

THE NAME OF THE LORD L
THE BRANCH / THE TSEMECH
THE PROPHETIC TITLE OF JESUS III
The Lord Our Righteousness

¹⁰ Who [is] among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh [in] darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God. ¹¹ Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass [yourselves] about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks [that] ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.

Isaiah 50:10,11 KJV

⁷ Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

Psalm 20:7 NIV

⁵ “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up for 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 Righteous Savior.”

Jeremiah 23:5,6 NIV

I. The Lord is our righteousness. Jehovah Tsidkenu (tsid-kay-new)

- A. This is God's promise to a sinful people in a dark time. That a righteous branch would rise from David's line, and he would be more than a king; he would be our covering.
- B. Our best efforts fall short. Our righteousness is as filthy rags, but through Christ, we are robed in something not our own. (II Corinthians 5:21) He lived the life we couldn't. He fulfilled the law we broke. Now we stand not in fear or pretense, but in the perfection of Jehovah Tsidkenu! (Mike Stallings) (Philippians 3:9)

²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV)

⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. (Philippians 3:9 NIV)

- C. Jeremiah 23 is spoken into a time of national corruption and leadership failure. The kings of Judah had abandoned justice and led the people astray. But through Jeremiah, God promises the future king from David's line, who will reign wisely and bring salvation to his people. His name, Jehovah Tsidkenu, means not just a righteous ruler, but the righteousness of the people themselves. God would provide what His people lacked.

¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. (Romans 6:18 NIV)

D. In the world where unrighteousness seemed to reign in the palace, temple, and heart, God promised a new kind of king who would be righteousness for them. (I Corinthians 1:30) It meant that salvation would not come through renewed efforts, but through a renewed covenant and a righteous savior. (Romans 10:10)

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. (1 Corinthians 1:30 NIV)

¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:10 KJV)

E. Jesus is the fulfillment of Jehovah Tsidkenu. He is the righteous branch, the sinless son of David, who kept the law perfectly and bore our guilt on the cross. Through him we are justified and declared righteous, not by works, but by grace through faith. (Romans 6:18) Christ's righteousness is now ours and we are accepted, not because of what we've done, but because of what he did. He is both our legal standing, and our lifelong security. (Mike Stallings)

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! (Romans 5:17 NIV)

II. What is truth?

- A. Very simply, truth is “telling it like it is.” Truth is “that which corresponds to its object.” If I claim, “There is a dollar bill in my right hand.” That is only true if, in fact, there is a dollar bill in my right hand. Truth is that which describes an actual state of affairs.
- B. If something is true, it’s true for all people, at all times, in all places.
- C. All truth claims are absolute, narrow, and exclusive. Think about the claim, “Everything is true.” That’s an absolute, narrow, and exclusive claim. It excludes its opposite (i.e. It claims that the statement, “Everything is not true,” is wrong.)
- D. In fact, all truth excludes its opposite, even religious truths. Atheists say “Christians are very narrow-minded people. They believe Christianity is true, and everything opposed to it is false.” You could respond, “Atheists are very narrow-minded people, because they believe atheism is true, and everything opposed to atheism is false.” (Norman Geisler)
- E. Atheistic truth claims are just as narrow as Christian truth claims. For if A (atheism) is true, then anything opposed to A is false. Likewise, if C (Christianity) is true then anything opposed to C is false.
- F. Truth is unchanging, even if our beliefs about truth change. (When we began to believe the Earth was round, instead of

flat, the truth about the Earth didn't change. Only our belief about the Earth changed.)

III. Six truths about truth

- A. Truth is discovered, not invented. It exists independent of anyone's knowledge of it. (Gravity existed prior to Newton.)
- B. Truth is transcultural. If something is true, it is true for all people in all places. ($2+2=4$ for everyone, everywhere, at every time.)
- C. Beliefs cannot change a fact, no matter how sincerely they are held. (Someone can sincerely believe the world is flat, but that only makes that person sincerely mistaken.)
- D. Truth is not affected by the attitude of the one professing it. (An arrogant person does not make the truth he professes false. A humble person does not make the error he professes true.)
- E. All truths are absolute truths. Even truths that appear to be relative are really absolute. (For example, "I, Craig Johnson, feel warm on May 31, 2026," may appear to be a relative truth, but it is actually absolutely true for everyone, everywhere, that Craig Johnson had the sensation of warmth on May 31, 2026.)
- F. In short, contrary "beliefs" are possible, but contrary "truths" are not possible. We can believe everything is true, but we cannot make everything true. (Frank Turek)