

The LORD Our Righteousness

Intro: Jehovah Tsidkenu is mentioned to us in Jeremiah 23:5-6. See passages like Psalms 97:2; 145:17 to supplement our understanding. Appreciating the righteousness of God is essential to understanding the work of Jesus. Let's try to put some thoughts together, beginning with Jeremiah.

1. Occasion for the statement found in Jeremiah 23
 - A. Zedekiah seeks help from God in dealing with Babylonians. Jer. 21:2
 - B. Response probably unexpected by Zedekiah. 21:45
 - C. God is going to close this act in Judah's existence. 21:6-7
 - D. God still offers the opportunity for repentance. 22:3-4
 - E. But the "Righteous Branch" is to be the ultimate answer. 23:5-6

2. Meaning and usage of Tsedek (Righteousness)
 - A. From a word meaning "stiff" or "straight". Some say "measuring rule".
 - B. Righteousness emphasized in Israel. Leviticus 19:35-36; Deut. 25:15
 - C. Job understood the concept. Job 31:6
 - D. Constantly to Israel: "Walk in the paths of righteousness".
 - E. We understand Job's sentiment in Job 9:2.

3. Why we must accept Jehovah's righteousness.
 - A. Note Psalm 85:10-16
 - B. How does a society of "no absolutes" react to this concept?
 - C. What are 3 options when determining values?
 - D. Should it be determined democratically?

Conclusion: There is only one way to be able to proclaim that Jehovah is my righteousness. Recognize God asks us to live accordingly (Matthew 5:48). Paul realized where this needed righteousness was found (Philippians 3:8-9). We are told the role Jesus would play in Jeremiah. Through Christ, we become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:20-21). As Corinthians tells us, there is clearly one way this can happen.