

How the Name **Yeshua** became **Jesus**

The Name, Yeshua

Did you know that if you could go back to the time of the twelve apostles, if you walked up to Peter and said, "Please, take me to see **Jesus Christ**", Peter would get a puzzled look on his face and say the equivalent of, "**Who, or what is that?**" Did you know that no one who followed **Jesus** was capable of accurately pronouncing in English the name "**Jesus**"? The truth is, if you could go back in time, Peter would probably say something more like, "Come, let me introduce you to **Yeshua** the Messiah."

When the angel Gabriel came to Mary and told her she was going to have a son and what the child's name was to be, (**Luke 1:31**) the sound of the name that Mary heard come from Gabriel's lips was very close to, if not exactly... "Yahushua" pronounced *Yah-u-shoo'-ah*. In modern Hebrew script, "Yahushua" looks like **יהושוע** and is read from right to left. This name is the blending of two Hebrew words. The first part, "Yah-hu", is part of Yahuah's (God's) name that is sometimes used at the beginning or end of a Hebrew name. The second part of the Messiah's name, "*shua*", is the Hebrew word for deliverance meaning, "*saves*". The name "Yahushua" literally means *Yah-Saves* or *God-saves*. The name *Yahushua* was then shortened for everyday use the same way a name like *Barbara* is often shortened to *Barb*, and the four-syllable name *Yahushua* was shortened to three syllables, **Yeshua**.

There is much debate over how the original name of Messiah would have been spelt prior to the Babylonian captivity in the Paleo Hebrew which is the original Hebrew language without the vowel points for a more in depth understanding please see our article "**Messiahs Hebrew Name made simple**"

It's in my opinion that it would have been spelt and pronounced as Yahusha before the Babylonian captivity. I personally use Yahusha when referring to Messiah and use Yahusha as I have come to know it as such.

However as always, I will leave this up to you to decide based on the evidence at hand.

The translation process.... Hebrew to Greek

Early on, when the Gospels were being written and the story of **Yeshua** the Messiah was spreading to the Gentile nations, the story had to be translated to Greek. There are two ways a Hebrew name can be brought across a language barrier. Hebrew names always carry a meaning, and one way is to **translate** the name, which is bringing across the meaning of the name. The other method is the most common and is called a **transliteration**, which is the bringing across of the sound of the name. If the translators of the Gospel story had **translated Yeshua's** name down through history, we might well know him as "**Yah-Saves**" or "**God-saves**" today because that is what his name means.

In the case of the name "**Yeshua**", the Greek speaking world did the best they could to **transliterate** his name. Usually, this involves a relatively easy process of swapping like sounding letters so a reader would end up making the same sound when pronouncing the name.

In many cases this is not a problem. But in the case of the name **"Yeshua"** there are four problems in bringing it across to Greek.

Two of them are the fact that the ancient Greek language did not contain two of the sounds found in the name **Yeshua**. This may come as a surprise to English speaking people, but the fact is, the ancient Greek language did not contain any **"y"** sound as in **"yes"**, nor did it have a **"sh"** sound as in **"show"**. The closest sound a Greek speaking person could come to making a **"y"** sound was by putting the two Greek letters **Iota** and **Eta** together and coming up with an **"ee-ay"** sound. And the closest a Greek speaking person could come to making the **"sh"** sound was the **"s"** sound made by the letter **Sigma**.

With these two changes, **"Yeshua"**, pronounced by a Greek speaking person would naturally come out sounding like **"ee-ay-soo-ah"**. The third problem with **transliterating "Yeshua"** is the fact that traditionally, masculine Greek names never ended in a vowel sound.

Those that did were generally given the letter **Sigma** or **"s"** as a suffix. This tradition might well have been derived from the fact that the name of the Greek god Zeus ended with **Sigma**. This tradition is seen in familiar Biblical names, where Judah became *Judas*, *Cephah* (which means "rock") became *Cephas*, *Apollo* became *Apollos*, *Barnabie* became *Barnabas*, *Matthew* became *Matthias* and so on.

So **"ee-ay-soo-ah"** needed to become **"ee-ay-soo-ah-s"**. The fourth problem is that the two vowel sounds before the **"s"** do not flow and are virtually never seen in Greek. So, the last vowel sound was dropped as it was in other names and we were left with **"ee-ay-soos"**.

