

How Did Jesus Get His Name

Just how did we get to the English name "Jesus" if His Name given at birth was the Hebrew name "Yeshua" (ישוע), which is a contraction of "Yehoshua" (יהושע), with the Hebrew meaning "the Lord is salvation" or "Yahweh saves?"

The angel spoke to Mary in Hebrew, not in Greek, to use the particular Hebrew name, *Yehoshua* (*Yeshua*), because this name is related in its root form to the verb *yasha*, a Hebrew verb used in Psalm 69:1, translated as "save". More specifically, the angel told Mary, "Call his name Yeshua because he will *yasha* his people from their sins." *Yasha* is actually closer in meaning to rescue, to help, to defend and to bring to a safe place. It is about pulling a lost sheep from a crevice in the rocks and setting the lamb onto a fertile, spacious pasture and about liberation. Almost half of the Psalms contain occurrences of the verb *yasha* - almost always the verb is used as a command, usually in the first person which all increases the important reason for the original Hebrew Name.

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When the Greeks occupied the known Jerusalem world, and wanted little to do with the Hebrew Yeshua, they translated *Yehoshua* to *lēsous* (*pronounced "ee-sus"*). The Greek language did not have a direct equivalent for the Hebrew "sh" sound, and the ending "s" was added to make the name fit Greek grammar for male names.

When the Romans took over the known Jerusalem world after the Greeks, the Greek name *lēsous* was then translated into Latin as *Iesus* (*again, pronounced, "ee-sus"*). The Latin language also lacked the "sh" sound and used "s" instead because it was more understandable for their language. Even the 1611 publication of the King James Bible used the "Iesus" spelling.

So, now you may wonder, where did the "J" come from since there is no letter "J" in the Greek, Latin, or Hebrew languages? In Swiss German, the "J" happens to be pronounced more like an English "Y", or the Latin "IE" as in "Iesus." When the Catholic Queen, "Bloody" Mary 1, took the English throne in 1553, droves of English Protestant scholars fled, and many ultimately found refuge in Geneva, Switzerland. And when the Geneva Bible was written they decided to use the Swiss spelling "Jesus" because it was more understandable for their language.

The Geneva Bible was an enormously popular translation and used by many scholars and public figures such as Shakespeare and Milton. Eventually, it was brought over to the New World on the Mayflower. By 1769, most English translations of the Bible were using the "Jesus" spelling popularized by the Geneva Bible. And though Jesus' is not the real name of our Savior Yeshua and Messiah, the name Jesus became accepted around the world as the standard name.

Which name shall we use? When we discover the truth about something, compared to acting out of tradition, our heart has to decide which is best. Now that you know the truth, which Name will give you the true power and authority of the Father (YHVH). Allow the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

References and excerpts from:

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