

YEHOSHUA IS SHOWN TO BE THE MESSIAH OF ISRAEL IN SHEM TOV'S HEBREW MATTHEW TEXT!!:
RECOMMENDATION OF HEBREW GOSPEL OF MATTHEW BY GEORGE HOWARD (WITH DISCLAIMERS)

By Joy Collins Lyle, © 2023, all rights reserved.

RECOMMENDATION:

I have heavily relied on and recommended **THE SHEM TOV'S HEBREW MATTHEW TEXT** that is found in the book **HEBREW GOSPEL OF MATTHEW** by Professor George Howard in my research. I have used quotations of the Hebrew text from the British Library Manuscript Add 26964, that Professor Howard used as his basic text, in almost all my own books and articles. The following is the excerpt from the preface of the Second Edition of this book:

"The main thrust of this second edition is to demonstrate that the Hebrew Matthew contained in Shem-Tob's ***Evan Bohan*** predates the fourteenth century. In my judgment, Shem-Tob the polemist did not prepare this text by translating it from the Latin Vulgate, the Byzantine Greek, or any other known edition of the Gospel of Matthew. He received it from previous generations of Jewish scribes and tradents." (Howard, *Hebrew Gospel of Matthew*, pg. vii)

Also, from the Introduction to this second edition, we have the following:

"**A complete Hebrew Text of Matthew** appeared in the body of a fourteenth-century Jewish polemical treatise entitled *Evan Bohan* (אבן בוהן, "The Touchstone"). The author, Shem-Tob ben-Isaac ben-Shaprut (sometimes called Ibn Shaprut), was born in Tudela in Castile in the middle of the fourteenth century. He later settled in Tarazona in Aragon where as a physician he practiced medicine. There he completed *Evan Bohan* in 1380. He revised his work several times – in 1385, around 1400, and even later – by adding another five books or sections to the original twelve. Most manuscripts contain either fifteen or sixteen chapters, not always arranged in the same order. Of the original books, usually the first deals with the principles of the Jewish faith, the next nine deal with passages in the Bible that were disputed by Jews and Christians, the eleventh discusses haggadic sections in the Talmud used by Christians or Jewish proselytes to Christianity, and the twelfth (sometimes thirteenth) **contains the entire Gospel of Matthew in Hebrew, with polemical comments by Shem-Tob interspersed throughout the text.**

"Part one of the present volume contains the Hebrew text of Matthew found in Shem-Tob's treatise. A critical apparatus, noting manuscript variation, accompanies the text, and an English translation appears on facing pages. The polemical comments of Shem-Tob have been eliminated so that the gospel text may run continuously from beginning to end without interruption.

"Part two contains an analysis of Shem-Tob's Hebrew Matthew, including its place within the traditional Hebrew/Aramaic-Matthew tradition, and a literary, textual, and theological profile." (Howard, *Hebrew Gospel of Matthew*, pg. xi; emphasis added)

I very much appreciate the work that Professor Howard has done in locating and researching these nine manuscripts of *Evan Bohan* that contain the Hebrew Matthew texts! Dr. Nehemia Gordon has furthered

the research since the publication of this book and has found many other Shem-Tov manuscripts in the libraries throughout the world, totaling at least twenty-eight. I highly recommend Dr. Gordon's book, *The Hebrew Yeshua vs. the Greek Jesus: New Light on the Seat of Moses from Shem-Tov's Hebrew Matthew*, to understand the great importance of these manuscripts in comparison to the Greek manuscripts used in the New Testament Canon.

The very fact that Shem-Tov's book, *Even Bohan*, has polemical comments interspersed throughout the Hebrew Matthew text actually helps verify to me that the text was not tampered with in order to change the meaning. Since these texts seem to have been used by Jews in the Disputations with Christians during the Inquisitions, any change of the meaning of the text by the Jews would have been immediately contradicted by the Christians.

Dr. Gordon explains it this way:

"When I heard that a Hebrew version of Matthew still existed, I immediately went to the Hebrew University library on Mt. Scopus and after a quick search on the computer found a book entitled *The Gospel of Matthew according to a Primitive Hebrew Text*. The author was George Howard, a competent scholar at an American university. I sat down and began to read his book which contained a Hebrew text of Matthew, an English translation of that text, and a linguistic and textual study. Before I went to the Hebrew text I decided to read through the linguistic and textual study to see what I was dealing with.

"Howard explained that a Hebrew version of the book of Matthew had been preserved by a 14th Century Spanish Jew named Shem-Tov Ibn Shaprut. This Shem-Tov should not be confused with the *Ba'al Shem Tov*, the Rabbinical "miracle worker" who founded *Hasidism* in the 19th Century; the Shem-Tov that preserved the Hebrew version of Matthew lived 400 years earlier. This 14th Century Shem-Tov lived in Spain during the Inquisition. This period was marked by the *Disputatio*, or in English, "Disputations."

"These Disputations were public debates forced on the Jews by their Catholic oppressors. A Disputation might occur when a Catholic bishop sent his storm troopers into a nearby synagogue and dragged the local rabbi into the public square. The rabbi would then be forced to defend the Jewish faith on the spot. If the rabbi lost, the local Jewish population could be forcibly converted to Catholicism; if he won he could be charged with insulting the Catholic religion and be forced to flee for his life. The Disputation was really a no-win situation but most Jews would agree that becoming a refugee is preferable to being forcibly converted to Catholicism. Shem Tov Ibn Shaprut lived at the height of these Disputations and to help his fellow Jews he sat down and wrote a polemical treatise refuting Catholicism. Shem-Tov's polemical approach was to go through the New Testament section by section searching for weaknesses that could be used against the Catholics. **Interestingly enough, one of his common tactics was to point to verses where the Catholics violate the direct instructions of Yeshua (39).** At the end of Shem-Tov's polemical treatise, entitled *Even Bohan* ("Test Stone"), he included a Hebrew version of the book of Matthew as a sort of appendix. Shem-Tov explained that if his fellow Jews were to survive these Disputations they had better start reading the New Testament. The Hebrew version of Matthew appended to the end of Shem-Tov's *Even Bohan* is now generally referred to as "Shem-Tov's Hebrew Matthew." Shem-Tov's Hebrew Matthew was known for centuries but it was always

assumed that Shem-Tov simply translated his version of Matthew from Greek or Latin into Hebrew. Then in the 1980's George Howard of Mercer University in Georgia carried out a detailed linguistic study in which he showed that there were parts of Shem-Tov's Hebrew Matthew which could not be easily explained as translations from Greek. When I got to the part in Howard's book with the linguistic study I was excited; now I was back in my element."

"(39) For example, on Matthew 12:1-8, Shem-Tov points out that the Catholics have done away with the Sabbath even though Yeshua clearly upheld it. See also Garshowitz pp. 307-309. [L. Garshowitz, "Shem Tov ben Isaac Ibn Shaprut's Gospel of Matthew", in: *The Frank Talmage Memorial Volume I*, ed. B. Walfish, Haifa 1993, pp 297-322]" (Gordon, *The Hebrew Yeshua vs. the Greek Jesus: New Light on the Seat of Moses from Shem-Tov's Hebrew Matthew*, pp. 37-39,104; emphasis added)

Another summary of the Hebrew Gospel of Matthew states this:

"The Gospel of Matthew was written nearly two thousand years ago in Hebrew before being translated into Greek and other languages. An early Christian author named Papias wrote around the year 100:

'MATTHEW COMPOSED HIS HISTORY IN THE HEBREW DIALECT, AND EVERYONE TRANSLATED IT AS HE WAS ABLE.'

