

Midweek Study

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OUR GREAT GOD

THE NAMES OF GOD

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יהוה צדקנו

Jehovah Tsidkenu – The Lord Our Righteousness

*“In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called:
THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” (Jeremiah 23:6)*

“The Lord is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works.” (Psalm 145:17)

“The name Tsidkenu comes from the root word tsedek, meaning "stiff" or "straight." It is difficult to translate the richness of this Hebrew word into English, but it has to do with God's dealing with His created beings. Let's look at several interrelated passages. In Leviticus 19:35-36, we find the demand that God's people employ just weights and measures. The reason behind this demand was singular. Their God is just and therefore His people must reflect His character in all of their dealings. In Deuteronomy 25:15-16, the use of just weights and measures is one of the conditions of abiding in the Promised Land. God required that His people appoint judges and officers who would judge the people with righteousness (Deut. 16:18). For God's people to act unjustly would be an abomination to the Lord. The whole spectrum of Israel's life was to be conducted in righteousness as a reflection of Jehovah Tsidkenu.”ⁱ

1) Righteousness exalts a nation (Prov. 14:34).

- Ps 33:12 - Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.
- Prov 14:34 - Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.
- Ps 9:17 - The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God.
- Prov 29:2 - When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.
- George Washington said, “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.”
- Abraham Lincoln said, “But for the Bible we would not know right from wrong.”
- John Jay, first US Supreme Court Chief Justice, said, “Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.”

- The US Supreme Court in 1892 said, “No purpose of action against religion can be imputed to any legislation, state or national, because this is a religious people...This is a Christian nation.” They cited 87 different historical precedents to justify their statement.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority."

2) The righteous can claim these promises.

- Blessings crown the head of the righteous. (Proverbs 10:6)
- The memory of the righteous will be a blessing. (Proverbs 10:7)
- The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life. (Proverbs 10:11)
- The lips of the righteous nourish many. (Proverbs 10:21)
- ...the desire of the righteous will be granted. (Proverbs 10:24 NRSV)
- When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever. (Proverbs 10:25)
- The righteous are delivered from trouble... (Proverbs 11:8 NRSV)
- Prosperity is the reward of the righteous. (Proverbs 13:21)
- The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ear are attentive to their prayer. (1 Peter 3:12)

3) God provides His righteousness for us.

- Isaiah 64:6 (NKJV) - But we are all like an unclean thing, **And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags...**
- Isaiah 61:10 (NKJV) - **...He has covered me with the robe of righteousness...**
- 1 Corinthians 1:30 (NKJV) - But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us ... **righteousness...**
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) - For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

4) If God can put a Nation back together, He can put our lives back together, too.

“[They will say,] ‘As the LORD lives, who brought up and led back the descendants of the household of Israel from the north land and from all the countries where I had driven them.’ Then they will live on their own soil” (Jeremiah 23:8).

Tony Evans writes, “God brought the Israelites back from where He had driven them. Israel stopped being a nation in AD 70. Yet in May 1948, God brought Israel back to their own land and reestablished them as a nation. No other country in history has ceased to be a nation, been scattered worldwide, and then been brought back hundreds of years later to become a nation again without having lost their language or culture in between. God preserved Israel just as He said He would. Now, if God can put Israel back together—an entire country, dispersed and disbanded—He can certainly put your situation or life back together again too. He can take pieces from here, there, and everywhere and reconstruct the beauty and strength that is you. But it must be based on His righteous standard.”ⁱⁱ

ⁱ Ken Hemphill, *The Names of God*, (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2001), 146-160.

ⁱⁱ Tony Evans, *The Power of God's Names* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2014), under “Jehovah Tsidkenu”.