

GETTING TO KNOW

GOD

A study of His names & divine nature

BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2025 – WEEK 9

Jehovah-Tsidkenu

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer! – Psalm 4:1 ESV

- **Last week:** *Jehovah-Go'el – “The LORD Your Redeemer”*
- **This week:** *Jehovah-Tsidkenu – “The LORD Our Righteousness”*

*“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, **when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch**, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days **Judah will be saved**, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: **“The LORD is our righteousness.”**” – Jeremiah 23:5-6 ESV*

- The Illusion of Righteousness
 - We live in a world that says: Work harder, do better, prove yourself
 - We measure our worth by:
 - Work performance – How much money we make
 - Morality – “At least I am better than that guy”
 - Reputation – What others think of us
 - What happens when we fail?
 - What happens when we still don't feel like we are good enough?
 - The truth is we are **NOT** enough
 - There is no one righteous, not even one.* – Romans 3:10 ESV
 - All our righteous deeds are like filthy rags.* – Isaiah 64:6 ESV

There is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins. – Ecclesiastes 7:20 ESV

- The standard isn't be mostly good
- The standard is perfection

Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect... – Matthew 5:48 ESV

- ~ This is the requirement to stand before a Holy God
- ~ None of us meet this
- ~ No matter how hard we try, we're never enough
- ~ This is why *Jehovah-Tsidkenu* matters
- ~ God provides what we never could
- ~ Jehovah imputes the righteousness of Christ to us

- **The context**

- The time period is between 627-582 B.C.
- The northern kingdom of Israel fell in 586 B.C.
- Jeremiah began prophesying in 627 B.C.
 - His base of operations is Jerusalem
 - Jeremiah is addressing the southern kingdom of Judah
 - He is warning them of pending judgment
 - But the people refuse to listen
 - And God holds the nation's leaders responsible

*"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of **my** pasture!" declares the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, **concerning the shepherds who care for my people:** "You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and **you have not attended to them.**" – Jeremiah 23:1-2 ESV*

The kings were **corrupt**

- *They were in it for themselves*

The priests were **charlatans**

- They were going through the motions
- They didn't know God

The prophets were **liars**

- They told the people what they wanted to hear

- Sound familiar?
 - Righteousness is a matter of **opinion** (what I define it to be)
 - Truth is **relative** (what I believe it to be)
 - Morality is a **moving target** (what benefits me)

- “Good” has become “good enough” (what flatters me)
- But according to Scripture...

No one is righteous

“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” – Romans 3:10-12 ESV

No one can achieve righteousness

*“Whoever keeps the whole law **but fails in one** point has **become guilty of all of it.**” – James 2:10 ESV*

- Perfect obedience is required (sinlessness)
 - One lie makes you a liar
 - One lustful thought makes you an adulterer
 - One sin makes you unrighteous before a Holy God
- Complete righteousness is necessary (justification)
 - We can’t **prevent** sin
 - We can’t **produce** righteousness

*We are all infected and impure with sin. **When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags.** – Isaiah 64:6 NLT*

~ Sin is **unavoidable**

~ Righteousness is **unattainable**

- But God does not leave us there

- **The Righteousness One**

- The Israelites had proven their failure to produce righteousness
- Without God’s help, they were hopeless

“The name **Jehovah-Tsidkenu** highlights God's nature as the ultimate source of righteousness. It suggests that righteousness comes not from human effort or merit, but from God's grace and intervention.” – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on the Names of God*

- God was going to provide...
 - ...a power the Israelites didn’t possess
 - ...a solution to a problem they couldn’t fix
 - ...a righteousness they couldn’t produce

***“I will raise up for David a righteous Branch...”** – vs 5*

“...he shall reign as king and deal wisely...” – vs 5

“,...and [he] shall execute justice and righteousness in the land” – vs 5

“Judah will be saved [by him], and Israel will dwell secure [because of him]” – vs 6