"The original Hebrew version of the Gospel of Matthew was widely disseminated and read among Jesus' Jewish followers known as THE NAZARENES. When Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire, the Nazarenes were forced underground and the Hebrew version of Matthew slipped into obscurity.

"Hebrew Matthew resurfaced a thousand years later when a Spanish rabbi named Shem Tov Ibn Shaprut copied it as an appendix to his book *Even Bochan*. Shem Tov's version of Hebrew Matthew has been known in the Western world for over a hundred years but it had been generally assumed to be a translation from Latin or Greek. In 1987, Professor George Howard of Macon University wrote a monumental book proving that Hebrew Matthew was not a translation at all but an original work written in Hebrew (1).

"The surviving version of Hebrew Matthew is not an exact duplicate of the original gospel written in the First Century. It has gone through a long and complicated process of transmission just as the Greek version has. The profound importance of Hebrew Matthew is that it serves as a witness to the original Hebrew gospel and preserves much of the flavor and character of the Hebrew message preached by Jesus of Nazareth some two thousand year ago.

"Hebrew Matthew has survived in twenty-eight manuscripts copied by Jewish scribes in the Middle Ages (2). One of the most important of these manuscripts is preserved in the British Library and designated "Add 26964". The reproduction, containing Hebrew Matthew 1:18-25 from the British Library manuscript, is presented in miniature on the front cover of this booklet and is available separately as a 24" x 18" poster.

“(1) G. Howard, *The Gospel of Matthew According to a Primitive Hebrew Text*, Mercer University Press: Macon, Georgia 1987.

“(2) In European history, the “Middle Ages” ended in the 14th Century with the Renaissance. However, the Jewish Middle Ages continued up until the Emancipation at the end of the 18th Century.”

(Gordon, *The Naming of Jesus in Hebrew Matthew*, pp. 4-5; emphasis added)

DR. NEHEMIA GORDON’S OPINION OF THE SHEM TOV HEBREW MATTHEW SEEMS TO BE THAT IT MAY BE MUCH CLOSER TO THE ORIGINAL HEBREW GOSPEL WRITTEN BY THE APOSTLE MATTHEW THAN THE GREEK TEXTS, FROM WHICH THE CANONICAL GOSPEL OF MATTHEW IS TRANSLATED (KJV, ETC.). HE HAS WRITTEN THIS AS WELL:

“What this means is that Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew is not the original Matthew. But it may have original elements left behind from the original Matthew. To understand this more thoroughly, one need only read through the actual Hebrew text of Matthew. After about ten chapters immersed in the Hebrew it is blatantly clear. Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew has been very clearly infected by the Greek Matthew to the point where it even has Greek words transliterated into Hebrew. IT SEEMS THAT SOMEONE SAT DOWN WITH THE HEBREW MATTHEW IN ONE HAND AND THE GREEK IN THE OTHER, AND ‘CORRECTED’ THE HEBREW ACCORDING TO THE GREEK. What apparently happened is throughout the ages people who were well versed in the Greek text, saw this Hebrew text of Matthew and thought it had ‘mistakes’ in it. THESE MISTAKES OR DIFFERENCES WERE ACTUALLY IN THE GREEK WHILE THE HEBREW HAD THE ORIGINAL PURE TEXT WRITTEN BY MATTHEW HIMSELF. But these people versed in the Greek Matthew failed to realize this so they inadvertently ‘corrected’ the Hebrew based on the Greek. SO WHEN SHEM TOV’S HEBREW MATTHEW IS IDENTICAL TO OUR MODERN GREEK TEXT, WE CAN LEARN NOTHING NEW; IT COULD JUST BE A ‘CORRECTION’ FROM THE GREEK. BUT WHEN SHEM TOV’S HEBREW MATTHEW DIFFERS FROM THE GREEK TEXT IT MAY CONTAIN ‘ORIGINAL READINGS’ THAT WERE LOST IN THE GREEK.” (Gordon, *The Hebrew Yeshua vs. the Greek Jesus*, pg. 45-46; emphasis added)

My Book, *THE HOLY ARM OF THE LORD*, also shows MANY WAYS THAT THE SHEM TOV HEBREW MATTHEW TEXT HAS CLARIFIED DIFFICULT PASSAGES THAT THE CANONICAL GREEK MATTHEW DID NOT! It is downloadable as a free pdf on my website (see Sources below).

Actually Didymus of Alexandria (310-398 AD) wrote:

“No church council or church father...had ever or would ever officially sanction the Hebrew Gospel with canonical authority, Nonetheless...the status of the Hebrew Gospel was such that IT WAS ENLISTED TO RESOLVE EXEGETICAL DIFFICULTIES IN CANONICAL TEXTS.”

However, Church fathers and church councils were not perfect and made many decisions that did not line up with the Written Torah, the Prophets, and the Words of Yehoshua, unfortunately...

My decision has been to give first place to the Hebrew Gospel of Matthew over the Canonical Greek Gospel of Matthew. THE CHURCH FATHER IRENAEUS WROTE THIS:

“MATTHEW ALSO ISSUED A WRITTEN GOSPEL AMONG THE HEBREWS IN THEIR OWN DIALECT, while Peter and Paul were preaching at Rome, and laying the foundations of the Church. After their departure, Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, did also hand down to us in writing what had been preached by Peter. Luke also, the companion of Paul, recorded in a book the Gospel preached by him. Afterwards, John the disciple of the Lord, who also had leaned upon his breast, did himself publish a Gospel during his residence at Ephesus in Asia.” (Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, Book III, Chapter 1.1)

It appears to me, from Irenaeus, that the Gospel of the Apostle Matthew was also WRITTEN FIRST, as it was written to THE VERY FIRST BELIEVERS, THE JEWISH BELIEVERS. THIS WAS THE ONLY GOSPEL THAT THEY USED (Pritz, *Nazarene Jewish Christianity*, pp. 24, 108-110). A review of my book, *The Holy Arm of the Lord*, chapter “The Nots’riym – Nazarenes – Nazoraeans: The First Jewish Believers in Yehoshua” will be very enlightening, I believe!

The other Gospel authors, Mark and Luke, were never with Yehoshua directly. Irenaeus tells us that Mark did hear the words of the Apostle Peter, so his Gospel is **SECOND-HAND**. But its noticeable that the Gospel of Mark and the Gospel of Matthew are very similar. In fact, Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew actually includes words that are left out of the Greek Matthew, but Mark’s Gospel does have them recorded. It starts in Matthew 17:18 KJV which is only one verse, but Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 17:18 includes the words from Mark 9:20-28, which greatly expands the story. This means the Gospel of Matthew should actually be 7 verses longer! I believe those verses were first recorded in Matthew and then later in Mark based on Irenaeus’s words.

