

Name Above All Names; Jesus Or Yeshua?

'If you have been raised together with Jesus, seek the things in heaven where Jesus is, seated on the right hand of God. Set your mind on things in heaven, not things on earth, for you died (to sin and to self) and your life is hidden with Jesus in God. When Jesus, Who is our life is revealed, you will also be revealed with Him in glory' (Colossians 3:1 to 4).

'Have this in your mind which was also in Jesus, Who existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to cling to, but He emptied Himself, taking the form of a Servant, being made in the likeness of men and being found in human form, He humbled Himself becoming obedient to the death of the cross. Therefore God highly exalted Him and gave to Him the name above every name so at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven, on earth and under the earth (in hell), and every tongue will confess, Jesus the Messiah is Lord to the glory of God the Father' (Philippians 2:5 to 11).

Here are some of the various titles of our Saviour written in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Not all the titles given to Jesus are here, but there are enough to engage His Wonderful character and to understand Who He really is to us. A concordance may be needed to find these titles scattered throughout the scriptures. He is The Amen, Faithful and True Witness, the Head and Beginning of God's Creation; Immanuel/Emmanuel, God with us; Son of Man; Beloved Son; Son of His love; Son of the Father; Son of the Most High; Begotten of the Father; The Man, Messiah Yeshua; Anointed One; Firstfruits; Life-giving Spirit; Second Adam; Son of Abraham; Root of Jesse; Root and Offspring of David; My Servant Whom I have Chosen; Consolation of Israel; Creator of Israel; Holy One of Israel; Hope of Israel; Ruler in Israel; Strength of Israel; Apostle and High Priest; our Messiah, our Hope; Melchizedek; Horn of our Salvation; Sower of seeds; Chief Cornerstone; Precious Cornerstone; Way, Truth and Life; True Vine; Living Word of God; Yesterday, Today and Forever; Advocate, Mediator, Intercessor and Wonderful Counsellor; Author and Finisher of our Faith; Prince of Peace; Shepherd and Overseer; Sure Foundation; Foundation Stone; Rock of Salvation; Forerunner; Deliverer; Feeder of the flock; Great Shepherd; Precious Gift; Governor; Help and our Shield; Rock; Fortress; Refuge; High Tower; Bridegroom; Sacrifice; Redeemer; Great God and Saviour; Guarantee; Teacher; Power of God; Wisdom of God; My Lord and My God; Angel of the Lord; Blessed and only Ruler; King of Kings; Lord of Lords; Branch of Righteousness; Bread of Life; Bright Morning Star; Man of Heaven; Mighty God; Everlasting Father; Great Light; My Beloved; Holy One; Royal Diadem; First and Last; Beginning and End; Almighty; Who is, Who was and Who is to come; Word of God; Heir of all things; Holy One of God; Perfect Image of God; King of Eternity; Lord Our Righteousness; Lord of Heaven; I AM; Shiloh; Son of Righteousness; Lamb of God.

The above list are all titles, but there are many people who are confused about what our Lord's God-given name really is. What was He called when on earth and why was He given that name? What is the name above every name? His Hebrew name is Yeshua, which means 'Salvation' and that is His holy God-given name and that is the name above every name. He was born a Jew in Israel, to a mother from the priestly tribe of Levi and stepfather from the royal tribe of Judah, in the culture, religion and the language of Judaism. The priestly lineage and the royal lineage gave Him the authority to be both our King and Priest. Yeshua, both His parents and the apostles all spoke Hebrew. As Yeshua grew up, He was known as Yeshua Ben (Son of) Joseph from Nazarene. 'We have found the One Moses in the Law and the prophets wrote about, He is Yeshua Ben-Yosef from Nazarene' (John 1:45). The word Nazarene means 'Branch'. 'Behold, the days will come when I will raise to David's blood line a righteous Branch and He will reign as King and deal wisely, and will execute justice and righteousness in the land of Israel, says the Lord God' (Jeremiah 23:5). 'Joseph arose and took the young Child (Yeshua) and His mother (Mary) and came into the land of Israel ... Being warned in a dream, they withdrew into the region of Galilee and lived in a city called Nazareth so it might be fulfilled which was spoken through the prophets, "He will be called a Nazarene"' (Matthew 2:21 to 23).