“And...he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’” – vs 6

- Not a self-produced righteousness
 - o They couldn't just work harder
 - o They couldn't just do better
 - o They couldn't just start over
- God's solution was...
 - ...a righteous Branch, not self-righteous Israelites
 - ...the promised Messiah, not promise-making Israelites
 - ...the sinless Son of God, not sin-prone Israelites
- **Jehovah-Tsidkenu—The LORD Our Righteousness**
 - Unrighteousness has always been Israel's problem
 - o The kings of Judah had failed
 - o The Law exposed sin, but couldn't fix it
 - o Sacrifices covered sin, but never erased it
 - God's solution is a person – *Jehovah-Tsidkenu* – The LORD our Righteousness
 - o Yahweh was already righteous
 - o But no man could claim to be
 - Their biggest problem was not their enemies
 - ~ It was sin
 - ~ The same is true today
 - We think our biggest problems are our circumstances
 - But sin is our real problem
 - And righteousness is our real need
 - *Jehovah-Tsidkenu* is a declaration
 - ~ God doesn't just **demand** righteousness – He **provides** it
 - You don't have to manufacture righteousness
 - You don't have to fake it
 - You don't have to prove yourself
 - Jehovah is our Righteousness
 - ~ Your standing with God isn't fragile
 - ~ Your identity isn't tied to your last failure
 - ~ Your hope is secure because its built upon Christ's righteousness
 - ~ It's not about what we do, it's about what's already been done

*I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, **not having a righteousness of my own***

*that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, **the righteousness from God that depends on faith.*** – Philippians 4:8-9 ESV

*...**this righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ** to all who believe. There is no distinction...* – Romans 3:22 BSB

*...they [the Jews] have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and **seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.** For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.* – Romans 10:2-4 ESV

- **Jesus: The righteous King we need**

- Righteousness has always been the problem
 - Since the Garden, we have tried to be righteous on our own terms
 - Generation after generation has failed
 - Judah had plenty of kings but none of them was truly righteous
 - Some were tyrants
 - Some were cowards
 - Some were weak
 - Even the best couldn't bring lasting righteousness
 - Judah needed a **perfect** King, not a **better** one
 - ~ A truly righteous King
 - ~ Who would save sinner, not just rule over
 - ~ Jesus Christ is that King

*I am **the good shepherd.** The good shepherd **lays down his life** for the sheep. — John 10:11 ESV*

- He **willingly** lays down His life for us
 - ~ Not because we **earned** it
 - ~ Not because we **deserved** it
 - ~ But because we **needed** it
 - He did what no other king or priest could do
 - He took our sins upon himself
 - He gave us His righteousness
 - He took our punishment upon Himself
 - He stood in our place and declared us holy

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become **the righteousness of God.**" — 2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV

- He didn't just save us—He made us righteous
- He didn't just lead us—He transformed us
- He didn't just die—He gave us eternal life

- **How should we live because of this?**

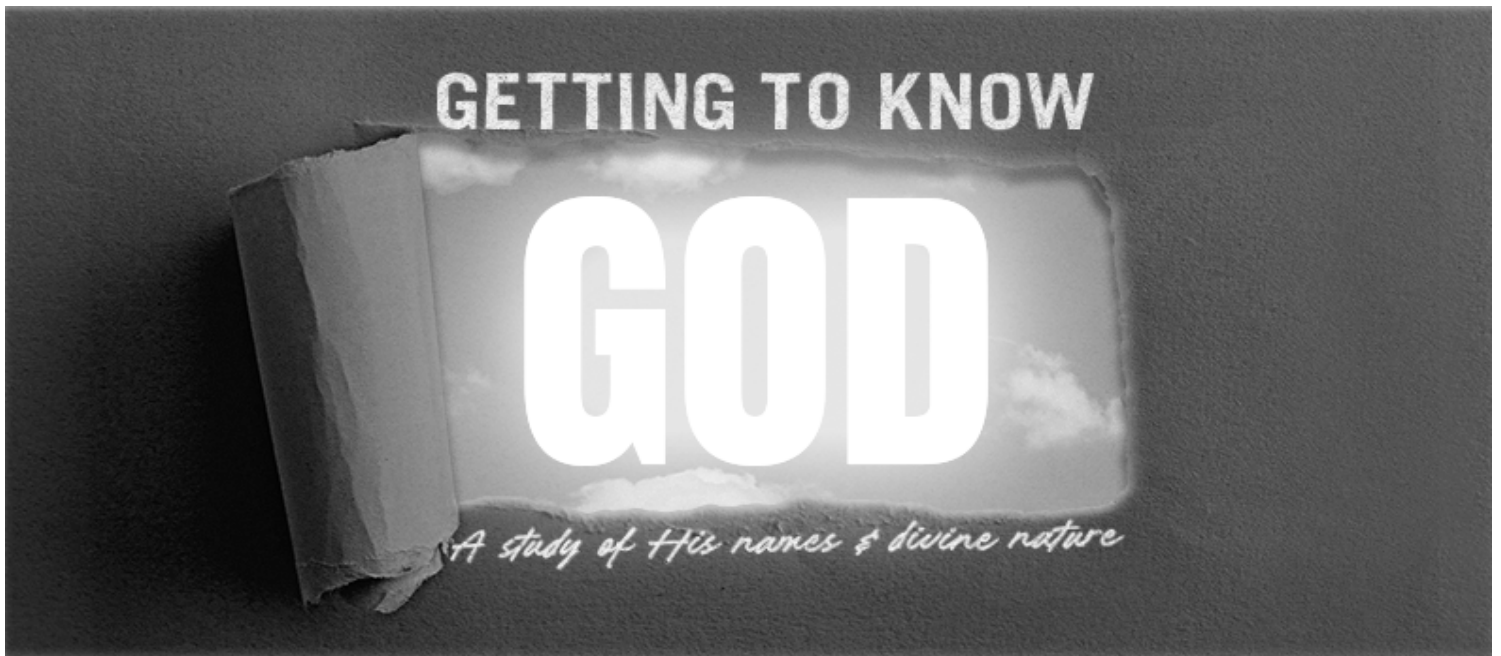
- Stop trying to earn what has already been given
 - Your standing before God is fully secure
 - You have already been declared righteous
 - Your justification is settled, but growth in holiness is ongoing
 - Rest in what He has secured for you
 - Stop trying to earn what is already yours
 - Obey out of gratitude, not to earn favor
 - Stop living like your failures define you

