



The ever changing name of Jesus

Truth about the savior's name

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When it comes to naming a baby, many parents are very picky. Sometimes a name is chosen in honor or memory of a loved one. Other names are inspired by movies, friends, or just the sound. Recently, the names Ethan, Emma, Noah, and Isabella were recognized as some of the most popular monikers in 2009.

Over two-thousand years ago a little boy was given a special name by direction of heavenly messengers. “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins,” Matthew 1:21. Of course, this verse has been translated into English. Originally, the angels spoke the language of Hebrew to this Jewish couple. The baby was actually given a Hebrew name. (English wasn’t spoken for thousands of years later!) The child was named “Yahoshua” or “Y’shua” for short. The Savior never heard the name “Jesus” while He walked the earth.

The name “Jesus” is a modern invention and has only been used for a few hundred years. History shows that around the third century BC, a group of Jewish scholars translated the Old Testament into Greek. This translation is known as the Septuagint. In the Septuagint, the name Joshua is rendered in Greek as “Iesous.” The early church was heavily influenced by the Greek culture and depended upon the Septuagint for reading the Old Testament. As the Gospel began to spread throughout the world the Hebrew name of “Yahoshua” was exchanged for a Greek name “Iesous.” Catholicism later implored the use of Latin and “Iesous” became “Iesus.” As English emerged, the “I” sound was changed to the letter “j.” Indeed, linguists prove that the letter “J” is the youngest sound in the English language. Under the subject “J,” the Encyclopedia Americana contains the following: “The form of J was unknown in any alphabet until the 14th century. The symbol was first used generally had the consonantal sound

of Y as in year. Gradually, the symbol (J) acquired consonantal force and thus become regarded as a consonant. It was not until 1630 that the differentiation became general in England.”

The original KJV that was printed in 1611 called the Savior by the Latin influenced “Iesus.” Later, as the “j” became a sound, the Messiah’s name was changed to “Jesus.” The modern name “Jesus” is at best a transliteration from the Hebrew to the Greek then to Latin and then English. The changing of the Savior’s name is very troubling as proper names are not translated from one language to another. For example, when George W. Bush would visit Spanish speaking countries his name wasn’t changed to “Jorge.” Regardless of where a person goes or what time in which they lived, it is customary to call someone by their original name. Plato is still Plato and Shakespeare is still Shakespeare. The Savior’s name was never meant to be changed.

“Y’shua” is the exact Hebrew word for “salvation.” Every time someone uses His name, they are actually calling out the word “salvation.” This is easy to miss as most people read English Bibles that have mistranslated and changed the name from Greek and Hebrew texts. Yet, using His true Hebrew name puts Yahoshua back into Hebrew context, which helps a person understand His actions and words better. “Wherefore the Almighty also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name. That at the name of Yahoshua every knee should bow... and every tongue should confess that Yahoshua the Messiah is Lord, to the glory of the Father,” Philippians 2:9-11. Finally, Acts 4:12 gives a compelling argument to use the true name. The verse reads, “salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”