

Jeremiah 23:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Analysis

This verse reveals the purpose and effects of the Righteous Branch's reign. First, 'Judah shall be saved'—the Hebrew *yiwscha* (יָשַׁבָּא) means delivered, rescued, or saved, the same root from which 'Jesus' (Yeshua) derives. This is more than political deliverance; it is comprehensive salvation from sin, judgment, and alienation from God. Second, 'Israel shall dwell safely'—not merely physical security but the covenant blessing of dwelling in God's presence without fear.

The name given to this King is theologically explosive: 'THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS' (YHWH *Tsidqenu*, יְהָוָה צִדְקָתָנוּ). This divine name applied to the Davidic king reveals His deity. No mere human could bear Yahweh's covenant name. This king will not merely be righteous Himself; He will be righteousness for His people. This points directly to the gospel truth that Christ's righteousness is imputed to believers—'He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him' (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Reformed theology emphasizes that salvation is 'in Christ' alone—His righteousness becomes ours through faith. We are not saved by our own righteousness (which is as filthy rags) but by Christ's perfect righteousness credited to our account. This is the doctrine of justification by faith, the heart of the gospel, prophesied here six centuries before Christ's incarnation.

Historical Context

The name 'THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS' directly contrasts with the last king of Judah, whose name was Zedekiah—meaning 'Yahweh is righteousness.' Zedekiah bore God's name but betrayed it through his unfaithfulness. The true King would not merely bear the name but embody it perfectly. This prophecy sustained Jewish hope through the exile and the intertestamental period, creating expectation for Messiah that Jesus fulfilled.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does understanding Christ as 'THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS' free us from trying to establish our own righteousness?
2. What does it mean practically that we 'dwell safely' in Christ—what fears and insecurities does this address?
3. How does this prophecy demonstrate that salvation has always been through faith in God's promised Messiah, not through law-keeping?

Interlinear Text

בָּיִמּוֹי	ע	תִּשְׁבָּא	לְ	יְהוָה	ה	וְיִשְׁרָאֵל	וְיִשְׁכַּן	בָּטָח	לֹא	וְיִשְׁכַּן	בָּיִמּוֹי
In his days	shall be saved	Judah	and Israel	shall dwell	safely						H2088
H3117	H3467	H3063	H3478	H7931	H983						
וְיִשְׁמַעְמָר	אָשָׁר	וְיִקְרָא	וְיִהְיֶה	וְיִזְקָרְנוּ							
and this is his name	H834	H7121	whereby he shall be called	H3068	H6664						

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 1:30 (Righteousness): But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Jeremiah 33:16 (Salvation): In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.

Philippians 3:9 (Righteousness): And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Romans 3:22 (Righteousness): Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Isaiah 7:14 (References Lord): Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 9:6 (Parallel theme): For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (Righteousness): For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Jeremiah 30:10 (Salvation): Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.

Jeremiah 32:37 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:

Daniel 9:24 (Righteousness): Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