During His ministry, Yeshua was called the Son of God. 'Those who were in the boat came and worshipped Him saying, "You are truly the Son of God!" (Matthew 14:33). All of His disciples and apostles accepted Him as being the Son of God without question. 'Having a great High Priest Who has passed through the heavens, Yeshua the Son of God' (Hebrews 4:14). Yeshua was a descendant of King David through the biological family lines of both Mary and His stepfather Joseph. 'The book of the genealogy of Yeshua the Messiah, the Son (male descendant) of David, the Son (male descendant) of Abraham ... Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream saying, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take to yourself Mary your wife, for He Who is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit' (Matthew 1:1 & 20 – Joseph's lineage). 'The son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz ...' (Luke 3:31 & 32 – Mary's lineage). 'Concerning the Son of God, Who was born of the lineage of King David according to the flesh (the

lineage of Mary and Joseph), Who was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of Holiness by the resurrection from the dead, Yeshua our Lord' (Romans 1:3 & 4). Yeshua called Himself Yeshua Ben-David, the Son or male descendant of King David (Matthew 22:41 to 45). Many people who went to Yeshua for healing and all the apostles called Him Son of David. God revealed to John the Baptist (John 1:32 to 34) and the disciples, Yeshua was the Messiah (Matthew 16:13 to 17). After His resurrection, He was called Yeshua HaMashiach, or Yeshua the Messiah, the Anointed One. 'Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Yeshua the Messiah' (2 Peter 3:18).

Most people believe Yeshua spoke Greek and He may have, as well as Aramaic and Latin, but when He was speaking to the disciples He always spoke Hebrew, which was His natural language. When He preached in synagogues, to be credible as the Jewish Messiah, He would have always spoken in Hebrew. When the angel Gabriel said to Joseph about Mary, "She will give birth to a Son. You are to call His name Jesus/Yeshua for it is He who will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21), Gabriel would have used the name Yeshua because that name means 'Salvation'. There is no way Gabriel would have told Joseph to name Him Jesus because that is a Greek name and has an entirely different meaning as well will see later in this Bible study. His name is Yeshua, not Jesus. The word Yeshua, meaning Salvation, was a word used within the Hebrew language and in one verse was actually spoken by Jacob, the patriarch of the twelve tribes of Israel and thus the father of Israel and all Jewish people. Jacob said to God the Father, "I have waited for Your Yeshua (Salvation), YaHWeH." Yeshua said, "I have come in My Father's name and you do not receive Me" (John 5:43) ... These things are written so you may believe Yeshua is the Messiah, the Son of God and believing in Him, you may have Life in His name" (John 20:31). 'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God ... All things were made through Him ... In Him is Life and the Life is the light of men' (John 1:1 to 4).

In the pages of written history, in the original letters that became the New Testament, Yeshua was never called Jesus. The original Hebrew or Jewish name of our Jewish Messiah was pronounced Y'shuah. For three centuries He was only ever called Yeshua. As anti-Semitism grew and increased, the pagan/pseudo Christians had to come up with a name that fitted in with their ideology. The power of the name of Yeshua of Nazareth was crushed because it was too 'Jewish' and people were turning against the Jews. As the early church of genuine believers gradually died out, pagan influences infiltrated the once pure, Judaism-based assemblies. Constantine may have believed in Yeshua but was never a true convert and he merged Christianity with paganism. He worshipped Mithrah, Tammuz and the sun god Zeus until the day he died. Constantine commissioned the Holy Hebrew Scriptures to be translated into Greek, circa AD 325, for the Gentiles who had joined the church. Previous to that time, Christian Gentiles had used the Hebrew Scriptures and listened to the Gospel being preached in synagogues (Acts 13:42). Constantine paid scribes to translate the Hebrew scriptures by hand. There was no printing press in those days and it was a slow process. The result was referred to as the Byzantine Text. The way the scriptures were translated diminished the 'faith' aspect of our salvation to 'works'. The names of some towns, locations and God-given Jewish holidays, feasts and celebrations were changed. Passover became Easter named after the goddess of fertility, Ishtar; the Feast of Dedication (John 10:22) eventually became Christmas. At times, transliterations were used instead of translations. Tevilah (plunging in water) and Mikveh (ceremonial cleansing in a ceremonial bath) became baptism (Greek for sinking a ship). Although the translating of the Bible did not seriously affect the overall context of the Gospel message, a few things were radically changed.