Irenaeus states that we receive the Gospel of Luke, the companion of Paul, **THIRD-HAND** as Paul also was never with Yehoshua directly during his ministry on earth, either. Paul, however, “boasts” that he did not get his Gospel from the actual Twelve Apostles of Yehoshua who walked with Him during His earthly ministry and were commissioned to preach His Words and will be sitting on the Twelve Thrones judging the Twelve Tribes of Israel at His return (Galatians 1:11-19; Matthew 19:28 KJV and Shem Tov). He claims to have received his Gospel directly from a vision of Yehoshua. The Gospel of Luke is considered one of the “synoptic” Gospels, so thankfully, they are very similar but not identical – Luke adds some things, and leaves out some things. I do read the Gospel of Luke, but if there is any difference from the Hebrew Matthew, I side with Hebrew Matthew. **(However, please see my book, *The Holy Arm of the Lord*, chapter “Where Christianity Went Wrong...Paul is the Problem!” at www.TheHolyArmoftheLord.com to see my research on Paul’s doctrine in his letters and how it differs from Yehoshua’s doctrine in the Gospel of Hebrew Matthew and even the Greek Matthew.)**

THE GOSPEL OF THE APOSTLE JOHN, WHO DID HEAR DIRECTLY FROM YEHOSHUA, WAS WRITTEN MANY YEARS LATER, after his exile on the Greek island of Patmos by the Roman authorities, during his time in Ephesus in Asia, according to Irenaeus. That means that the Gospel written by the Apostle Matthew was written much prior to this. That may be why John’s Gospel is not very similar to the other Gospels and is not called a “synoptic” Gospel. However, I do read the Gospel of the Apostle John, as well as the Book of Revelation as a true Prophecy!

In summary, I do highly recommend Shem-Tov's Hebrew Matthew Gospel! As Dr. Nehemia Gordon stated, all the manuscripts of the Gospels we have are copies – none of them are the originals – Greek or Hebrew! This is even true of The Torah, The Prophets and The Writings – The Tanack - what is called “The Old Testament” in the KJV! If Yehovah gives us, in the future, any manuscript that we can be absolutely sure of its originality, I will certainly be willing to consider it. Just like the first believers in Yehoshua, the Nazarenes, I have chosen to use only the Hebrew Gospel of Matthew to judge any other Gospels or New Testament Letters or Prophecies about Yehoshua the Messiah. **For now, Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew Gospel has the main Words of Yehovah Elohim given to us by His Son Yehoshua that I am trying to follow!**

THERE ARE A FEW DISCLAIMERS I MUST MAKE, HOWEVER, IN RECOMMENDING PROFESSOR HOWARD'S BOOK. BOTH HAVE TO DO WITH HIS COMMENTARY AND CONCLUSIONS, NOT WITH THE HEBREW TEXT ITSELF!

FIRST DISCLAIMER:

One area of Professor Howard's commentary that I CANNOT AGREE with is HIS OPINION THAT THE SHEM TOV'S HEBREW MATTHEW TEXT DOES NOT IDENTIFY YEHOSHUA AS THE MESSIAH! (Howard, *Hebrew Gospel of Matthew*, pp. 216-219, 234). **I believe that is absolutely false and absurd based on the actual Hebrew text in many different verses. Many more of the verses show it by the different titles and functions of The Messiah.** Professor Howard states this even though Matthew 16:15-20 has the famous declaration of the Apostle Peter and Yehoshua's acceptance in His response to Peter:

Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 16:15-20:

15) Jesus said to them: What do you say about me? 16) Simon, called Petros, answered and said: **YOU ARE THE MESSIAH, that is, Kristo, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD, who has come into this world.** 17) JESUS SAID TO HIM: **BLESSED ARE YOU SIMON BAR JONAH BECAUSE FLESH AND BLOOD HAS NOT REVEALED [THIS] TO YOU BUT MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.** 18) I say to you: you are a stone and I will build upon you my house of prayer. The gates of Gehenna will not prevail against you 19) because I will give to you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven: whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 20) Then he commanded his disciples not to say that he is the Messiah.

One quick note, first, is that the Hebrew words “אז צוה לתלמידיו לבל יאמרו שהוא משיח” could just as easily be translated as “Then He commanded His disciples not to tell that He is the Messiah”. The following is the definition of the qal form of the Hebrew verb “amar” according to the Morfix dictionary in www.doitinHebrew.com:

amar אָמַר verb קל to say ; to tell

That translation would make more sense in context, because Yehoshua told Peter that he only received this truth as revelation from His Father in heaven. In other words, Yehoshua told Peter that it was true that He was the Messiah, but Peter and the rest of the disciples were not to publicly broadcast it.

If this is true, then why did Yehoshua NOT just openly, every chance he could, just tell people “I AM THE MESSIAH!!!”

I believe it is because of the prophecy in Isaiah 42:1-4 as Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 12:15(b)-21 confirms it is:

[Isaiah 42:1-4 KJV] 1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, [in whom] my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. 2 he shall not cry, nor lift up, **NOR CAUSE HIS VOICE TO BE HEARD IN THE STREET.** 3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. 4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 12:15(b)-21 :...Many sick followed him, and he healed all of them. 16) **HE COMMANDED THEM SAYING NOT TO REVEAL HIM, 17) IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH WHAT WAS SPOKEN BY ISAIAH:** 18) Behold my servant whom I have selected, my chosen one with whom my soul is pleased; I will put my spirit upon him, and he will declare justice to the nations. 19) He will not fear nor will he run **NOR SHALL ONE HEAR (HIS VOICE) IN THE STREET.** 20) A crushed reed he will not break and a dim wick he will not quench until he establishes justice forever, 21) and in his name the Gentiles hope.

Does that mean that Yehoshua didn’t want people to know that He was the Messiah?? I personally believe this is where the terminology that Yehoshua uses comes into play: “he who has ears to hear, let him hear” or the Hebrew is literally “he who has ears to hear, he will hear” (Hebrew Matthew 11:15, 13:9, 13:43). In Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 13:34-35, Yehoshua says:

34) All of these parables, Jesus spoke to the crowds and without a parable he did not speak to them, 35) to fulfill what was said according to the prophet: I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter riddles from ancient times.

This is from Psalm 78:2, a Maschil of Asaph:

[Psalm 78:2 KJV] 2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

But still, why??

Yehoshua does explain why to his disciples. Just after telling the whole crowd the Parable of the Sower, He says:

Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 13:9-17: **He who has ears to hear, let him hear.** 10) Then his disciples drew near to him and **his disciples said to him: Why do you speak in parables? 11) He said: To you it has been given to know the kingdom of heaven, BUT NOT TO THEM.** 12) Whoever has, it will be given (to him) again, but whoever has nothing, that which he thinks (he has) will be taken from him. 13) For this [reason] I speak in parables because they see, but do not see, hear but do not hear, 14) in order to fulfill what was said through Isaiah the Prophet: Go and say to this people, hear but do not comprehend, see but do not (understand), 15) Make the heart of this people fat and make their ear heavy and blind their eyes, lest they should see with their eyes. 16) Blessed are your eyes that see and your ears that hear. 17) Truly I say to you that many prophets

and righteous men desired to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

This is a quote from this passage of the Hebrew Prophet Isaiah 6:8-13 where Adonay directs him thus:

[Isaiah 6:8-13 KJV] 8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here [am] I; send me. **9 AND HE SAID, GO, AND TELL THIS PEOPLE, HEAR YE INDEED, BUT UNDERSTAND NOT; AND SEE YE INDEED, BUT PERCEIVE NOT. 10 MAKE THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE FAT, AND MAKE THEIR EARS HEAVY, AND SHUT THEIR EYES; LEST THEY SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART,** and convert, and be healed. 11 Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, 12 And the LORD have removed men far away, and [there be] a great forsaking in the midst of the land. 13 But yet in it [shall be] a tenth, and [it] shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance [is] in them, when they cast [their leaves: so] the holy seed [shall be] the substance thereof.

