

THE RIGHTEOUS BRANCH

Discussion Guide
October 31, 2010

“The LORD our Righteousness”

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Jeremiah 23:1-6 (ESV) — **1** “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. **2** 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. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. **3** Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. **4** I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD. **5** “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. **6** 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.’”

Sermon Outline

I. The LORD is Passionate About His Flock (Jer 23:1-6)

- A. The LORD will take care of His flock
- B. The LORD will raise up a righteous Branch
 1. He will reign as King
 2. He will bring salvation/security.
 3. He will be called the LORD our Righteousness

II. The “Righteous Branch” in Jeremiah 23 is Jesus Christ

- A. An parallel passage declaring the coming King—Isaiah 9:6-7
- B. Gabriel’s testimony to Mary of Jesus—Luke 1:31-33
- C. Jesus’ Testimony to Pilate—John 18:33-37
- D. John’s Testimony from Revelation—Rev 17:14

III. Our Righteousness Is NOT Our Own but the LORD’s

- A. Our righteousness is like a filthy rag (Isaiah 64:6)
- B. No one can be declared righteous through the law (Gal 3:21)
- C. The believer’s righteousness comes from Christ Himself
 1. Rom 3:21-26
 2. 2 Cor 5:21
 3. Phil 3:9
 4. 1 Cor 1:27-31

IV. Conclusion:

- A. Jeremiah 23 supports the Messiah, Jesus Christ, being the incarnation of God because he bears God’s holy covenant name (YaHWeH-tsidkenu) (Isaiah 42:8)
- B. The LORD’s passion for us moved Him to SECURE our righteousness through His Son.
- C. Encouragement: Pursue your relationship with the LORD by learning his names.

Proverbs 18:10 — *The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.*

Psalm 9:10 — *And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.*

Psalm 20:7 — *Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.*

John 10:27-29 — ²⁷ *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.* ²⁸ *I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.* ²⁹ *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.*

Isaiah 9:6-7 — ⁶ *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* ⁷ *Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

Discussion Questions

1. Why was God upset with the shepherds who were leading his flock in Jeremiah's time?
2. What new shepherds and "righteous Branch" will God appoint? What is his goal in making this change?
3. Jesus applied the shepherd imagery to himself (see John 10:7-16). How does he fulfill this promise for you personally?
4. Which title, name or role of God is most special to you?
5. Why do we struggle with God's message that we can NOT create a righteousness from our own performance?
6. Can this self-based righteousness continue to afflict the believer even after they have come to believe in the grace of God alone for salvation? Why?

NOTES

S B O C S H Y T H E N I A
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ATTEND	AWAY	BEHOLD
BROUGHT	CARE	COMING
CONCERNING	COUNTRY	DAYS
DECLARES	DEEDS	DESTROY
DRIVEN	DWELL	EVIL
FLOCK	ISRAEL	LAND
LIVES	LORD	PEOPLE
RIGHTEOUS	SCATTER	SHEPHERDS
THEN	THEREFORE	WHEN

Isaiah 64:6 (ESV) — ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Galatians 3:21 (NAS) — ²¹ Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.

Romans 3:21–22 (NAS) — ²¹ But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NAS) — ²¹ He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Philippians 3:9 (NAS) — ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

1 Corinthians 1:27–31 (ESV) — ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

God's Vision and Mission for the Alliance Bible Church

The Alliance Bible Church is a multi-cultural church celebrating the life of Christ in us by:

- Proclaiming the full message of God's Good News to the diverse cultures of McHenry and surrounding communities,
- Discipling believers in living the deeper Christian life,
- Equipping His people for the work of ministry, and
- Demonstrating the unconditional love of Jesus to our community through meaningful acts of service.