

Yeshua's Kingdom of Heaven Handbook

From Yeshua to Jesus

Many people are surprised to discover that Jesus wasn't his name. How do we know? Well, to begin with there are two basic facts.

1. The word *Jesus* begins with the letter *J* and that letter did not enter the English language until the 16th century CE, over 1,500 years after he lived and taught in Galilee and Judea.
2. The English language first appeared centuries after he lived and taught in Galilee and Judea.

Jesus is an English word so his name could not be *Jesus*. Now let's find out what his name was and how it became *Jesus*.

1. The history of the name begins in the Bible in Numbers 13:16 -- *These are the names of the men which Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun, Yehoshua.*

There was a man named *Hoshea*; *Oshea* in some translations.

Moses, for some unstated reason, decided to call him *Yehoshua* (*Joshua* in most English translations) *ó* in Hebrew it is *Yehoshua*. He became known as *Yehoshua son of Nun*.

Yehoshua means "Yahweh is Salvation," but "salvation" did not mean *ó*life after death, *ó*going to Heaven *ó* or *ó*being saved from going to Hell *ó*.

2. The next step is Nehemiah 8:17 -- *So the whole assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and sat under the booths; for since the days of Yeshua the son of Nun until that day the children of Israel had not done so. And there was very great gladness.*

As a result of the Aramaic influence of the Babylonians, *Yehoshua* was shortened to *Yeshua* (*Joshua*).

Yehoshua son of Nun became *Yeshua son of Nun*.

3. In 250 BCE, the Hebrew Scriptures were translated into Greek in Alexandria, Egypt. The new translation was called *ó*the Septuagint *ó*.

The translators transliterated the Hebrew letters of *ó**Yeshua* *ó* -- *ó* -- into Greek as **Ἰησοῦς**. Transliterate means replace each Hebrew letter or symbol with a corresponding Greek letter or symbol.

When we transliterate the Greek word **Ἰησοῦς** into English we get *ó**Jesus* *ó*. *Yeshua* is the transliteration of the Hebrew word *Yehoshua* into English.

4. The earliest surviving manuscripts of the books of the *New Testament* are written in Greek.

The Greek word **Ἰησοῦς** is the word in those Greek manuscripts that modern translators transliterate into English as *Jesus*.

Look at #3 above and you will see that it is the same Greek word -- **Ἰησοῦς** that was used in the Septuagint to transliterate the Hebrew word *Yeshua*.

5. In 382 CE when **Jerome** translated the *New Testament* into Latin. He transliterated **Ἰησοῦς** into Latin as **Iesus** (*Jesus*).

The Latin word **Iesus** was the official name of Yeshua in Western Christianity for the next thousand years.

6. The first *King James Version* was made in 1611. The word the English translators used was a transliteration of the Latin word **Iesus**.

Matthew 1:1 (1611 King James Translation) *ó The booke of the generation of Iesus Christ, the sonne of Dauid, the sonne of Abraham.*

7. In 1769 Benjamin Blayney edited the *King James Version*.

Matthew 1:1 (1769 King James Translation) -- *The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*

In first century Judea and Galilee he was called *Yeshua*. Yeshua was his name. Now you know how he became *Jesus*. When we reconnect him to his real name we reconnect his words to his Hebrew language and Jewish culture. We view his life and teachings in the cultural context in which he lived. Over the years the meanings of his most important teachings changed too. Reconnecting Yeshua to his name is a first step for those of us who value his words to find common ground and begin bringing transparency to a deeply divided people that *believe* in Jesus, but know little or nothing about the Real Yeshua. When you read your Bible, read it out loud and use the name *Yeshua*. *I have no doubt that Yeshua would like that very much!*

If you agree that people should call *Yeshua* by his real name -- [Like the Real Yeshua Facebook Page](#) and share this blog with others too.

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Shalom,
Jim Myers