Why Yehovah would say this to His people would require a reading of all of the Hebrew Prophets...although there is a clue in Isaiah 29:13-14 of one reason. It is quoted by Yehoshua in Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 15:1-9.

[Isaiah 29:13-14 KJV] 13 **Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near [me] with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:** 14 Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, [even] a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise [men] shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent [men] shall be hid.

Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 15:1-9: 1) Then the sages and the Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him: 2) Why do your disciples transgress the ordinances of antiquity by not washing their hands before eating? 3) **Jesus said to them: Why do you transgress the words of God because of your ordinances.** 4) For God said: Honor your father and mother and he who smites his father and mother will surely be put to death. 5) But you say that whatever word a man should say to his father and mother in regard to any donation he might give for him as a sinner, this iniquity itself will be made void to him. 6) So he does not honor his father and his mother, and you despise the words of God by your ordinances. Woe hypocrites; behold Isaiah prophesied concerning you and said: 8) **Thus the Lord said: because this people has come near with their mouth and has honored me with their lips, but their heart is far from me 9) and their reverence toward me, which is taught, is the commandments of men.**

(See Chapter "The Oral Torah Examined Too!" in my book, The Holy Arm of the Lord, on www.TheHolyArmoftheLord.com for further explanation.)

I believe it is reasonable, then, that Yehoshua preached to the crowds in parables, **SO THAT ONLY THOSE THAT THE FATHER HAD GIVEN EARS TO HEAR WOULD HEAR AND ONLY THOSE THE FATHER HAD GIVEN**

EYES TO SEE WOULD SEE. Therefore, only those Israelites would understand that He was THE MESSIAH sent by Yehovah!

However, Professor Howard doesn't seem to see this and states this concerning Hebrew Matthew 16:16 quoted earlier:

"This leaves only 16:16 where the Hebrew contains a clear statement from Peter and accepted by Jesus that JESUS IS THE MESSIAH. The text reads 'Simon, called Petros, answered and said: You are the Messiah, that is, Kristo, the Son of the living God, who has come into the world.'... ." (Howard, *Hebrew Gospel of Matthew*, p. 217; emphasis added)

Although that should be enough proof, Professor Howard then proceeds to give his reasons why he doesn't believe that verse says what it clearly says.

However, he then states this:

"If Shem-Tob's Hebrew Matthew fails to identify Jesus with the Christ/Messiah, it is not because his text reduces the importance of Jesus, His text continues to identify Jesus with the Son of God. Jesus simply plays a more celestial, less human role in the Hebrew Matthew." (Howard, *Hebrew Gospel of Matthew*, pp. 218; emphasis added)

Howard seems to not understand that GOD HIMSELF STATES THAT THE MESSIAH WILL BE THE SON OF GOD, as we will see below in Psalm 2:7!

This following is a list of all of the Titles of the Messiah used of Yehoshua and a list of all the functions that He operated in that I discovered in Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew. This is not an exhaustive list but it is still lengthy!:

TITLES OF THE MESSIAH (THE ANOINTED):

The Son of God

The King of the World

The Son of Man

The Son of the Virgin

The Arm of Yehovah

The Son of David

The Bridegroom

The Savior of the World Who comes in the Name of Yehovah

Immanuel – God is with Us

HaAdon – The lord/master

HaRav – The Great One

The King of the Jews

The King of Israel

FUNCTIONS OF THE MESSIAH (THE ANOINTED):

Grant Forgiveness/Atonement of sins/iniquities

Healing of the sick and demon-possessed

Die as an offering for the sins/iniquities of God's people to establish a New Covenant with Israel and Judah (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Isaiah 53:1-12, Hebrew Matthew 1:21, Hebrew Matthew 20:28, Hebrew Matthew 26:26-29)

Ruling and Judging the nations at His return

There are many scriptures in the Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew where Yehoshua is called the Son of God! **Yehoshua calls Himself the Son of God in many verses, instead of the Son of Man, as the Greek Matthew states in them.**

A notable one is Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 16:27-28 translates to English as:

"Because **THE SON OF GOD** will come in the glory of His Father Who is in heaven with His angels to reward each man according to his work. Truly I say to you, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see **THE SON OF GOD COMING IN HIS KINGDOM.**"

Professor Howard also seems to discount the well-known fact that **The Messiah (which means "The Anointed") is the King** who will be ruling Israel and the entire world from Jerusalem, Israel, **for His Father Yehovah Elohim, as Psalm 2 declares!!! SO, YEHOSHUA SPEAKING OF HIMSELF COMING IN HIS KINGDOM, IS ACTUALLY A DECLARATION OF HIMSELF AS THE MESSIAH!**

[Psalm 2:1-12 KJV] 1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and **AGAINST HIS ANOINTED**, [saying], 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. 5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. 6 **Yet have I set MY KING upon my holy hill of Zion. 7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, THOU [ART] MY SON; this day have I begotten thee. 8 Ask of me, and I shall give [thee] the heathen [for] thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth [for] thy possession. 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.** 10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 **KISS THE SON**, lest he be angry, and ye perish [from] the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed [are] all they that put their trust in him.

Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 26:63-68 has Yehoshua obviously calling Himself the Son of God:

"63) ...The high priest said to him: I adjure you by the living God that you tell us if you are **THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD**. 64) Jesus answered him: You say it; but again I say to you, you have yet to see **THE SON OF GOD** sitting at the right of the power of God coming on the clouds of heaven. 65) Then the high priest tore his garments and said: This one has cursed God. What need

do we have for other witnesses? Behold, all of you have heard how he cursed God. 66) What do you think can be done? They answered: He is guilty of death. 67) Then they spit in his face and struck him on the back, and others slapped him in the face 68) saying: Tell us, **MESSIAH**, who struck you.

This Hebrew text of Matthew by Shem Tov definitely links the Messiah with the Son of God.

Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 17:5 has **Yehovah Elohim speaking from Heaven** confirming that Yehoshua is His Beloved Son!:

5) While he was still speaking, behold a cloud covered them , and they were greatly alarmed; while they were under the cloud a voice speaking and saying: BEHOLD THIS IS MY SON, MY BELOVED, MY DELIGHT IS IN HIM, YOU SHALL OBEY HIM.

SO, according to Psalm 2 and Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew, The Son of the Living God IS the Messiah – unquestionably!

(Other scriptures in the Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew that reference Yehoshua as The Son of God are: Matthew 21:15-16 -KJV uses Son of Man – Yehoshua accepts the title of Son of God; 27:40, 43, 50, 54)

Then there are many scriptures that refer to Yehoshua as **“THE SON OF MAN”** which also means **“THE MESSIAH - KING,”** just as Daniel 7:9-14 tells us. Here The Son of Man, The Messiah, returns from Heaven where He has been sitting at the right hand of Yehovah Elohim after His resurrection (Psalm 110).

