

יהוה

“YHWH-Tsidqenuw: The Lord Our Righteousness”

Introduction

The last name we discussed was YHWH-Mekaddishkem, the Lord who makes you holy. God is holy. Righteousness flows from this fact. Because He is holy, He always does rightly – thus He is righteous.

Holiness to righteousness:

Eph 4:24

and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. NIV

1 Cor 1:30

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God-that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. NIV

Simply put, righteousness is that which is correct in relationship. It is a relational word that establishes our standing. It embodies all that God expects of His people – His upholding of His covenants and our faithfulness to them. The covenant name that embodies this ideal is YHWH-Tsidqenuw, the Lord Our Righteousness.

Jer 23:5-6

5 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

6 In 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 Righteousness**. NIV

This title describes the king and it is in the focus of kingship that we will examine righteousness and the Lord Our Righteousness.

I. The Kingship Problem

A. The Lord Is King

Israel was not to be like the Gentile nations. The Lord was to reign over them as king.

Num 23:21

"No misfortune is seen in Jacob, no misery observed in Israel. The LORD their God is with them; **the shout of the King is among them**. NIV

Deut 33:5

He was king over Jeshurun when the leaders of the people assembled, along with the tribes of Israel. NIV

B. A king “like all the nations around us.”

But the Lord knew that eventually, they would be enticed by the political arrangements of the peoples around them. He prophesied of this through Moses.

Deut 17:14-20

- 14 When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, "Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us,"
- 15 **be sure to appoint over you the king the LORD your God chooses.** He must be from among your own brothers. Do not place a foreigner over you, one who is not a brother Israelite.
- 16 The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, "You are not to go back that way again."
- 17 He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.
- 18 When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites.
- 19 It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees
- 20 and not consider himself better than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel. NIV

God specified the kind of king they were to have: one of His choosing, an Israelite, one that didn't trust in the horses of Egypt, one who kept the law.

C. "Give us a king!"

1 Sam 8:1-9

- 1 When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges for Israel.
- 2 The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba.
- 3 But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.
- 4 So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah.
- 5 They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."
- 6 But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD.
- 7 And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.
- 8 As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you.
- 9 Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do." NIV

Because God is just, He answered them in accordance to the idol of their heart. So He gave them Saul.

Because God is merciful, He gave them a shepherd who was a man after His own heart. So He gave them David.

II. The Righteous Branch

A. King David

1 Sam 16:1, 11-13

1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

11 So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

12 So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one."

13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah. NIV

2 Sam 7:12-13

12 When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. NIV

Because David was of a contrite heart and followed after God all his days (i.e. he finished well), it was to him and his line that God promised the coming messiah.

B. A Righteous King

1 Kings 10:9

Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king, **to maintain justice and righteousness.**" NIV

The purpose of a king is to maintain justice and righteousness. The only way to do this is to have a perfect king!

i. A King

Jer 23:1-6

1 "Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD.

2 Therefore 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.

4 I 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 to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

6 In 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 Righteousness. NIV

A righteous king would shepherd His people justly.

ii. A Place

Jer 33:14-16

14 "'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

15 "'In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land.

16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.' NIV

This rulership will emanate from a place: Jerusalem!

iii. A Priesthood

Jer 33:17-22

17 For this is what the LORD says: 'David will never fail to have a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel,

18 nor will the priests, who are Levites, ever fail to have a man to stand before me continually to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to present sacrifices.'"

19 The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

20 "This is what the LORD says: 'If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and night no longer come at their appointed time,

21 then my covenant with David my servant--and my covenant with the Levites who are priests ministering before me--can be broken and David will no longer have a descendant to reign on his throne.

22 I will make the descendants of David my servant and the Levites who minister before me as countless as the stars of the sky and as measureless as the sand on the seashore.'" NIV

Not only is a righteous kingship promised, but a righteous priesthood as well. The ultimate combination of Priest King is seen in the Lord Jesus.

Heb 7:1-3

- 1 This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him,
- 2 and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace."
- 3 Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever. NIV

Heb 5:6

And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." NIV

Ps 110:1-4

- 1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."
- 2 The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies.
- 3 Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth.
- 4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." NIV

We need to embrace the reality that Jesus is King! Yes, He intercedes for us. Yes, He is not ashamed to call us brethren. But He is the King who reigns in righteousness and executes the judgment of God. It was in confessing Him as ruler, as Lord, that we were saved. It is holding Him as Lord that we will walk out that salvation with fear and trembling!

There are two components to a righteous kingdom. The first and most important is a righteous King. We have that in Jesus. The next is a righteous people.

C. A Righteous People

- i. Internal, not external

Prov 14:34

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. NIV

Righteousness does exalt a nation. But it has to be a righteousness that works out of the heart – not a religiosity that amounts to self-righteousness.

Isa 58:1-4

- 1 "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the house of Jacob their sins.
- 2 For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the

commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them.

3 'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?' "Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers.

4 Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. NIV

The truth of the matter is, we cannot work out any of our own righteousness. We must receive it of the righteous Lord by faith.

ii. Righteousness by faith

Rom 4:20-25

20 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,

21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

22 This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."

23 The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone,

24 but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. NIV

Rom 5:17-21

17 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.

18 Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men.

19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

20 The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,

21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. NIV

iii. He is our righteousness

1 Cor 1:30 NIV

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

2 Cor 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. NIV

III. Reigning in Righteousness

A. The Kingdom of God

i. Seek it first

Matt 6:31-33

31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. NIV

Matt 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. NIV

ii. Walk in His righteousness

Matt 5:19-20

19 Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. NIV

Luke 18:9-14

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable:

10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men-robbers, evildoers, adulterers-or even like this tax collector.

12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." NIV

- iii. Do righteously
2 Tim 4:6-8
6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure.
7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. NIV

Rev 19:7-8

- 7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.
8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) NIV

B. The Spirit's Role

- i. Conviction of righteousness
John 16:7-11
7 But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.
8 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:
9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me;
10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;
11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. NIV
- ii. Perfected by the Spirit
Gal 2:20-3:3
20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.
21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.
3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?
2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?
3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? KJV

- iii. Led in doing right
1 John 2:27-29
27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit-just as it has taught you, remain in him.
28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.
29 If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him. NIV

C. The Righteous Kingdom

- i. In righteousness make war
Rev 19:11
And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. KJV
- ii. In righteousness rule
Rev 20:4-6
Is 9:6-7
Is 11:1-10
Is 16:5
- iii. Kings and priests to our God
Matt 5:10-12
1 Pet 2:9
Rev 1:5-6
Rev 3:11-12; 20:22; 22:5

Conclusion

Ps 97:2

Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. NIV

Ps 7:17

I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High. NIV

Amen!