Aside from the added tradition of giving the name a masculine sound, this is the closest a Greek speaking person could come to **transliterating** the name **Yeshua**. By this point, the name **Yeshua** had lost all its meaning and 75% of its sound. The last vestige of its sound was found in the **"oo"** (as in "soon") sound. **Yeshua** was known as "ee-ay-soos" to the Greek speaking world for nearly 400 years. In Greek script, "ee-ay-soos" looks like Ἰησοῦς | English, it is read from left to right.

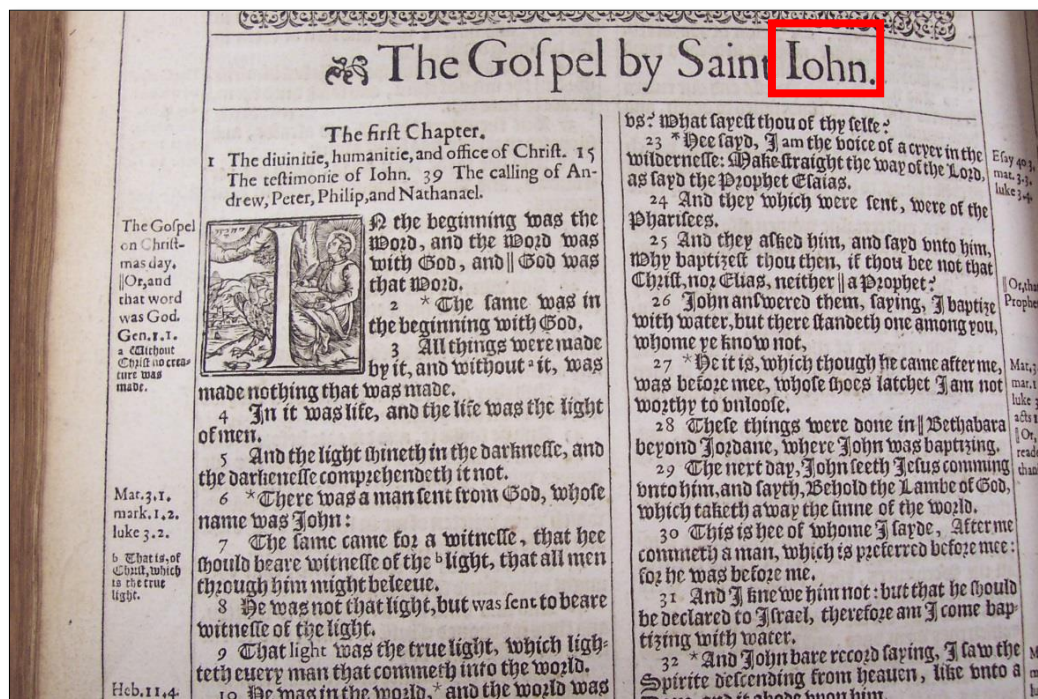
Continuing the translation process.... Greek to Latin

Around 400 A.D. the Latin language became the predominate language of Christianity and the Greek versions of the **New Testament** were translated to Latin. The Latin Bible, or *Vulgate* as it is called, also **transliterated** what was left of **Yeshua's** Greek name by bringing across the same sound of "ee-ay-soos". This was easy, because all the Greek sounds in this name are also made in Latin. The letters of the Latin alphabet are different from that of Greek but virtually identical to English. The new transliteration of the Greek name "ee-ay-soos" became written as **IESUS** and was identical in pronunciation to the Greek name. This Latin spelling and on-going pronunciation dominated the Christian world for nearly 1,000 years.

The final translation.... Latin to English

Meanwhile, the English language was still evolving. Before the 12th century, the letter **(J)** did not exist in the Old English language. The sound the letter **(J)** makes has **never** existed in the Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek or Latin languages. This fact is why no one in **Yeshua's** day could have accurately pronounced the English name **Jesus**. Sometime during the early 12th century, **(J)** began showing up in some obscure dialects of the Middle English language.

Over the course of the next 500 years, infatuation with the new sound caused letters like **(I)** and **(Y)** in the English language to be replaced by a **(J)**. This was especially true of male names that began with **(I)** or **(Y)** because the hard sound was, again, considered more masculine. Names like *Iames* became "James", *Yohan* became "John", and so on. During this period, in 1384 John Wycliffe translated the *New Testament* to English for the first time. His only source was the Latin Vulgate. Wycliffe continued to use the Latin spelling and pronunciation of *Iesus*. The printing press had not yet been invented and only a few hand-written copies of Wycliffe's Bible were produced. In the 1450's, Gutenberg invented the printing press. Then in 1526 William Tyndale translated the *New Testament* to the English language from the Latin Vulgate along with the additional help of some ancient Greek manuscripts.