[Psalm 110:1 KJV] 1 [[A Psalm of David.]] The LORD (YEHOVAH) said unto my Lord (Adoniy), Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

[Daniel 7:9-14 KJV] 9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment [was] white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne [was like] the fiery flame, [and] his wheels [as] burning fire. 10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. 11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld [even] till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. 12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. 13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, [one] like **THE SON OF MAN CAME WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN, and CAME TO THE ANCIENT OF DAYS, and they brought him near before him.** 14 **And THERE WAS GIVEN HIM DOMINION, AND GLORY, AND A KINGDOM, THAT ALL PEOPLE, NATIONS, AND LANGUAGES, SHOULD SERVE HIM: HIS DOMINION [IS] AN EVERLASTING DOMINION, WHICH SHALL NOT PASS AWAY, AND HIS KINGDOM [THAT] WHICH SHALL NOT BE DESTROYED.**

Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew shows Yehoshua calling Himself “The Son of Man” many, many times... So, when He does, He is indirectly referring to Himself as the Messiah!

Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 24:27-31 below shows Yehoshua agreeing with the Daniel 7 prophecy of the Son of Man Messiah King:

27) Again, Jesus said to his disciples: **As the lightning comes from the east and is seen in the west, so will be the coming of the SON OF MAN.** 28) Wherever the body is, there will be gathered

the vultures. 29) At that time, after (the tribulation of) those days, the sun will grow dark, the moon will not give forth its light, the stars will fall from heaven, and the host of heaven will be shaken. 30) **Then will appear the sign of the SON OF MAN IN HEAVEN and all the families of the earth will weep and will see the SON OF MAN on the clouds of heaven with a great host and with dreadful appearance.** 31) He will send his angels with a trumpet and with a great shout to gather his chosen from the four winds of heaven, from one end of heaven unto the other.

Yehoshua also calls himself **“THE SON OF MAN, THE SON OF THE VIRGIN”** in Shem Tov’s Hebrew **Matthew 8:20** just as Isaiah 7:14 prophesies and Shem Tov’s Hebrew **Matthew 1:18-25** explains his conception and birth. **THIS PHRASE, “THE SON OF THE VIRGIN,” IS LEFT OUT OF THE GREEK MATTHEW TEXT, SO IT IS NOT IN THE KJV, BUT IT IS IN ALL NINE MANUSCRIPTS THAT PROFESSOR HOWARD HAD AVAILABLE TO HIM OF SHEM TOV’S HEBREW MATTHEW!!!:**

Shem Tov’s Hebrew **Matthew 8:20:** Jesus answered him: The foxes have holes and the birds have nests, but **THE SON OF MAN, THE SON OF THE VIRGIN**, has no place to enter his head.

ולבן אדם בן הבתולה – ul’ben adam ben hab’tulah – “but the Son of Man, the Son of the Virgin”

In Hebrew, “betulah” means “virgin”! “Hab’tulah” means “The Virgin”!

THE SON OF THE VIRGIN TITLE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!!! It shows that Yehoshua had no earthly father because Yehovah is His Father, confirming his conception and birth story in Shem Tov’s Hebrew **Matthew 1:18-25**! Also, by looking at Isaiah 7:14 and Micah 5:2-4 with Shem Tov’s Hebrew **Matthew 8:20**, we see that Yehoshua Himself confirms He was born of The PROPHESED VIRGIN, “SHE WHO WILL BEAR” The Messiah (The Son of Man) who is “from of old, from everlasting” (so, The Son of God!), WHO WILL RULE ISRAEL IN THE STRENGTH AND MAJESTY OF THE NAME OF YEHOVAH!!!

[Isaiah 7:14 KJV] 14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; **BEHOLD, A VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE, AND BEAR A SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL.**

[Micah 5:2-4 KJV] 2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, [though] thou be little among the thousands of Judah, [yet] out of thee **SHALL HE COME FORTH UNTO ME [THAT IS] TO BE RULER IN ISRAEL; WHOSE GOINGS FORTH [HAVE BEEN] FROM OF OLD, FROM EVERLASTING.** 3 Therefore will he give them up, **UNTIL THE TIME [THAT] SHE WHICH TRAVAILETH HATH BROUGHT FORTH:** then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel. 4 And **HE SHALL STAND AND FEED IN THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD, IN THE MAJESTY OF THE NAME OF THE LORD HIS GOD; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.**

(Shem Tov’s Hebrew **Matthew 2:1** confirms Yehoshua was born in Bethlehem of Judah as well!)

Yehoshua, calling Himself “The Son of Man,” **DECLARED HE HAD THE AUTHORITY TO FORGIVE SINS** in Shem Tov’s Hebrew **Matthew 9:1-8**. I believe this is confirmation that “The Son of Man” is the Messiah as well, in fulfillment of the New Covenant sealed in His Blood as prophesied in **Jeremiah 31:31-34** which

promises forgiveness of sins. THIS MAKES FORGIVENESS OF SINS ONE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE MESSIAH.

Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 9:1-8: 1) Then Jesus entered a boat; they set sail and returned to his city. 2) They brought to him one who was sick with contractions, that is, paralitico, lying upon his bed. Jesus saw their faith and said to the sick man: **Have courage my son. IT IS BY THE FAITH OF GOD THAT YOUR SINS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN.** 3) Some of their sages were saying in their heart: This one blasphemes. 4) Jesus saw their thoughts and said to them: Why do you think evil in your heart? 5) (Which) is easier to say: your sins are forgiven, or rise and walk? 6) **BUT TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SON OF MAN IS ABLE TO FORGIVE SINS ON EARTH,** then he said to the sick man: "Arise and take your bed and walk. 7) He arose and went to his house. 8) The crowds feared exceedingly, and praised God who had given power to men to do such things.

[Jeremiah 31:31-34 KJV] 31 **Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a NEW COVENANT with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:** 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day [that] I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: 33 But this [shall be] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: **FOR I WILL FORGIVE THEIR INIQUITY, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SIN NO MORE.**

Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 20:28: ... **Just as THE SON OF MAN did not come that they might serve him, but that he might serve, and GIVE HIMSELF AS A RANSOM FOR MANY.**

Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 26:26-29: 26) They were eating and **Jesus took bread, blessed, divided it, gave it to his disciples and said: Take and eat; THIS IS MY BODY.** 27) He took the cup, gave praise to his father, gave it to them, and said: **Drink from this all of you.** 28) **This is MY BLOOD OF THE NEW COVENANT which will be poured out for many FOR THE ATONEMENT OF SINS.** 29) I say to you I will not drink henceforth from the fruit of this vine until that day when I drink it new with you in the kingdom of heaven.

