

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Jehovah-Tsidkenu

March 16, 2014

I. Introduction

A. Jehovah-Tsidkenu (a title for God) is found: Jer. 23:6; 33:15

Jer 23:6 And this is His name by which He will be called, 'The Lord our righteousness.'"

Jer 33:16 this is the name by which she (Judah) will be called: "the LORD is our righteousness."

1. In context

His name - the righteous Branch of David (Jesus) will be called "the Lord our righteousness"

Jer 23:5-6 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, 'The Lord our righteousness.'"

The righteous branch of David (Jesus) saves Jerusalem (the church) – is called "the Lord is our righteousness."

Jer 33:15-16 "In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: 'the LORD is our righteousness.'"

2. This title may possibly be a play on the name Zedekiah.

The king of Babylon changed the Zedekiah's name from Mattaniah to Zedekiah.

Zedekiah means Jehovah is righteousness;

Zedekiah was a completely unrighteous king (2 Ch 36:12–13).

Jehovah-Tsidkenu means the Lord is my righteousness.

3. About 100 years before Jeremiah, Isaiah prophesies of the coming righteousness of God.

Isaiah announces the Messiah as the Branch (stem) of David - Isa 4:2; 11:1-3; 60:21

God will bestow all the benefits of covenant relationship - salvation, forgiveness, restoration, unfailing love, His Spirit and much more on His people

Isa 45:8, 17, 23-25; 46:13; 51:5, 8, 16; 56:1; 59:16-17; 60:21; 61:10-11

4. Jeremiah's prophecies (Jer 23:6; 33:16) are on the heels of the announcement of the new covenant which will transpire because of David's Righteous Branch (the Messiah).

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of this prophecy.

As King, He will reign "wisely" and justly; and His name will be "the Lord Our Righteousness."

He will impute God's righteousness to those who will respond to the invitation of the new covenant.

5. This concept (the Lord our righteousness) was expressed in the Law.

Lev 20:8 You shall keep My statutes and practice them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

Lev 22:9 ... I am the LORD who sanctifies them.

6. Jeremiah prophesied that Judah and Israel would be saved during the days of the Branch.

But most of the Jews rejected Christ (Mt 21:42-45; Acts 13:46).

Paul pointed out that, in fact, the true Israel had been saved (Rom 2:28-29; 11:1, 7; Gal 3:7; 6:16) in the faithful Christian community.

In the NT, several major OT themes—the promised land, the temple, Zion or Jerusalem, the Messiah—receive a new interpretation, and Israel is another of these themes.

Paul also held out hope that in the future the “full number” of Israel would come to Christ (Rom 11:11–15, 26; Ezk 37).

B. Definition

Jehovah = "I am all that you need Me to be when you need Me to be it"

Tsidkenu = "our righteousness"

Meaning "Jehovah is our righteousness" or "The Lord is our righteousness"

Bible dictionary definition of Righteousness/Righteous

(1) The standing before God in which the believer is viewed by God as meeting all His standards concerning holiness (Phil. 3:9);

(2) personal activity that is pleasing to God

(1 Tim. 6:11); Gen. 15:6; Lk. 2:25; 1 Jn. 3:7; Rom. 3:21; 10:3; 10:10; 1 Jn. 3:7; Rev. 19:8.

righteous is synonymous with just, and describes a person having such standing (Justification);

II. The righteousness of God

A. God is completely righteous

His nature -

Psa 119:137; Dt 32:4; Ps 48:10; 97:2; 119:142; 145:17; Isa 45:21-24; Jer 12:1; Jn 17:25

His rule is righteous - Ps 9:8; 2Sa 23:3-4; Ps 96:13; 99:4; Jer 9:23-24

Jesus is the righteousness One (Mat 27:19, 24; Lk 23:47; Ac 3:14; 7:52; 22:14).

B. All that He does is out of His righteousness

His actions are righteous - Da 9:14; Jdg 5:11; 1Sa 12:7; Jer 9:24; Rev 15:3

God's righteousness vindicates his people

Ps 4:2-3; 7:9; 9:4; 35:24; 103:6; Isa 50:8; Mic 7:9; Ro 8:33

C. God's righteousness is seen:

His faithfulness shows His righteousness

Ne 9:8; Ps 4:1; Zep 3:5; Zec 8:8

His justice shows His righteousness

Jer 11:20; Ge 18:25; Job 8:3; Ps 11:7; 50:6; 51:4; Pr 21:12; Ecl 3:17; 2Ti 4:8

His judgments show His righteousness

Ps 7:11; 2Ch 12:5-6; Ezr 9:15; Isa 10:22; 28:17; La 1:18; Mal 3:5; Ro 2:2,5

His laws show His righteousness

Ps 19:8-9; Dt 4:8; Ps 33:4; 119:7,144; Ro 1:32; 7:12; 8:4

D. God's righteousness contrasts man's unrighteousness - Ro 3:5; 10:3; Ex 9:27; Ne 9:33; Da 9:7

Man is not righteous - Ps 14:1; 53:1; 143:2; Rom. 3:10-18

Isaiah says that we cannot attain righteousness on our own - Isa 64:6

In Jesus' teaching the righteousness of the Pharisees is not enough to gain entrance into the kingdom of God (Mt 5:20).

