

Meet the Real Yeshua Series

By Jim Myers

BHC Guidelines & Models

#1 Explorer's Pledge

My belief system will be large enough to include all facts, open enough to be questioned and examined, and flexible enough to change if errors or new facts are discovered.

#2 Words

A word consists of symbols or sounds with an attached bundle of associations. Those associations are a product of the source's culture, time period, locations and personal experiences.

#3 Communicating

A communications experience consists of a Source (writer or speaker) and Receptor (reader or hearer). Our goal is to identify the Source's meanings of words.

#4 The Bible

"The Bible" is a name many books share, but they are not all the same. Some have different books, while others have different words in the books they share.

#5 Biblical Heritages

Biblical Heritages are the histories of institutions that created biblical canons or make claims of divine authority linked to Bibles.

#6 The Brain

The brain continually rewrites its circuitry as it processes information to reflect the world around it and optimize its efficacy within it. It generates the individual realities humans experience as life. Beliefs are meme-models created by the brain.

The Real Yeshua is the term I use for the Jewish Jesus. His Hebrew name was "Yeshua." The primary sources of information about the *Real Yeshua* are the *New Testament* books *Matthew, Mark and Luke*. Yeshua lived in Nazareth from about 6 BCE until 24 CE when he founded a movement that he called the "Kingdom of Heaven Movement." Somewhere between 25 and 27 CE, Pontius Pilate, the fifth governor of the Roman province of Judaea, ordered Roman soldiers to execute Yeshua by crucifixion. *The Real Yeshua Series focuses on the period between 6 BCE to 27 CE.*

Yeshua was an educated skilled teacher and interpreter of the *Torah, Prophets, and Writings – Jewish Scriptures* whose books found in the "*Christian Old Testament*." This is revealed in Matthew 5:17. Below is the translation from the *New King James Version*:

*Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets.
I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.*

The *Torah, Prophets and Writings* were written in the Hebrew language. The Jewish audiences to whom he spoke, heard portions of the *Torah, Prophets and Writings* read from in Hebrew every Shabbat (Friday sundown to Saturday sundown) at their synagogues. They also heard them read at Hebrew at the Temple in Jerusalem. Yeshua spoke and taught in Hebrew, and probable in Aramaic too, because in was the common language of the people.

The words of Yeshua have been preserved in Greek in the *Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke*. The first *Bible* of Christians was called the Septuagint, a Greek translation of the *Torah, Prophets, and Writings*. Greek was a well-known language across the Gentile world from Egypt to the British Isles and eastward to Babylon. This was the world in which Christianity originated and spread.

Reconstructing key Hebrew words that Yeshua taught is essential for accurately understanding his teachings and movement. When we reconstruct the Hebrew words behind Matthew 5:17, which I quoted above, this is what we found.

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*Do not think that I intend to remove words from
or add words to the **Torah** or the **Prophets**.
I also do not intend to misinterpret the words
of the **Torah** or the **Prophets**!
I intend to quote them accurately
and correctly interpret them.
Amen!*

As you can now see, the traditional English translation doesn't reveal what Yeshua's Jewish followers heard. Almost all of his teachings are linked to portions of texts found in the Jewish Scriptures, therefore identifying the portions his teachings are linked to is essential for understanding them.

Parables are often seen as the hallmark of *Yeshua's* teaching, because he was an expert at creating them. Parables are stories that may be as short a sentence or two long, but when viewed in light of the portions of the *Torah*, *Prophets*, and *Writings* linked to them, they reveal his most important messages. Yeshua spoke to Jewish audiences about subjects related to Hebrew Scriptures they knew very well. In addition to hearing them and their synagogues and Yeshua, the Jewish audiences also heard them from teachers linked to other Jewish groups – *specifically Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, and Temple scribes*. Yeshua taught about many subjects the other groups considered important, and he was often on opposing sides from them.

Parables are found in the *Jewish Scriptures*, and Jewish teachers in the first century used them to make their points. So, Jewish audiences were very familiar with parable and clearly understood what they were supposed to do when they heard them.

1. *See the world in a different way.*
2. *Look into the hidden aspects of their own lives and allow unasked questions to surface.*
3. *Reveal answers they may have always known but refused to acknowledge.*
4. *Expect to be reminded, provoked, confronted, and disturbed in order to focus on actions they need to take.¹*

Review

1. Yeshua was an educated skilled teacher and interpreter of the *Torah*, *Prophets*, and *Writings*.
2. Almost all of his teachings are linked to portions of texts found in the Jewish Scriptures, so identifying the portions linked his teachings is a top priority.
3. The *Torah*, *Prophets* and *Writings* were written in the **Hebrew language**, and **Yeshua spoke Hebrew and Aramaic**.

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4. The words of Yeshua have been preserved in **Greek** in the *Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke*.
5. Reconstructing key Hebrew words that Yeshua taught is essential for accurately understanding his teachings and movement.
6. Yeshua taught about many subjects the other Jewish groups considered important, and he was often on opposing sides from them.
7. Parables are the hallmark of *Yeshua's* teachings and learning how to understand them will help you more accurately understand his words.

¹ *Short Stories By Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi* By Amy-Jill Levine © 2014; HarperCollins Publishers, Broadway, NY; p. 4.