This next passage confirms that THE SON OF GOD, described as THE ARM OF YEHOVAH in ISAIAH 53, is also THE SON OF MAN as THE ONE WHO BRINGS THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS (See my Book, The Holy Arm of the Lord, for further explanation: www.TheHolyArmoftheLord.com)

[Isaiah 53:1-12 KJV] 1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is **the Arm of the LORD** revealed? 2 **For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant (YONEK),** and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, [there is] no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were [our] faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 **Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.** 5 **BUT HE [WAS] WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, [HE WAS] BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES: THE CHASTISEMENT OF OUR PEACE [WAS] UPON HIM; AND WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED.** 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every

one to his own way; and **THE LORD HATH LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL.** 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? **FOR HE WAS CUT OFF OUT OF THE LAND OF THE LIVING: FOR THE TRANSGRESSION OF MY PEOPLE WAS HE STRICKEN.** 9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither [was any] deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put [him] to grief: **WHEN THOU SHALT MAKE HIS SOUL AN OFFERING FOR SIN (ASHAM NAF'SHO - אָשַׁם נַפְשׁוֹ - אֲשַׁחֵם נַפְשִׁי)** he shall see [his] seed, he shall prolong [his] days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, [and] shall be satisfied: **BY HIS KNOWLEDGE SHALL MY RIGHTEOUS SERVANT JUSTIFY MANY; FOR HE SHALL BEAR THEIR INIQUITIES.** 12 Therefore will I divide him [a portion] with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; **BECAUSE HE HATH POURED OUT HIS SOUL UNTO DEATH: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and HE BARE THE SIN OF MANY, AND MADE INTERCESSION FOR THE TRANSGRESSORS.**

The Arm of Yehovah “shall grow up before him as a tender plant” actually would be better translated as “He (The Arm of Yehovah) shall grow up before Him (Yehovah) as A SUCKING BABY” (The Hebrew word “YONEK” יוֹנֵק “actually means “a sucking baby”!)

HOW AWESOME! THE HEBREW PROPHET YESHAYAHU (ISAIAH) DESCRIBED WHAT YEHOSHUA 700 YEARS LATER DID TO ESTABLISH A NEW COVENANT BY HIS DEATH, ONE OF THE MAIN BENEFITS OF WHICH WAS TO FORGIVE YEHOVAH’S PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS!!!

Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 8:14-17 quotes Isaiah 53:4-5 above to show also that Yehoshua operated in the function of the Messiah of HEALING as well as forgiving sins – they go hand in hand!

Hebrew Matthew Shem Tov 8:14-17: 14) At that time, Jesus went into the house of Peter and behold his mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever. 15) **He touched her hand, and the fever left her.** Then she arose and ministered to him. 16) **At the time of evening THEY BROUGHT TO HIM THOSE SEIZED BY DEMONS AND (HE) HEALED THEM BY HIS WORD ALONE AND HE HEALED EVERY SICKNESS.** 17) **TO COMPLETE WHAT WAS SAID BY ISAIAH THE PROPHET, OF BLESSED MEMORY: SURELY OUR SICKNESSES HE BORE AND OUR PAINS HE SUFFERED.**

How do we know that “The Arm of Yehovah” is the Messiah?? The Messiah (Anointed) King who will rule for Yehovah according to Psalm 2 ?? See Isaiah 40:10 as only one example which agrees with the Daniel 7:9-14 prophecy of the Messiah King coming from Heaven:

[Isaiah 40:10 KJV] 10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong [hand], and **HIS ARM SHALL RULE FOR HIM:** behold, his reward [is] with him, and his work before him.

(Some of the other scriptures calling Yehoshua The Son of Man in the Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew: 10:23; 11:8; 12:30-32; 12:40; 13:19; 13:36-43; 17:1-13; 17:22-23; 18:11; 20:17-19; 20:25-28; 24:27-44; 25:31-46; 26:2; 26:20-25; 26:45)

Another title that Yehoshua was called in the Hebrew Matthew is “**THE SON OF DAVID**,” which all of Israel understood to be the future world King, “The Messiah.” The prophecy in Jeremiah 23 is a major one that shows us where that originated:

[Jeremiah 23: 5-6 KJV] 5 **BEHOLD, THE DAYS COME, SAITH THE LORD, THAT I WILL RAISE UNTO DAVID A RIGHTEOUS BRANCH, AND A KING SHALL REIGN AND PROSPER, AND SHALL EXECUTE JUDGMENT AND JUSTICE IN THE EARTH.** 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this [is] his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 1: 1: These are the generations of **JESUS THE SON OF DAVID** the Son of Abraham.

Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 12:22-23: 22) Then there was brought unto him a blind and dumb man who was demon-possessed; he healed him. The crowds saw [it] 23) and marveled and said: **IS THIS NOT THE SON OF DAVID?**

(There are **NUMEROUS OTHER REFERENCES TO YEHOSHUAH BEING THE SON OF DAVID** in the Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew: 1:1, 9:27, 12:22-23, 15:22, 20:31, 21:15, 22:42.)

(NOTE: Please see my book, *The Holy Arm of the Lord*, chapter “How is The Messiah the Son of David?” at www.TheHolyArmoftheLord.com for further understanding.)

Yehoshua gave Himself another title that is mysterious, and I believe must be a title of the Messiah: **THE BRIDEGROOM**. (I am addressing the prophecies that show this in another book in the near future concerning the coming Kingdom of Heaven on Earth – check my website www.TheHolyArmoftheLord.com)

Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 9:14-15: 14) Then the disciples of John came to him and said to him: Why do we and the Pharisees fast often but your disciple(s) do not fast? 15) Jesus answered them and said: the friends of **THE BRIDEGROOM** cannot weep and fast while he is with them. The days will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.

A title of the Messiah that is only used in the Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew, not the canonical Greek Matthew, is **SAVIOR OF THE WORLD**. It is shown to be the Messiah in Isaiah 49:6 as Yehovah speaks to Yehoshua, as His Servant, when he laments that did not succeed in his mission “to bring Jacob again to Him” at His first coming:

[Isaiah 49:5-6 KJV] 5 **And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb [to be] his servant, to bring Jacob again to him**, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength. 6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be **MY SERVANT** to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, **THAT THOU MAYEST BE MY SALVATION UNTO THE END OF THE EARTH.**

Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 21:8-9: 8) Many of the crowd spread out their garments in the way, and others (cut) branches from the trees and cast them before him and behind him, 9) calling out saying : **Hosanna, SAVIOR OF THE WORLD, blessed is HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; HOSANNA, OUR SAVIOR, MAY YOU BE GLORIFIED IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH.**

(“The Lord” in the above verse is actually in the Hebrew text: “HA” - “ה – Hebrew abbreviation for “HaShem” which translates to “THE NAME” which Jews use instead of speaking the Name YEHOVAH.)

“MOSHIYA HA’OLAM” are the Hebrew words “SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.” “The Hebrew word “hosha’na” translated as “hosanna” actually means “SAVE PLEASE”!

