

Yahweh our righteousness

SMALL GROUP NOTES

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Scripture

Jeremiah 23: 5-8

Scripture context

The leaders who God has set over his people have led them astray. The Lord delegated them responsibility to shepherd His people but instead of protecting them they have scattered them. The people are in a state of fear and dismay. They are lost. Into this context the Lord promises to raise up a righteous king who will 'deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.' But he gives him a very surprising name, 'Yahweh our righteousness.'

Did you know?

- Jeremiah's prophetic ministry spanned forty years from 626BC to the fall of Jerusalem in 587BC.
- Zedekiah was the last king of Judah and his name means 'the Lord is my righteousness.' The Lord's revealed name 'Yahweh our righteousness' then draws a direct comparison between the Righteous Branch God will raise up and the current king.
- Zedekiah was a 'vassal' king, put in place by Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon to rule over the remnant of Judah left in Jerusalem.

Question for study and discussion

1. Compare the descriptions of the 'shepherds' of Israel whom the Lord condemns and the promised Righteous Branch. In what ways did the shepherds rule badly; how will the Righteous Branch rule well?
2. What is surprising about the name 'Yahweh our righteousness'?
3. Read Romans 3:9-26. What does this passage tell us about the state of humanity and how Jesus has dealt with our unrighteousness?

Digging Deeper

Study Isaiah 11:1-10 and consider how this prophetic word finds its fulfilment in Jesus both now and in the future.

Resources for further study / devotion

Incomparable; Explorations in the character of God, by Andrew Wilson.

Knowing God, J.I. Packer, Chapter 9, God only wise & Chapter 10, God's wisdom and ours

God Stories, Andrew Wilson, *Imputed Righteousness*, p213-216