

# The Attributes of God?

## Righteousness & Related Qualities

Study by Jason Labonte

### I. Definitions

#### A. Hebrew צדקה *Ts'dhakáh* “Righteousness, Justice, Blameless Behavior, Legality”

1. Root: צדק *Tsadhók* or *Tsadhék* “To Be in the Right, To Be in Order”
2. Original Meaning: “Hardness, Straightness, Order, Normality”
3. Related Words
  - i. צדיק *Tsaddík* “Right, Correct, in Order, Just, Fair, Righteous, Legal”
  - ii. צדק *Tsédhek* “A Right, Norm, Fairness, Rightness”
  - iii. צדקיה *Tsidh'kiyyáh*, Zedekiah “YHWH Is Righteous”
4. The word is relative to an established order — culture, nature, government, or law.
5. It is primarily a legal term, not a moral one.
6. In the Old Testament, when speaking of people, the reference is almost always to the Law.<sup>1</sup>

#### B. Greek Δικαιοσύνη *Dikaíosúne* “Righteousness, Justice”

1. Root: Δίκη *Díke*, Dike (a goddess) “Custom, Usage, Law”
2. Original Meaning: “To Direct, To Posit”
3. Original Usage: “Observance of Custom or Social Rule, Good Order, Civility, Regularity”
4. Later Usage: “Evenness, Good Balance, Regularity, Exactness, Rigidity, Lawfulness, Fitness, Truth, Fairness, Goodness, Legality”

“God’s law is an **order** of life that **cannot be changed** or challenged. It is righteous **because he is** righteous. His ways are right; they thus give us **life and security**.” — Gerhard Kittel and Gerhard Friedrich<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> However, see Ecc 7:15-18 for an example of a use of “righteousness” that cannot refer to the Law.

<sup>2</sup> *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*

## **II. God's Righteousness in the Old Testament**

- A. Psalm 36:6 — How is God's righteousness like a mountain?**
- B. Psalm 89:14 — What is the importance of the throne?**
- C. Psalm 97:6 — How is God's righteousness seen in His universe?**
- D. Isaiah 45:18-23 — What is the significance of God swearing by Himself?<sup>3</sup>**
- E. Isaiah 46:12-13 — What does it mean for God to bring near His righteousness?**
- F. Psalm 7:11**
- G. Psalm 111:1-6**
- H. Psalm 166:5**
- I. Isaiah 5:16**
- J. Daniel 9:14**

## **III. God's Righteousness in the New Testament**

- A. Revelation 16:4-8**
- B. James "sundial"**

## **IV. Jesus' Righteousness in the Old and New Testaments**

- A. Psalm 45:6**
- B. Jeremiah 23:5-6**
- C. Matthew 3:13-15 — How did baptism "fulfill righteousness"?**
- D. Romans 3:21-26**

## **V. Our Righteousness**

- A. Psalm 5:8 — What does it mean to be led in righteousness?**
- B. Hosea 2:19 — What does it mean to be betrothed to God in righteousness?**
- C. Isaiah 64:6**
- D. Romans 1:17**
- E. Romans 5:15-19**

---

<sup>3</sup> See also Heb 6:13-

## **VI. Application**

- A. How does our understanding of the righteousness of God affect our worship of Him?**
- B. How does our understanding of the righteousness of the Christ affect how we live our lives?**