Yehoshua Himself told Jerusalem that they will not see Him again until they say this to Him:

Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 23:39: **TRULY I SAY TO YOU, YOU WILL NOT SEE ME HENCEFORTH UNTIL YOU WILL SAY: BLESSED IS OUR SAVIOR.**

This title of the Messiah “Our Savior” being connected to “He Who comes in the Name of Yehovah” is very interesting. First, I need to quote the beginning of the birth story of Yehoshua from the Basic text of Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew starting in Matthew 1:18 (b)- 20:

18(b)) It came to pass when his mother was betrothed to Joseph, before he knew her, she was found pregnant by the Holy Spirit. 19) Joseph was a righteous man and did not wish to dwell with her nor to expose her by bringing her to shame or to bind her over to death. He rather wished to conceal her. 20) While he thought on this matter in his heart, behold an angel appeared unto him in a dream and said: Joseph son of David do not fear to take your wife Mary because she is pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

Yehoshua’s Name is actually derived from the first part of Yehovah’s Name – “Yeho” and the word “yoshia” which means “he will save”. **So, together Yeho-shua means “Yehovah Saves”!!!** This makes sense of why the Angel told Joseph concerning Mary (actually Miriam in Hebrew) in the next verse:

Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 1:21 “And she shall give birth to a son and you shall call his name *Yeshua* (יֵשׁוּעַ) for he will save (*yoshia* יוֹשִׁיעַ) my people from their iniquities.

THIS ONLY MAKES SENSE IN HEBREW, NOT IN GREEK OR ENGLISH! It is one of many very good proofs that the Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew manuscript was first written in Hebrew! In other words, “And she shall give birth to a son and you shall call his name “Iesous” or “Jesus” **FOR** he will save my people from their iniquities” leaves one scratching their head - what does the name “Iesous” or “Jesus” have to do with saving people from their iniquities?? I highly recommend reading the booklet ***The Naming of Jesus in Hebrew Matthew*** by Dr. Nehemia Gordon which explains this in detail, as well as gives many more explanations of the Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew manuscripts he found and researched. Two of the twenty-eight manuscripts even preserve the entire name of Yehoshua instead of the shortened form Yeshua (Gordon, *The Naming of Jesus in Hebrew Matthew*, p. 5)

The Hebrew text differs in another important place from the Greek text translation to English in that it makes much more sense. In Matthew 28:9, after Yehoshua’s resurrection, the KJV states He says “All hail” to the women as they came from the empty tomb:

[Matthew 28:9 KJV] 9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, **ALL HAIL**. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

However, the Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 28:9 says (emphasis added and explanations mine):

9) As they were going, Jesus passed before them saying: May the Name ("HaShem" is in the text which is the Jewish substitute for "**Yehovah**") deliver you ("yoshiachen" which means "**He will save you**" [feminine plural])). They came near to him, bowed down to him, and worshipped him.

Yehoshua says to the women, "**YEHOVAH WILL SAVE YOU!**"

Yehoshua agrees with the Prophet Isaiah!! He knows He is operating in His Father Yehovah's Name!

[Psalm 118:26 KJV] 26 **BLESSED [BE] HE THAT COMETH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD:** we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.

[Isaiah 33:22 KJV] 22 For the LORD [is] our judge, the LORD [is] our lawgiver, the LORD [is] our king; **HE WILL SAVE US.**

Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 1:22-25 continues the story of Yehoshua's birth, giving Yehoshua the name of Emanuel as well, which is just as confirming that Yehoshua will operate in the Name of His Father God Yehovah. Again, the Name of Yehovah, as "the Lord," is shown in verse 22 and 24 as - "**ה**" - the Hebrew consonant **ה** followed by "to indicate a contraction of "**HaShem**" meaning "The Name":

22) All this was to complete what was written by the prophet according to the Lord "**ה**

23) Behold the young woman is conceiving and will bear a son and you will call his name Emmanuel, that is, God with us. 24) Then Joseph awoke from sleep, did according to all which the angel of the Lord "**ה** commanded him, and took his wife. 25) But he did not know her until she bore her firstborn son and he called his name Jesus (ישו"ע – Yeshua).

(Isaiah 7:14, quoted earlier, is the prophecy referred to.)

Dr. Gordon, as a Hebrew scholar, explains the passage:

The Hebrew reads "she will call his name Emanuel, which means to say, **God is with us.**" Interestingly, instead of the Hebrew "it means to say", Greek Matthew 1:23 has: "being translated". Hebrew Matthew did not need to "translate" the name Emanuel, only to explain the significance of the Hebrew name in the context of Joseph's dream. (Gordon, *The Naming of Jesus in the Hebrew Matthew*, p. 10; emphasis added)

The next title of the Messiah is the Hebrew phrase "**HaAdon**" translated as "**the lord**" or "**the master**" that Yehoshua uses of Himself in the Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew and equates this with "The Son of Man." (This is not LORD [in all caps] which is used exclusively as a substitute name for **YEHOVAH** by most Jews and even in the King James Version (KJV).

Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 24:44 – 51: 44) So you should be prepared because you do not know at what hour **THE SON OF MAN** is going to come. 45) What do you think of the faithful and wise servant whose **lord** places him over his children to give (them) food in its time. 46) Blessed is that servant whose **lord** (finds) him doing thus when he comes. 47) Truly I say to you that he will place him over his children. 48) But if that servant should be evil and should say in his heart: **My**

lord is late (in) coming, 49) and should begin to beat the servant of his lord and should eat and drink with gluttons, 50) his lord will come in a day for which he does not wait and at a time which he does not know. 51) He will divide him and place his portion with the hypocrites; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

(Other scriptures that refer to Yehoshua as “HaAdon” – the lord or the master – in the Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew are: 20:29-34; 22:41-46; 25:14-30; 27:6-8)

Another title of the Messiah is “HaRav” – which literally translates to “The Great One.”

Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 26:18: He said to them: Go into the city to a certain man who will be a volunteer for the task and say to him: Thus says **the teacher**, my time is near; with you (I will observe) the Passover with my disciples.

(Professor Howard translates “HaRav” only as “the teacher” in this verse. **However, “rav” רב actually means “great” usually translated as “rabbi.”**

Yehoshua tells his disciples:

Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 23:10: Do not be called Rabbi **because one is your Rabbi, The Messiah.**

The Hebrew word “**rabbaniym**” is the plural of “**rav**” so the first part of this verse should have been translated as “**Do not be called rabbis.**”

The next part of the verse, the Hebrew passage “sherav’chem echad hu’ HaMashiach,” is properly translated as “because one is your Rav (Rabbi), The Messiah.”

SO, THIS PASSAGE IS BASICALLY YEHOSHUA CALLING HIMSELF THE MESSIAH – THEIR GREAT ONE!

YEHOSHUA CALLS HIMSELF “THE KING” as well as “The Son of Man” and “the lord” in Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 25:31-46 **which is NOT a parable – it is a description of what is going to actually happen AT HIS RETURN TO JUDGE THE WORLD! I believe this is another function of The Messiah, as The King!** A few quotes from this passage are:

Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 25:31-32, 40: 31) Again, Jesus said to his disciples: When **THE SON OF MAN** comes in his revelation with his angels, then **HE WILL SIT UPON THE THRONE OF HIS GLORY.** 32) All the nations shall be gathered before him and he will separate them as the shepherd separates the sheep and the goats... 40) **THE KING** will answer and say to them: Truly I say to you that every time you did it to one of the needy of these (my brothers), even the little ones like these, you did it to **ME.**

(Other scriptures that prove The Messiah [Yehoshua] at His return will be judging the world, every living person, even His servants – the believers, are: Psalm 2, Daniel 7:9-14, Psalm 110:5-6, Micah 5:2, Jeremiah 23:5, Isaiah 40:10, Hebrew Matthew 24:44-51, Hebrew Matthew 25:1-30)

The above passage makes the following titles of the Messiah that Yehoshua was called obviously true, even if he did not answer the questioning authority with a direct affirmative:

