jesus is the perfectly righteous one, and he makes it possible for us to be accepted by God as righteous.

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. *Romans 5:17*
- Conclusion: Since Jesus Christ is our YAHWEH-Tsidkenu, our only Righteous Savior, our confession of faith must become that of Paul in Philippians 3:7-11 (p.832). This is the meaning of Jesus’ birth, life, death, and resurrection, the meaning of the Gospel!