

What was Jesus' Real Name?

Jesus is an English transliteration of a Greek transliteration of the Hebrew name Yeshua, the shortened version of Yehoshua. In English Yeshua is translated as Joshua - just like Joshua in the Bible. So why do we call him our Messiah Jesus?

When the name Yeshua is translated into the Greek language, the closest phonetic approximation is Iesous, pronounced "YAY-Soos." Two to three hundred years before His birth Jewish scholars translated the Hebrew Bible into common Greek. This translation is known as the Septuagint. In this Greek translation the names Yehoshua and Yeshua were rendered Iesous. The "oos" ending on the name indicates a masculine subject. Without that ending, the name Yeshua would sound like a girl's name in Greek. As the church translated the Greek into Latin, and then the Latin into English there were more phonetic changes. In old English, the 'y' sound was represented by the letter "j" and that is how we ended up with the anglicized "Jesus."

When parents in ancient Biblical times named their babies, they didn't just pick a name that was pretty or trendy, or sounded good with the family name as we might here in the United States. Names were very important and were considered carefully. "In the Biblical culture, a name was more than just a label by which to address someone. A person's name carried some important association, communicated some essential inner characteristic or contained some clue about a prophetic destiny." (First Fruits of Zion Torah Club: Unrolling the Scroll – Vayetze). Something else that we may not expect is the use of word play, or puns, in Hebrew names.

When the angel came to Joseph, Yosef in Hebrew, he said, "You shall call His name Yehoshua for He will save His people from their sins." Yehoshua is a conjunctive form of "Yehovah," the name of God, and "Yeshua," which means Salvation. Yehoshua means God Saves or God is Salvation. This is a clear statement of the Deity of Yehoshua; only God can save His people. Yehoshua or Yeshua was Jesus' identifying name and it also communicated his essential inner characteristic and contained a clue about his prophetic destiny

HE IS GOD AND HE DID SAVE.