

OUR SEASON: Preparing for Spiritual Battle



May 2021

Preparing for spiritual battle is the responsibility of each individual believer, the *Good News* is that we are all equally able to accomplish the task; as long as we stand with righteousness. The question is are we righteous?

In this article we will explore the meaning of righteousness from Yahweh's point of view to the best of our ability. Firstly, whenever I do a "word study" I refer to the word in the context in which is derived and it's original intentional. For those who have studied Constitutional Law you may automatically see the pattern in that Laws are created to address something specific. Righteousness too, addresses something specific.

Righteousness allows us insights as to the character and expression of Yahweh Himself. We are fortunate in that the Hebrew language is a very in-depth language in which each letter has meaning and together the letters form a mental picture. This gives the Word of Yahweh great power in that everyone can determine it's true meaning – if we know how to decipher it correctly. In Hebrew we call this a pictograph. However, our English alphabet is modeled after the same standard, I know it is surprising, but we can understand words through pic-

tures.

Back to the question – What is righteousness? We can add to that the question – Who in the bible are specifically named as righteous? Ultimately —How can we become righteous? So we will explore these three questions herein.

Firstly, what is Yahweh's standard for righteous? To understand this we disassemble the Hebrew word



for righteousness, **צדקה** Tzedakah and formulate some biblical definitions. In general there are two and three letter roots to words in Hebrew so that righteous three letter root is **צדק** Tzedeq, meaning *Righteous; to be Right, Just, or Upright*. Determining the true meaning of the word we look to the letters--

צ Tzade = *Fishhook, Hunt, Chase, Catch, Desire, Trail, Journey, a man on his Side. Tzadik is a servant of God and servant of people. One was carries— little one that holds a lot i.e. whole world on shoulders. Tzadik is going down and seeking*

to lift up the world. Everyone has the ability to be Tzadik or righteous.

ד Dalet = *Door, Entrance, Gate, Pathway, Hang, to Move in and out. The door to true spiritual reality is through a deep sense of humility. In relationship to God, all of creation is in a state of humbleness.*

ק Qoof = *Back of Head, Follow, Behind, Last, Least, Horizon...The Kuf stands for holiness (Kadosh) Take strangeness of this world and fill it with purpose.*

If we are righteous, we are hunting (journeying) constantly to be hooked by Yahweh, so that the doorway or path leads us to a spiritual alertness, that removes the chaos or strangeness and exchanges it for purpose. Wow that's a grand expectation, but the expectation is a shared one throughout all humanity. Our journey is made easier when we humble ourselves to Yeshua/Jesus, hook onto the Word of Yahweh and remove all that we find contrary to Him!

The first person to be considered righteous in the eyes of Yahweh was Noah. We read in *Genesis 6:8-9 Noah, however, found favor in the eyes of the LORD. This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his genera-*

This is such contrary thinking when compared to the world. We see evidence daily that there is nothing in certain ones which even remotely searches for a higher authority. They have made themselves the higher authority and thrust it upon others without regard to the ultimate consequences. It is very troubling, but we can have confidence that their endeavors will not stand in the Kingdom of the Righteous!

I found in Ezekiel 14:20 a verse which proves that righteousness is not the only thing needed for salvation. *“Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.”* This brings to mind the politically correct statements often made by others which fall short of the true word of Yahweh. That being, “All roads lead to God.” If this were true, why would we have need of a personal relationship with our redeeming and delivering Messiah?

Maybe this makes Paul’s writing more relatable to us, “So, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed when I was with you, it is even more important that you obey now when I am away from you: **keep working out your deliverance with fear and trembling, for God is the one working among you both the willing and the working for what pleases him.** Do everything without kvetching or arguing,

so that you may be blameless and pure children of God, **without defect in the midst of a twisted and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the sky, as you hold on to the Word of Life...**” (Philippians 2:12-16)

How Are We To Become Righteous?

As Paul describes above it is an ongoing journey but one we can finish only by the grace of Yeshua. When we neglect the counsel of the Holy Spirit, we neglect the true pathway which leads to righteousness. Before we seek to serve in a Spiritual battle we must prepare our own spirit. We can not rely on association to others to accomplish this, we must prepare inwardly.

“Finally, grow powerful in union with the Lord, in union with his mighty strength! Use all the armor and weaponry that God provides, so that you will be able to stand against the deceptive tactics of the Adversary. For we are not struggling against human beings, but against the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers governing this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm. So take up every piece of war equipment God provides; so that when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist; and when the battle is won, you will still be standing. Therefore, stand! Have the belt of truth buckled around your waist, put on righteousness for a breastplate, and wear on your feet the

readiness that comes from the Good News of shalom. Always carry the shield of trust, with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the Evil One. And take the helmet of deliverance; along with the sword given by the Spirit, that is, the Word of God; as you pray at all times, with all kinds of prayers and requests, in the Spirit, vigilantly and persistently, for all God’s people.

In application we are being called to battle for righteousness; the cen-



ter breastplate. It protects those things most dear to the Father and brings us into obedience to Him. Spiritual battles are not pleasant, but as we surmount each one we grow stronger navigating the darkness in our own lives and effect others to navigating their own.