Notice in the pic above John is spelt with an 'I' and not a 'J'

Tyndale wanted the Bible translated into the language of the common people and many copies of his translation were printed with the help of the printing press. Tyndale was the first to use the letter **(J)** in the spelling of the name **JESUS**. This new spelling in the hands of many marginally-literate English commoners soon became pronounced by the general public as "**Jee-zuz**". By the 17th century, the letter **(J)** was officially part of the King's English and in 1611 the most renowned English translation of all, the *King James Bible*, was put into massive print, complete with pronunciation helps for all proper names including the name of **Jesus** as we pronounce it today.

Every name in the Bible that begins with the letter **(J)**, has come to us this same way. Names like "**Jeremiah**", "**Jerusalem**", "**Judah**", "**John**" and "**Jew**" are only a few examples. At no time in history when these people and places were being written about did there exist in their language the sound of the letter **(J)**!

With the new official English pronunciation of the name "**Jee-zuz**", the last remaining sound found in the name "**Yeshua**", (the *oo* as in "*soon*" sound), had vanished.

Nothing in this name remains recognizable in either the sound or the meaning of the name **Yeshua**. It should also be pointed out that the word "**Christ**" is not a name but a title. It is basically a Greek *translation* of the title **Messiah** and means "*anointed one*". So, all that is left of the sweet gentle sound of **Yeshua the Messiah** is the series of phonetically harsh sounds "*Jee-zuz Chr-i-st*", which no doubt has lent this name to the abuse it has suffered.

Transliteration of Yeshua Into Jesus

Hebrew/Aramaic	Ye-sh-ua	(yay-shoo-ah)
	↓ ↓ ↓	
Greek	Ie-s-ous	(ee-ay-sous)
	↓ ↓ ↓	
Latin	Ie-s-us	(ee-ay-sous)
	↓ ↓ ↓	
English	Je-s-us	(gee-sus)

At one time, I believed the name **Jesus Christ** is commonly used in cursing because **Jesus** is his name and Yah/God-less men hate it. But in all my research, I have been unable to find one other language in which his name is used in a similar cursing manner. No other language renders the Messiah's name with the phonetic harshness as does the English language.

One exception would be the near identical way "**Christ**" is pronounced in French, and interestingly enough, it too is regularly used in French cursing! Considering the indisputable fact that for nearly fifteen hundred years after **Yeshua** walked the earth the world never heard the name "**Jesus**", I can only conclude that the English version of his name is abused solely because of its harsh sound. Remember, the name **Jesus** has existed for only a few hundred years.

At one point I started to believe that the name of **Jesus** was a pagan name until I left the Hebrew Roots and Sacred Name only movements. The information that was presented to me once I considered it could see the lack of scholarship in the information presented.

Most of the people that present the information do not know or speak Greek or Hebrew for that matter. Just because one word in one language means something different in another does not mean that the word is pagan.

One such example is that because the closet word in Hebrew to the English name Jesus or Greek name Iesous is Cuwc pronounced soos and when translated into English means horse the Hebrew Roots and Sacred Name only movements will say that the name Jesus has no meaning in Hebrew and the closest meaning in Hebrew is horse and this proved that Jesus must be pagan.

This is a ridiculous theory and hold no merits in my opinion.

Just because one word in one language means something different in another language does not give anyone the right to say that any word is pagan this includes Jesus.

Here's a great example: the word **UMA/OMA** (Both sound the same and are similar in spelling)

In the **Samoan** language it means '**FINISH**'

In the New Zealand **Maori** Language, it means '**RUN**'

In the **Fijian** Language it means '**KISS**'

Now if you had all three groups of these people who only spoke their language and didn't know English at all and you stood up and shouted **UMA/OMA** you would have:

The **Samoans** **finishing** whatever it is they were doing

The **Maoris** **running** away, and

The **Fijians** **kissing** everyone

So, as you can see this argument that cuwc (soos) in Hebrew means horse therefore the name Jesus must be pagan holds no merit. It is simply just the spirit of Anti-Christ at work in these so-called teachers that do not know Hebrew, Greek and probably don't even know English either.