

# His Name is “Yeshua”

By Jim Myers

Would it surprise you to discover that the real name of Jesus is “**Yeshua**”? It surprised me the first time I heard this. Some people say, “What difference does it make?” What difference would it make if everyone called you by the wrong name? *Yeshua was his name!* First, I will tell you how we know that “Jesus” is **not** his name.

1. Yeshua was born around **6 BCE** and he was crucified by the Romans around **30 CE**.
2. The history of the English language began with the arrival of three Germanic tribes -- *Angles, Saxons and Jutes* -- who invaded Britain around **450 CE**. They crossed the North Sea from what today is Denmark and northern Germany. The invading Germanic tribes spoke similar languages, which in Britain developed into what we now call Old English. Old English did not sound or look like English today.<sup>1</sup>
3. The English word “*Jesus*” begins with the letter “**J**” which did not appear in the English alphabet until 1524 CE and did not appear in print until 1634.

Jesus could not have been his name because “*Jesus*” is an English word, the English language came into being over 400 years after his crucifixion, and the letter “**J**” did not enter the English language until the 16<sup>th</sup> century CE.

Now I will tell you how we concluded that “**Yeshua**” was his name.

1. 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) – in Hebrew it is יהושע. He became known as **Yehoshua son of Nun**.
2. 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** (ישוע).
  - *Yehoshua son of Nun* became **Yeshua** son of *Nun*.

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<sup>1</sup> [History of English | EnglishClub](#)

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

- The translators transliterated the Hebrew letters of “Yeshua” -- יֵשׁוּעַ -- into Greek as **Ἰησοῦς** (**lesous**). *Transliterate means replace each Hebrew letter or symbol with a corresponding Greek letter or symbol.*

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

- The Greek word **Ἰησοῦς** is the word we find in those Greek manuscripts.

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

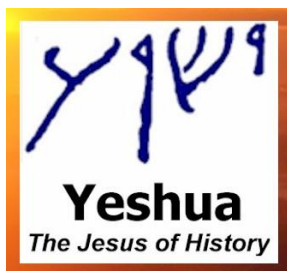
- The Latin word **lesous** was the official name of Yeshua in Western Christianity for the next thousand years.

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

- Matthew 1:1 (1611 King James Translation) – *The booke of the generation of **lesus** 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 יֵשׁוּעַ (**Yeshua**). The Hebrew symbols I have been using above for his name did not exist at that time. The graphic on the left shows how his name would have been written in the first century. It is important to call him Yeshua for another reason, too – *it reminds us that he was a Jew living in the Late Second Temple Period in Judea and Galilee.*

I will close with the **BHC Primary Guideline**:

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

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