Yah'shua – the Proper Name of our Messiah

Summary

"Jesus" is a Greek-Latin import that carries neither the sound nor the meaning of the name the angel Gabriel actually gave. This article recovers what that original name said — and why it mattered that it did.

- "Jesus" as a Greek-Latin rendering that preserves neither the original Hebrew name (Luke 1:26-31) nor its meaning.
- "Yah'shua" containing the Father's own name ("Yah") and meaning "Yahweh is Salvation."
- Old Covenant precedents for the name (Exodus 15:2; Psalm 118:14; Isaiah 12:2).
- The custom of sons bearing a father's name.

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Hebrew "Yh'shw" = English "Yah'shua"

There is no more prophetically important Name than the Name of the Son of Yahweh whom the world has come to know as "Jesus". In the Bible we are told its meaning: "..Yahweh sent the angel Gabriel...and said *(to Mary)*...You will...give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the Name Yah'shua...because He will save His people from their sins" *(Lk.1:26-31; Mt.1:21).*

Unfortunately millions of Christians have been brought up to believe that the Name of the Son of Yahweh is "Jesus". It isn't. "Jesus" isn't His real name at all but it is a corrupt Latin-Greek fabrication of a name that does not carry the meaning ascribed by Yahweh through His angel Gabriel. The Greek for "saviour" is soter and the Latin is salvare. The Son of Yahweh was never called "Jesus" at any time in the original Bibles, either in prophecy or while on earth or in Heaven.

Every son anciently bore his father's name. There were no surnames or "family names" anciently, though there were certainly tribal associations. The ancient practice still obtains in many countries around the world. While a mortal, Yah'shua carried the name of his step-father, Joseph, and would typically have been known as He was often referenced as "Yah'shua ben Joseph" *(or "Yah'shua bar Joseph")* under normal conditions, meaning Yah'shua, son of Joseph.

However, His Heavenly Father was His true Father and whose Name we would therefore also expect Him to bear. And indeed He does, and He claimed to do the same, when He said: "I have come **in** My Father's Name" *(Jn.5:43)* which means more than simply bearing the authority of Yahweh -- it means that the Father's Name was in His own name, meaning He was "Yah'shua, the Son of Yahweh" *(His Father).*

The true Name of the Man we have come to know as "Jesus" is, in fact, Yah'shua. His Name is even mentioned in the Old Covenant when Moses said: "Yah *("the Lord")*...has become my salvation" *(Ex.15:2).* David echoed him: "Yah *("the Lord")*...has become my salvation" *(Ps.118:14).* This became a common cry

of victory: "..Yah *("God")*...is my salvation" *(Isa.12:2a)*. The Hebrew for "salvation" is shua; thus Yah'shua in "loosely translated" English means "God of Salvation", or more accurately transliterated, it means, "Yahweh is Salvation" or "Yahweh's Salvation".

In the light of what we know about the proper name of Yahweh, what then should be our position regarding "Jesus" and Yah'shua? Unlike the word "Jehovah", which we consider blasphemous, we can find no evidence that "Jesus" falls under a similar category. "Jesus" is not, as we have said, His proper name, and tells us by its definition, nothing about the Man of the Messiah. Clearly Yah'shua is the proper Name that defines "who" the Messiah is, and the one we should begin to get into the habit of using.

"Jesus" is derived from the Greek which has no "sh" sound. When originally Yah'shua was translated into the Greek, it probably sounded something like "Eesu-uh" with the suffix "-s" for the correct grammatical ending, making Iesous. This was also the name used in English up to about two-and-a-half-centuries ago when it was written "Iesus", and is still the pronunciation used in Scandinavian countries, even though it is spelled "Jesus", as is the

Spanish version which sounds like "Heyzuez".

There are some who maintain that "Iesous" or its derivitive "Jesus" is a blasphemous syncretism with the Greek deity Zeus but we find little evidence for that. Iesous is simply the erroneous Hellenic *(Greek)* version of Yah'shua which later became corrupted into the word Jesus. To say "Jesus" instead of Yah'shua is, in our opinion, no more insulting than someone calling me "Henry" instead of "Jon". However, clearly "Yah'shua" is His proper name and demonstrates not only our respect, but our willingness to be obedient. There is no obstacle to Anglo-Saxon tongues articulating it, thus we should learn to use it.

The name "Jesus" is thrice removed from the original Hebrew/Aramaic "**ישוע**". That said, the Messiah's name is not "Jesus," it is "Yah'shua", nor is it "Yeshua" as others also erroneously claim.

"Yah'shua" is a transliteration of the Hebrew **ישוע**. "Yeshua" is an incorrect transliteration of the Hebrew, more akin to a translation. Yeshua is an incorrectly shortened or contracted form of Y'hoshua **יהושוע** - the Hebrew equivalent of "Joshua", which is more accurately, "salvation" as opposed to "Yahweh is Salvation", or "Yahweh's Salvation".