Yeshua of Nazareth, the Name above all names, the only Name by which men must be saved and the most important Name in all history was changed. Initially, His Hebrew name was changed to the Greek word Iesous (pronounced ee-ay-soos). The symbol of this pagan name was a fish and that symbol is often used even today. Then the Lord's name was again changed to 'Je-Zeus Kristus'. The name of the Messiah was merged with the sun god and so Yeshua became Je-Zeus and that was later shortened to Jesus, which in reality is a Greek name that means 'Zeus heals'; a far cry from the original God-given name of Yeshua, which means Salvation. Note: The middle 's' in the name Jesus is pronounced as a 'z' as it did in Je-Zeus. The Hebrew word Mashiach/Messiah, meaning 'The Anointed One' was changed to Kristus, which was the generic Greek word for many pagan gods and it is where the Hindus got the name for their god Krishna. Kristus was later changed to 'Christos'. The name 'Christ' was attributed to Yeshua as a derogatory or mocking term. The pagans did not consider Yeshua to be God's Anointed. The word Christian was a derogatory term for the true followers of Yeshua because they would not accept the pagan god Zeus. Some people, especially those who disregard the Jewish people, find all this hard to accept but it is written down in the history books for anyone who cares to check it out. Our Messiah was never called Jesus Christ except by those who intended to criticise and even today, His detractors use His name as an expletive. In other languages His name took on other forms.

It was about that time when the dreadful 'Replacement Theology' began to be taught in the spiritually weakened, now impure, Gentile churches. The 'Replacement Theology' teaches people, the Christian church has replaced the Jews and Israel in God's affections and so the Jews became, to the Byzantine Christians, an unnecessary people and the persecution of Jews by Christians began in earnest. Later still, the Christian religion was seen as a 'white Western religion' instead of a branch of Judaism, started by our Jewish Messiah and continued to be spread by the Jewish Apostles. To increase those wrong beliefs, it has been taught since the days of Constantine, the New Testament was written in Greek and that error is still being taught today. The whole Bible, Old Testament and New Testament were originally written in Hebrew, by Jewish men, for the new Jewish believers and was not translated into Greek until Constantine commissioned it. The Replacement Theology is very, very wrong. Israel and the Jewish people are still the 'Apple of God's Eye' and we must conform to their way of thinking and to the way they worship the Lord, to the way they obey the Lord and the way they regard God as their King, with absolute respect and reverence. The Jews do not have to change to be like Christians.

'Enoch lived three hundred sixty-five years. Enoch walked with God and he was not for God took him' (Genesis 5:23 & 24). 'By faith, Enoch was taken so he would not see death, and he was not found (on earth) because God translated him. Enoch has the testimony given to him, before his translation he had been well pleasing to God' (Hebrews 11:5). 'Enoch, the seventh generation from Adam prophesied saying, "Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of His holy ones to execute judgment on all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their works of ungodliness which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the blasphemous things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him"' (Jude 1:14 & 15). This quote in Jude was a prophecy written by Enoch about Noah's flood before it happened. When the Bible was being translated from Hebrew to Greek during the days of Constantine, the church 'fathers' decided to completely omit the Book of Enoch, which had always been included in the Jewish scriptures. The Lord must have wanted the Book of Enoch to be read by His people because quite miraculously, it has been preserved intact and can be read today. It was the very first book of the Bible written by Enoch and Noah for future generations. It was written long before Moses wrote Genesis. The Book of Enoch is quoted throughout the Bible as we just read in the verses taken from Jude. The Prophets, Yeshua and all the apostles quoted Enoch. Many verses in the Book of Revelation are quotes taken from the Book of Enoch and Noah. Like the Books of Elijah and Revelation, much of the Book of Enoch is a deeply spiritual book and can only be understood by deeply spiritual people who are thoroughly committed to the Lord. Enoch was alive during the very beginning of mankind when angels walked on earth with people; he was alive before the wickedness on the earth brought about Noah's flood. Enoch prophesied about the coming of Messiah Yeshua, calling Him the King of kings and Lord of lords. To remove such an important book, the Book of Enoch, from the Holy Scriptures was perfidious.

It was also during this time of translation, the Bible was divided into chapter and verse. Before that, the scriptures were written on long scrolls. The Hebrew Scriptures, Tenakh, became Biblia (Latin), and Biblios (Greek), the literal word for 'The books'. That was later changed again to 'Bible'. The Book of Samuel was divided into two books instead of one, as were Kings and Chronicles. Originally, Ezra and Nehemiah were the one book of Ezra. The original Jewish names of the books of the Bible were changed to Greek names. Beresheet became Genesis. Shimot became Exodus. Vayikra became Leviticus. Bemidbar became Numbers. Divarim became Deuteronomy. Shoftim became Judges. Milakhim became Kings. Divrei-HaYamin became Chronicles. Tehillim became Psalms. Mishlei became Proverbs. Eikhah became Ecclesiastes. The names of the prophets were changed from their original Hebrew names to Greek names. Yesha'yahu became Isaiah. Yochanan became John, and so on until the Jewishness of the scriptures became pagan Greek. The scriptures themselves were divided into the 'Old Testament and the New Testament'. They were originally called Torah (the Laws of Moses), Tanakh (writings of the prophets) and Brit Hadashah (writings of the apostles).