THE KING OF THE JEWS:

Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 27:11 Jesus was standing before Pilate who asked him: **Are you the king of the Jews? Jesus said: You say it.**

THE KING OF ISRAEL:

Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 27:37 Afterward they set for him over his head a writing which said: **THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF ISRAEL.**

Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 27:42-43: 42) Others he saved; himself he cannot save. If he is **THE KING OF ISRAEL** let him come down from the tree and we will believe. 43) Since he trusted in God let him save him now if he wishes, because he said he is **THE SON OF GOD.**

Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 19:28: **JESUS** said: Truly **I** say to you who follow **ME**, in the day of judgment, **WHEN MAN SITS UPON THE THRONE OF HIS GLORY YOU ALSO WILL SIT UPON THE TWELVE THRONES OF THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL.**

When Yehoshua came the first time, He rode "a she-ass and her colt with her" into Jerusalem (Shem Tov's Hebrew Matthew 21:1-9), to fulfill Zechariah 9:9 **AS THE KING/MESSIAH OF ISRAEL.** When He returns the second time, He will come from Heaven as shown earlier (Daniel 7:9-14) and fulfill the next verse, Zechariah 9:10!:

[Zechariah 9:9-10 KJV] "9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of ZION; shout, O daughter of JERUSALEM: behold, THY KING cometh unto thee: he [is] just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

10 And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: AND HIS DOMINION [SHALL BE] FROM SEA [EVEN] TO SEA, AND FROM THE RIVER [EVEN] TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH."

To reiterate, **THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF DAVID, and THE SON OF GOD, is definitely THE KING OF THE JEWS and THE KING OF ISRAEL as well as THE KING OF THE WORLD!**

[Jeremiah 23:5-6 KJV] 5 Behold, the days come, saith THE LORD, THAT I WILL RAISE UNTO DAVID A RIGHTEOUS BRANCH, and A KING SHALL REIGN AND PROSPER, AND SHALL EXECUTE JUDGMENT AND JUSTICE IN THE EARTH. 6 In his days JUDAH SHALL BE SAVED, AND ISRAEL SHALL DWELL SAFELY: and this [is] his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

IN SUMMARY, I DO NOT AGREE WITH PROFESSOR HOWARD'S OPINION IN HIS COMMENTARY THAT THE TEXT OF SHEM TOV'S HEBREW MATTHEW DOES NOT IDENTIFY YEHOSHUA WITH THE MESSIAH! IT CERTAINLY DOES!!!

SECOND DISCLAIMER:

There is one other conclusion Professor Howard comes to that I CANNOT AGREE with. He states that the gospel was not to be preached to the gentiles, even after the resurrection of Yehoshua (Howard, *Hebrew Gospel of Matthew*, pp. 214-216).

However, although His earthly ministry was only to “the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel,” (Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 10:6, 15:24), **YEHOSHUA TELLS HIS DISCIPLES TO EXPAND THE PREACHING OF THAT SAME GOSPEL TO THE GENTILES AFTER HIS RESURRECTION** (Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 24:14, fulfilling Isaiah 49:1-6).

Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew 24:14: **AND THIS GOSPEL, THAT IS EVUNGILI, WILL BE PREACHED IN ALL THE EARTH FOR A WITNESS CONCERNING ME TO ALL THE NATIONS AND THEN THE END WILL COME.**

[Isaiah 49:1-6 KJV] 1 Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name. 2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me; 3 And said unto me, Thou [art] my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified. 4 Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: [yet] surely my judgment [is] with the LORD, and my work with my God. 5 **And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb [to be] his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.** 6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: **I WILL ALSO GIVE THEE FOR A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES, THAT THOU MAYEST BE MY SALVATION UNTO THE END OF THE EARTH.**

Professor Howard uses a reasonable translation of the Hebrew word “al - על” as “to” all the nations in Matthew 24:14. It also could be translated as “on” or “upon.” However, in his commentary on page 215 Howard states that he believes it could be translated as “against” all the nations. That is not a reasonable translation at all according to www.doitinhebrew.com as anyone can check for himself. In Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew, the word in Hebrew is “besorah” בשורה which almost always means “good news”! So, the “good news” was to be preached to the gentiles. It was not “condemnation” to be preached to them, as Professor Howard intimates.

Isaiah’s prophecy “that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth” is very clear...

In conclusion, I believe it is best to translate directly from the Hebrew text itself of the Basic Manuscript of Shem Tov Hebrew Matthew that Professor Howard used (British Library Manuscript Add. 26964) to judge for yourself his commentary in his book *Hebrew Gospel of Matthew*. IF YOU WILL DO THIS, IT WILL OPEN UP TRUTHS THAT HAVE BEEN HIDDEN FOR MILLENNIA! Many of these truths I have also identified in my book *The Holy Arm of the Lord*. Most of Professor Howard’s commentary is very helpful, in my opinion, to prove that Shem Tov’s Hebrew Gospel of Matthew was not derived from another language, but originally written in Hebrew. I thank him for his research and bringing Shem Tov’s Hebrew Matthew TEXT to the general public! I BELIEVE IT CLEARLY SHOWS THAT YEHOSHUA IS THE

MESSIAH OF ISRAEL, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD, THAT WE ALL, JEWS AND GENTILES, ARE TO LISTEN TO AND OBEY!

SOURCES:

(PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL EMPHASES ADDED [UNDERLINES, CAPS, BOLD, ETC.] WHEN QUOTING THESE SOURCES ARE MINE)

Gordon, Nehemia. *The Hebrew Yeshua vs. the Greek Jesus: New Light on the Seat of Moses from Shem-Tov's Hebrew Matthew*, Hilkiah Press. 2005. ISBN 0-9762637-0-X. Print.

Gordon, Nehemia, Ph.D. *The Naming of Jesus in Hebrew Matthew*. Makor Hebrew Foundation. 2008. ISBN 978-0-9762637-3-9. Print.

Howard, George. *The Hebrew Gospel of Matthew*. [Includes Hebrew Text of Matthew, extracted from Shem Tov Ibn Shaprut's *Even Bohan*. 1375-1380]. Macon: Mercer University Press. 1995. ISBN:9780865549890. Print.

Irenaeus. *Against Heresies*. Roberts, The Rev. Alexander, D.D. and James Donaldson, L.L.D. (Editors). *The Ante-Nicene Fathers: Translations of The Writings of the Fathers down to A. D. 325*, Volume I. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. 1885. ISBN 0-8028-8087-8. Print.

KING JAMES VERSION OF THE HOLY BIBLE [KJV]. N.p.:n.p., Authorized1611. *Blue Letter Bible*. Web.(<<https://www.blueletterbible.org//kjv>>)

Lyle, Joy Collins. *The Holy Arm of the Lord*. N.p:n.p. 2019 1st ed., 2nd ed. 2022. 3rd ed. 2023. www.TheHolyArmoftHeLord.com. Web.

Pritz, Ray A. *NAZARENE JEWISH CHRISTIANITY From the End of the New Testament Period Until Its Disappearance in the Fourth Century*. Jerusalem: The Magnes Press, The Hebrew University, 1988 1st ed., Reprinted 1992. ISBN 9781590459188. Print.

www.DoltInHebrew.com