Paul argues:

That human nature is the opposite of righteousness - Rom 3:10-18, 21, 31

That righteousness cannot be attained by good works - Rom 4:18-25

That legalism cannot make us righteous - Gal 2:21; 3:11-21; Rom 9:30-32; 10:5; Phil 3:4-6;

Even after conversion Paul speaks of the struggle to walk in obedience because he finds that in himself, he is a prisoner of the principle of sin and death (Rom 7:14-8:1).

E. God's righteousness is revealed:

In the gospel - Rom 1:117; Phil 3:9

In Jesus Christ - Ro 3:21-22; 10:4; Isa 11:2-5; Zec 9:9; Ac 3:14; 1Co 1:30; 2Pe 1:1; 1Jn 2:1

By the Holy Spirit God's righteousness - Gal 5:5; Jn 16:8,10; Ro 14:17

F. The death of Jesus on the cross satisfies the righteousness of God - Rom 3:26; 5:16, 18

The death of Jesus was substitutionary for mankind -

2 Co 5:21; Isa 53:4-6; Eph 5:2; Ro 5:6-8; Gal 1:4; Heb 9:26

God demonstrates His righteousness in the propitiatory death of His Son - Rom 3:21, 25-26

God's indignation towards sin and His love in justifying sinners are both realized in the death of Jesus - Rom 3:5-6; Ps 116:5; 145:17.

G. God gives (credits) His righteousness to believers (those who exercise faith in Him)

Rom 1:16-17; 3:22; 4:3-8; 5:17; 10:4; 2Co 5:21; Phil 3:9; Hab 2:4; Ge 15:6; Job 33:26; Hos 10:12;

When you put your faith in Jesus Christ, His righteousness is put into your account and you are declared righteous before God. This is called "being justified by faith" (Rom 3:21-5:11).

H. The result of becoming righteous before God:

We seek to live righteously - Mt 6:33; Isa 51:1; Zep 2:3; 1 Pt 2:24

We present our body as instruments of righteousness to God - Rom. 6:13

We pursue righteousness - 2 Tim 4:8

We study God's word to help us grow in righteousness - 2 Tim 3:16

We put on the breastplate of righteousness to fight Satan's attacks - Eph 6:14

III. New Testament promises of righteousness

Rom 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Rom 3:21-22 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

Rom 4:3-13 For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." 4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 7 "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. 8 "BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT." 9 Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, "FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." 10 How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; 11 and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them, 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised. 13 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Rom 4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

Rom 4:9 Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, "FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Rom 4:11 and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them,

Rom 4:22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Rom 5:17-24 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. 18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. 20 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. 22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. 23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, 24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,

Rom 5:17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

Rom 10:3-10 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. 5 For Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness. 6 But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?' (that is, to bring Christ down), 7 or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." 8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, in your mouth and in your heart" -- that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

1 Cor 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

2 Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Gal 2:21 "I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

Gal 3:6 Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Gal 3:11 Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Eph 4:24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Phil 3:9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

Heb 10:38-39
38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH;
AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

James 2:23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of God.

1 Peter 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU - The Lord Our Righteousness (by Robert Murray M'Cheyne)

I once was a stranger to grace and to God,
I knew not my danger, and felt not my load;
Though friends spoke in rapture of Christ on the tree,
Jehovah Tsidkenu was nothing to me.

I oft read with pleasure, to soothe or engage,
Isaiah's wild measure and John's simple page;
But e'en when they pictured the blood-sprinkled tree,
Jehovah Tsidkenu seemed nothing to me.

Like tears from the daughters of Zion that roll,
I wept when the waters went over His soul;
Yet thought not that my sins had nailed to the tree
Jehovah Tsidkenu-'twas nothing to me.

When free grace awoke me, by light from on high,
Then legal fears shook me, I trembled to die;
No refuge, no safety in self could I see-
Jehovah Tsidkenu my Saviour must be.

My terrors all vanished before the sweet name;
My guilty fears banished, with boldness I came
To drink at the fountain, life-giving and free-
Jehovah Tsidkenu is all things to me.

Jehovah Tsidkenu! my treasure and boast,
Jehovah Tsidkenu! I ne'er can be lost;

In Thee I shall conquer by flood and by field-
My cable, my anchor, my breastplate and shield!
Even treading the valley, the shadow of death,
This watchword shall rally my faltering breath;
For while from life's fever my God sets me free,
Jehovah Tsidkenu my death-song shall be.

The following References were used in this study:

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