Other verses were changed by Constantine's translators to reinforce their own doctrines. Here is one example. The Hebrew text reads, 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in My name, Yeshua' (Matthew 28:19). In the Byzantine text and in all subsequent Bibles it reads, '... Baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit'. That part of the verse did not exist in the original Hebrew text. This last page in the original three manuscripts written by Matthew has been torn out and destroyed but two have been found intact. That means Matthew wrote his manuscript at least five times for different people around the world as the apostles went into the whole earth preaching the Gospel as Yeshua commanded, relying on the power of His name. Peter said, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you in the name of Messiah Yeshua for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). 'When the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent Peter and John to

them who, when they arrived, prayed for them so they might receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet He had fallen on none of them. They had only been baptised in the name of Messiah Yeshua. Then Peter and John laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit' (Acts 8:14 to 17). 'While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the Word. The Jews who believed were amazed, for many came with Peter because the gift of the Holy Spirit was being poured out on the Gentiles. The Jews heard the Gentiles speaking in other languages and magnifying God. Then Peter said, "Can any man forbid the water, so these who have received the Holy Spirit as well as we have, should not be baptised?" Peter commanded them to be baptised in the name of Messiah Yeshua, then they asked him to stay with them' (Acts 10:44 to 48). 'When the Gentiles heard this, they were baptised in the Name of the Lord Yeshua' (Acts 19:5). Not once did Peter or any of the apostles use the Byzantine text formula when they baptised Jews or Greeks or other Gentile people. They only ever used the Name of Yeshua. Once all the changes to the scriptures had been completed, Constantine ordered all the original Hebrew scriptures be burned and destroyed. Only a very few faithful Jews and Gentile believers had the courage to hide the original texts and many paid for that with their lives and the lives of their families.

Why has the Lord God allowed His Wonderful Son's name to be so misrepresented? Why does He currently carry a heathen name? Because the Lord God wants to reach the unsaved and the name Yeshua is distasteful to most people. It is a holy God-given name and ungodly people do not want to hear the name, Yeshua. That was a problem 2,000 years ago and still applies today. People died for that special name! The apostles were beaten and commanded not to speak of nor teach in the name of Yeshua (Acts 4:18; 5:40). 'Preaching boldly in the name of the Lord Yeshua, Barnabas spoke against and disputed with the Hellenists, but they were seeking to kill him' (Acts 9:29). 'Barnabas and Paul risked their lives for the name of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah' (Acts 15:26). Yeshua's Greek name will continue to be accepted by Gentiles who dislike the Jews but is it only for a season. Yeshua is a very Jewish sounding name and is rejected by the bulk of the population. Yeshua died for all humanity, and so His name will continue to be spread throughout the world, the Lord has allowed His name to be changed, if by any means, He can reach the lost. However, the whole world will one day, once again embrace Him by His proper name, Yeshua. If we look at the opening verse again, we will read something many people miss. We are all hidden with Yeshua in God and when He is revealed in all His glory as the Son of God to every person who has ever lived on this earth, so then at the same time, every person who has lived a dedicated Godly life will also be revealed to unbelievers. The fullness of our salvation and the spiritual aspect of our relationship with God the Father through Yeshua are hidden from the unsaved people of this world. 'The world does not know us because it did not know Jesus (realise Who He really was)' (1 John 3:1). The world is completely ignorant of the close, intimate relationship we have with Yeshua. So too, Yeshua's absolute glory is hidden from the wicked who hate Him and one day that will all be revealed. One example of someone being hidden until God's time was right for her to be revealed was in the story of Hadassah. Hadassah's Jewish lineage was hidden from everyone when she first became Queen Esther. She was the woman who helped save the Jewish people from destruction. Her Jewishness was only revealed when it had to be – at the perfect time. 'Mordecai brought up his young cousin Hadassah, that is Esther, his uncle's daughter. The young woman was fair and beautiful and when her father and mother died, Mordecai took her for his own daughter' (Esther 2:7).

