

Homework - Week 7

Jehovah Tsidkenu *The Lord Our Righteousness*

Observe It

Jehovah Tsidkenu is only mentioned twice in the Bible, and the first mention is in Jeremiah 23:6. Read Jeremiah 23:1-6 and record your observations below.

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

Why:

Let's look at some historical background to better understand these verses. Jeremiah was a prophet sent by God to the kingdom of Judah, calling them to repent and warning them of what would happen if they continued to disobey God's commands. He pleaded with them for 40 years and over the course of 5 kings, yet they didn't listen. He is often referred to as the "weeping prophet" because he would weep and grieve deeply over God's broken heart for the sins of His people.

Read Jeremiah 1:1-10 about God's call on Jeremiah's life. Record below Jeremiah's reaction and God's response:

If we back up even further to when God rescued the Israelites from Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land, we see that God gave some specific instructions to His people. Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and record below the two choices they had and the consequences of each:

Despite the clear commands from God, the Israelites repeatedly fell into the sins of idolatry, immorality, and injustice. Read II Kings 21:1-6 and record some of the specific sins of the kings of Judah:

Even though Jeremiah gave repeated warnings, the kings of Judah refused to repent. According to Jeremiah 25:8-11, what did the Lord say would be the consequence of their disobedience? Record it below:

Sure enough, that is exactly what happened at the end of Jeremiah when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came against Jerusalem and took the people captive and destroyed the city. (see Jeremiah 52)

It had been approximately 800 years since God had rescued the Israelites from Egypt. During that time, the Israelites never lived up to God's standards of righteousness. In fact, no nation or person throughout history has ever been able to live righteously on their own, no matter how hard they have tried. Read Ecclesiastes 7:20 and Romans 3:10-12 and record what they say about man's righteousness:

Despite the Israelites failure to live righteously, God still provided hope with this new name of God - *Jehovah Tsidkenu*. Go back and look at Jeremiah 23:5-6 and record the promise below:

Experience It

Later in Jeremiah, we see God announce that in the future He would make a new covenant with His people - one that would not rely on their performance. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 and record what this new covenant would look like:

One of the definitions of righteousness is *to be right with God*. Read Romans 3:20-22 (specifically in the NIV or NLT if possible) and note how righteousness is not attained and how it is now obtained.

We so often try to earn right standing before God through our own efforts. Have you experienced this? If so, what was the result?

A verse that beautifully sums up the name Jehovah Tsidkenu is II Corinthians 5:21 and it says, “*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*”

Express It

Does the truth that we are righteous because of our faith in Jesus Christ and what He did on the cross negate God’s call to obedience and holiness? How do we reconcile the two? (Read John 14:15 for a clue regarding motivation)

It is important to note that this name means the Lord our Righteousness, not just the Lord who is Righteous. How does this distinction impact your view of righteousness and the way you live?

The enemy loves to convince us that our worth and value to God is dependent on what we do or don’t do for Him. This often results in a constant striving to keep up with what we think we are “supposed” to do. Do you know someone who is discouraged because they have believed these lies from the enemy? How can you encourage them today?

Pray It

Spend some time praying about what you learned in your study of Jehovah Tsidkenu. Ask God to increase your understanding and experience of this part of His character, and pray that He would give you wisdom to know how to express it to those around you.

Jehovah Shammah *The Lord Is There*

When we look at the Bible as a whole, there is a common theme woven from Genesis all the way to Revelation. It is the beautiful love story of Yahweh, the one true God, on a rescue mission to bring healing, forgiveness and restoration to mankind. Disobedience and sin destroyed the perfect harmony between God and His creation in Genesis, yet God had a plan from the very beginning to rescue us. Every story and book in the Bible points to Jesus, our rescuer, and if there is one thing we see over and over it is that God desires more than anything else to be *with us*. The final name that we are going to look at is actually a name given to a city (the new Jerusalem), but it's closely tied to God's glory and presence and reminds us of the God who always longs to be with us.

Observe It

Jehovah Shammah is only mentioned once in the Bible, and it is in Ezekiel 48:35. Read this verse and record your observations below.

It is important to understand the setting and context of this passage. Ezekiel was writing to the Israelites who had been taken captive by the Babylonians. This captivity was a result of their rebellion and disobedience against God. In addition to their captivity, God's judgement also consisted of the destruction of their land, including the city of Jerusalem and the beautiful temple that King Solomon had built. This temple was where God's glory and presence had resided, and now for the first time since they left Egypt the Israelites no longer had Yahweh's presence with them. (See Ezekiel 10 regarding the departure of God's glory from the temple.)

God gave Ezekiel visions and prophecies of renewal, hope and restoration to encourage His exiled people. One of these visions was of a future, beautiful temple where God would return with His glory (Ezekiel 40-48). This vision also included a new holy city where His people would live again, and it is here that we see this name *Jehovah Shammah - The Lord is There*. (Ezekiel 48:35)

Experience It

Considering the condition of the Israelites when Ezekiel shared this vision (living in captivity and without the Lord's presence), why do you think this name was so significant for them?

The name Jehovah Shammah speaks of God's presence with His people. Have you experienced God's presence with you? What does that look like? What are some ways that you are most aware of His presence?

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit did not dwell in the hearts of individuals but came upon them temporarily, enabling them for special tasks. However, in the New Testament Jesus promised that after He left the Holy Spirit would come and remain with them. Read John 14:16-17 and note below what it says about the Holy Spirit.

What are some ways you experience or recognize the Holy Spirit in your life?

Express It

If we believe that the Holy Spirit resides in us and never leaves us (John 14:17), what practical difference should that make in our lives?

Read I Corinthians 6:19-20. This passage tells us that we are not our own, but belong to God. What are the implications of that? Do we treat the Holy Spirit like an owner or a temporary guest?

God is in and around us all the time. However, we often get so busy with our daily lives that we live *unaware* of His presence. What are some practical ways that you can become more aware of God's presence in your life?

If God is always with us, we should be reflecting His presence to those around us. What might that look like in your life this week? Be specific!

Pray It

Spend some time praying about what you learned in your study of Jehovah Shammah. Ask God to increase your understanding and experience of this part of His character, and pray that He would give you wisdom to know how to express it to those around you.