- **Discussion Questions**

Where in your life are you still trying to earn what Christ has already secured?

How does believing that Christ is your righteousness change the way you view your identity?

If righteousness is fully given and not earned, what should our lives look like in response?



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SPRING SERIES 2025 – WEEK 10 HOMEWORK

WEEK 10 – *Jehovah-Sabaoth: The LORD of Hosts*

Jehovah-Sabaoth (often spelled **Yahweh Sabaoth**) is a name for God that emphasizes His sovereignty as the Lord of Hosts or the Commander of Armies. The term "**Sabaoth**" is derived from the Hebrew word *tsaba* (צָבָא), meaning "**army**," "**host**," or "**battle**." Therefore, **Jehovah-Sabaoth** can be translated as "The Lord of Hosts" or "The Lord of Armies." Throughout the Old Testament, this name is often invoked in contexts of war, victory, and divine intervention. Jehovah-Sabaoth is seen as the protector and warrior for Israel, leading them into battle and ensuring their victory against enemies. For example, in the books of 1 Samuel and Isaiah, the name is frequently used in prayers for God's intervention. **Jehovah-Sabaoth** speaks to God's role as a powerful and victorious leader, both in the spiritual and earthly realms, commanding divine armies and ensuring His will is carried out in history. The name encapsulates God's might, sovereignty, and the protection He offers His people.

- Read pages 21-26 of Ken's Devotionary™ on the names of God. Write down any key thoughts or insights you got from considering the name **Jehovah-Sabaoth**.

- Read through Jeremiah 50 and write down what God has to say about the nation of Babylon.

Jeremiah keeps saying that the nation of Babylon will be put to shame? Why is this significant and who do you think will make it happen?

When Babylon is put to shame, what will be the end result for the people of Israel based on verses 4-5?

How do verses 6-7 describe the plight of Israel up to this point?

What kinds of things does God say He is going to do to Babylon in verses 10-15?

Look closely at verse 18. God refers to Himself as the LORD of Hosts (*Jehovah-Sabaoth*). This is a reference to His sovereign authority over all the angelic “armies” of heaven. He is described as a powerful general over a vast host of angelic beings. Why would this name be a source of encouragement to the Israelites?

How do verses 20-27 support the image of Jehovah as the military leader over a vast army of divine beings?

In verses 31-32, Jehovah describes Himself as standing against the nation of Babylon. Why should this be a source of encouragement to us as we face difficulties and uncertainties in this life?

In verses 35-38, God calls for war against any and all who have stood opposed to His chosen people. What are some of the “enemy” forces we face today and how should His sovereign power give us hope as we do “battle” with them?

Close by reading verses 44-48. What words of encouragement do you find in this passage and how can you apply them to your daily life?