The early church-goers were not called Christians, they were called believers (Acts 5:14). The churches were called the assemblies (Acts 16:5) and the Body as a whole was called 'The Way' (Acts 9:2; 19:23). Yeshua declared, "I Am The Way, Truth and the Life" (John 14:6) and the name of the early church was taken from the words of Yeshua. It was not until after Constantine when the church as a whole was called Christianity. Why did the early church tolerate such blasphemous corrupting of the Word of God? For three reasons; the culture of the day, the desperate need for peace and they were hugely outnumbered. The church had a new, charismatic leader in Constantine. The culture in those days meant the people bowed their knee to the Emperor, regarding him as a man who had better revelation. If one wanted to stay alive, they did not argue with the Emperor. There was a need to stop the persecution of believers which was barbaric and insanely savage and so they accepted the way Constantine was removing the 'Jewishness' and the Hebrew history attached to the early church, even if it meant merging paganism with 'The Way'. Removing the 'Jewishness' from the scriptures made the Bible more acceptable and less offensive to the millions of pagans, most of whom despised the Jews. Constantine was the ultimate politician, cultivating assimilation and a merging of various 'religions' in his empire for the sake of peace. The more people who found the Gospel acceptable, the more people lived in peace. The name of Yeshua was done away with and the name of Jesus became the norm, but even so, many people were being saved. That is why many preachers around the world still insist on using the pagan name 'Jesus Christ'. They want their message to be acceptable to the unsaved who do not know Him by any other name. That is why we still use the name of Jesus in our Bible studies on this website, so people who do not know Him by any other name might read

about Him and be saved, but we do not use 'Christ' unless we have to, to get our point across. Many miracles have been wrought by using the name of Jesus because God looks at the heart of the person more than He takes notice of the words being used. The scriptures say, 'What does it matter as long as the Messiah is being proclaimed' (Philippians 1:18).

The Lord can use any situation to bring salvation to individuals and the decisions of Constantine was one situation He used to bring many millions to the saving grace of Yeshua. It was good for the growth of the church but a disaster for the Jewish people who are still being persecuted to this day. One day that will all change as more and more genuine believers are having their spiritual eyes opened to the need for us to embrace the Jewish people, to embrace Israel and support them to the best of our ability. What we do or not do for Israel and Jewish people in our communities is noticed by the Lord, and He considers the Jewish people His family. Yeshua our King said, "I tell you, inasmuch as you do good to one of the least of these my brothers (the Jews), you do it for Me ... I tell you, inasmuch as you do not do good to one of the least of these (Jews), you do not do it for Me' (Matthew 25:40 & 45).

The Bible explains what must happen before Yeshua and all His believers are revealed to the world. After the very last Gentile has finally accepted Yeshua, then all Israel will be saved. 'I do not desire you to be ignorant of this mystery so you will not be wise in your own conceits. A partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in and so all Israel will be saved' (Romans 11:25 & 26). "Behold, the days will come when I will make a New Covenant with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah" says the Lord (Hebrews 8:8). It was Yeshua Who ushered in the New Covenant. 'Yeshua took the cup after supper saying, "This cup is the New Covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you"' (Luke 22:20). When the last of the Gentiles is saved, then the Lord will save all of Israel and then we will all be revealed as being the children of God the Father made righteous by the blood of Yeshua. After that comes the Lamb's marriage supper and all genuine believers become the pure, redeemed Bride of the Son.

What is THE NAME above all names we are supposed to use? The Bible tells us, Yeshua of Nazareth is the name He seems to prefer. The apostles did miracles using that name. Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none but what I have, I give to you. In the name of Yeshua the Messiah of Nazareth, get up and walk!" (Acts 3:6). 'Let it be it known to you all (all Gentiles) and to all the people of Israel, in the name of Yeshua of Nazareth Whom you crucified, Whom God raised from the dead, in Him does this (once lame, now healed) man stand here before you whole. Yeshua is The Stone, regarded as worthless by you the builders, has become the Head Cornerstone. There is salvation in no other name, for neither is there any other name under heaven given among men by which we must all be saved!' (Acts 4:10 to 12). When Yeshua's glory and His God-given Name is revealed to all mankind, every knee will bow in heaven, on earth and every person and fallen angel in Hades, and every tongue will confess, Yeshua the Messiah is Lord to the glory of God the Father' (Philippians 2:9 to 11).

Amen and God bless you.

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