

Even the Bible itself was not written in just one language. It was originally written in three languages. This shows that **God is not limited to one language**, for God can speak to people using words of their particular language. For example, in Fiji when I preach with a translator, either in Hindi or in Fijian, the translator will use the word “Yeshu” in Hindi and “Jisu” in Fijian for Jesus. This is easily understood and everyone can call upon the name of the Lord in their mother tongue.

The first five books of the Old Testament were written by Moses in obedience to God’s command (Exodus 34:27-28). He wrote in his native language, called Hebrew. Their alphabet consisted of 22 letters, all consonants and no vowels. Vowels were added much later.

During the thousand years of its composition, almost the entire Old Testament was written in Hebrew. Yet a few chapters in Ezra (Ezra 4:8-6:18; 7:12-26), Daniel (Daniel 2:4b-7:28) and one verse in Jeremiah (Jeremiah 10:11) were written in a language called Aramaic. Aramaic became very popular in the ancient world and displaced many other languages. It even became the common language spoken in Israel in Jesus’ time, and it was likely the language He spoke day by day. Some Aramaic words were even used by the Gospel writers in the New Testament.

The Bible shows that during the time of King Hezekiah, Aramaic was the language of international dialogue, while not spoken by the common or uneducated people (2 Kings 18:26). During the Babylonian exile, Aramaic was spoken by many Jews. A number of phrases are recorded in the New Testament of Jesus speaking in Aramaic. For example, when Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead He said to her, “Talitha koum!” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up! (Mark 5:41). At the

healing of a deaf mute Jesus spoke in Aramaic (Mark 7:34).

In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus addressed His Father in prayer in two languages, both Aramaic and Greek, showing that Jesus prayed in more than one language (Mark 14:36). The cry of Jesus upon the cross, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” was in Aramaic (Matthew 27:46). Other words in the New Testament, such as Rabboni (John 20:16), Maranatha (1 Corinthians 16:22), Hosanna (Mark 11:9), Gethsemane (Mark 14:32) are Aramaic words. Peter’s nickname of Cephas is Aramaic (John 1:42), and Tabitha is the Aramaic form of the name Dorcas (Acts 9:36).

The New Testament, however, was mostly written in Greek. It was not written in either Hebrew or Aramaic, except for a few words or phrases. Greek was the language of scholarship during the years of the composition of the New Testament in the first century.

Many Jews could not even read Hebrew leading up to the time of Christ and around 300 BC a translation of the Old Testament from Hebrew into Greek was undertaken. It was completed around 200 BC. Gradually this Greek translation of the Old Testament, called the Septuagint, became widely accepted and was even used in many synagogues. It also became a wonderful missionary tool for the early Christians, for the Greeks could read God’s Word in their own tongue. So both the Old Testament and the New Testament were commonly used in the Greek language.

The New Testament authors did not use a high-class or classical Greek, but a very common and everyday type of Greek. For many years some scholars ridiculed the Greek of the New Testament because many of its words were strange to those who read the writings of

the Greek classical authors such as Plato and Aristotle. But later many records were uncovered of ordinary people, and amazingly there were the same common terms used in everyday speech as used in the Bible!

The way that God has given us the original Bible in different languages and the fact that Jesus Himself spoke several languages proves that God never wanted people to be bound or stuck to having to pray or preach in only one language. I now come back to the false claim that I cannot use the word “Jesus” because it is an English word and not the original Hebrew. **Please remember that the New Testament was not written in Hebrew.**

The false claim of not being able to use English words would mean that I cannot use the word “Father” because it is English. I could not say “Holy Spirit” because that is English. I could not say “God” because that is English. This shows the nonsense of claiming that I cannot use the word “Jesus.” I can preach in my mother tongue when speaking to people who know the English language. I do not need to preach in Hebrew and I do not need to preach in Greek nor Aramaic. When preaching in Africa or Asia my translator will use their local language while translating my preaching. The same will occur no matter what country I am in.

The Bible is to be translated into the common everyday speech of the people. The name Jesus and all the other words associated with God are pronounced in different ways in different languages. This is normal and natural. People do not need to learn Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek in order to pray to God or preach about God. **They can pray and preach in their own mother tongue**, as well as use any secondary language which they understand. Languages are developed over time, but what

is important is what people understand by a word's meaning today. **When I use the word "Jesus" in my preaching people can easily understand who I am talking about.**

Jesus is the Saviour of the world. The gospel is that He died upon the cross for our sins and rose from the dead on the third day. We must make Him the Lord and Saviour of our lives and follow Him wholeheartedly. We must repent of our sins and lead people to Christ, by proclaiming that Jesus is Lord. Do not get caught up with side issues and worthless arguments. Focus on the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:3-6).

Language	Name/variant
Afrikaans	Jesus
Albanian	Jezusi
Arabic	`Isà / (cimalsI) ياسى ڤسى (a) (naitsirhC) ڤى سوع
Aragonese	Chesús
Aramaic/Syriac	ܝܫܘܥ (Isho)
Arberesh	Isuthi
Armenian	Հիսուս ( <i>Hisus</i> )
Azerbaijani	İsa
Belarus	Icyc ( <i>Isus</i> ) (Orthodox) / Ezyc ( <i>Yezus</i> ) (Catholic)
Bosnian	Isus
Breton	Jezuz
Catalan	Jesús
Chinese	耶穌 (Simplified), 耶穌 (Traditional) – Yēsū (Mandarin), Yèh-sōu (Cantonese)
Croatian	Isus

Czech	Ježíš
Dutch	Jezus
Estonian	Jeesus
Filipino	Jesús (Christian and secular) / Hesús or Hesukristo (religious)
Finnish	Jeesus
French	Jésus
Galician	Xesús
Garo	Jisu
Georgian	იესო ( <i>Ieso</i> )
Greek	Ἰησοῦς ( <i>Iisús</i> modern Greek pronunciation)
Haitian Creole	Jezi
Hausa	Yesu
Hawaiian	Jesu
Hebrew	Yeshu / (raluces ,hsiwēJ) ישו Yeshua יֵשׁוּעַ (Christian)
Hungarian	Jézus
Icelandic	Jesús
Indonesia	Yesus (Christian) / Isa (Islamic)

A detailed list of words used in translation:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus\\_\(name\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_(name))

The Bible warns us to keep away from those who cause divisions in the body of Christ and put obstacles in people's way (Romans 16:17; Titus 3:9-11). **Make sure you don't promote unnecessary arguments.**

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**JESUS IS MY LORD AND SAVIOUR!**

**ANSWERING  
A FALSE  
ARGUMENT  
THAT WE SHOULD  
NOT USE THE  
ENGLISH  
WORD  
"JESUS"**

I met a man who was telling me that I cannot preach in my mother tongue of English, for he was claiming that I cannot use the word "Jesus" but that I have to go back to the original language of Hebrew.

I realized that this was a lie from the devil, for it would create confusion among Christians and get them arguing about side issues. Therefore I have written this response.