Where Y'hoshua is used it is intended to mean "Yahweh Saves" or "Yahweh of salvation", or sometimes simply "salvation". *("**Yah**" **יה** being a shortened, Biblical form of the sacred Name of Yahweh* **יהוה***, usually represented in English as YHWH, or sometimes incorrectly as YHVH and commonly misspelled in English as "Jehovah".)* The ancient scribes of the Hebrew Scriptures *(Masoretes)* purposely misspelled *(mis-pointed)* the sacred Name ("YHWH") to alert readers to avoid its pronunciation, which was superstitiously considered too sacred to utter.

All throughout the Scriptures, the Masoretes purposely misspelled *(mis-pointed)* other names, like "Y'hoshua," for the same reasons - to avoid pronouncing the sacred Name. The Hebrew for "Yah" appears

in many places in the Scriptures, including in other names, such as "Yeshayahu" *(Isaiah),* "Yoshiyahu" *(Josiah)* and many others where this same form of misspelling did not occur.

Since "Y'hoshua" has purposely been misspelled, it should be correctly rendered "Yah'shua" to preserve the "Yah" in the name. Any 5-year-old Hebrew student can easily pronounce what was originally written in the Scriptures, which can only be transliterated correctly as "Yah'shua".

According to Matthew 1:21, the Master was named "Yah'shua" because he would in His Father's name, save his people from their sins. "Yeshua", the shortened form of the Hebrew "yeshuah" ישועה, does not mean "Yahweh saves," but means simply "salvation" or "Yah of salvation" - which although is exactly what Yah'shua is for us, it tends to imply that our salvation is by the power or authority of the Messiah rather than by the power and authority of Yahweh. Salvation is "through" the Messiah, but exclusively by the power and authority of Yahweh, as the Messiah Himself stated, "I can do nothing of Myself".

When reading the original Hebrew and in many cases, even the original Greek writings, we must also utilize the proper grammatical structure originally intended. For example, the phrase; "you shall call His name" has been erroneously used in place of; "His name shall be called" in many, if not most modern English translations of the New Covenant.

The original writers were attempting in these instances to explain to us what would come to mind, or what we would think of when we heard His name, or in other words, "what His name means" as opposed to "what His name is". The word "called", might be better translated in English as "mean", so that the phrase properly transliterated would read: "His name shall mean".

The best example of this is where the same grammar was left intact in the English translations of Isaiah 9:6: "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And <u>His name will be called</u> [will mean] Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Obviously, these are meant to describe what His name "means" to us, they are not all intended to "be" His names.

In this example, it is clear that whatever His "name" would be, it would call to mind, ALL of these things. This also applies to the often misunderstood Hebrew word "Immanuel". The grammar used with the word Immanuel was the same.

In other words, when we heard His name called, we would think of "God with us" in English, or "Immanuel" if we were Hebrew speaking *(which is translated into the English phrase "God with us").* Our Messiah's name is Yah'shua. Yah'shua's name will be called - it will mean to us, Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, God with us, or if you are Hebrew speaking, Immanuel, which is the Hebrew equivalent of God with us.

We should not be surprised at why *Christians* "changed" the Messiah's name when conducting their early Bible translations. Does it not seem obvious that *Christians* wanted to change names and other key words

to gain credibility for their adoption of the false traditional, pagan doctrines still practiced by them today. If not, they would have changed His name from Yah'shua to 'Immanuel', not to the totally foreign Greek name, "Ieusis", which has more recently been altered into the form, "Jesus".

The Messiah has so many names in the Tanakh that if He was to be literally acknowledged by them all, the result would be ridiculous. This fact opened the opportunity for deception by the early *Christians*. We must be aware that Biblically, names can indicate something of a descriptive nature of the one to whom they belong. For that reason, Abraham, Jacob and others had their names changed to indicate a change of nature or position. Abram, the "exalted father", becomes Abraham; the "father of multitude".

The Messiah has many descriptive names; e.g.: ha Tsemach, "the Branch" *(Zechariah 3:8)*; *Pele*, "Wonderful"; Ya'ats, "Counsellor"; El gibbor, "mighty God" *(Isaiah 9:6)* etc.

It should be obvious that these descriptive names, including Immanuel speak of His nature, describing who He is, and are not meant to be strictly literal designations as to His actual name/title. What is interesting is that Matthew, while recognizing that Yah'shua is the Messiah – the prophesied Immanuel, relates that it was the angel Gabriel who instructed Miriam as to what her Son's name would mean *[what His name shall be called - meaning what His name shall 'mean', not what His name shall 'be'] (Matthew 1:18-25).*

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