

QUESTION: The Church calls the Messiah JESUS. His Jewish name is YESHUA. So should we address Jesus by the Hebrew name YESHUA? Please enlighten a non-Jew like me.

ANSWER: At the time the New Testament was written, Greek was the lingua franca, i.e., the generally spoken language in the whole known world, even in Israel. Though there are some Messianics who would like to argue the point, the documentary evidence for the NT's original language is fairly conclusive. The NT does contain many Hebraisms, but the whole New Testament was written in Koine Greek! Even Matthew, the Gospel for the Jews was written in Greek. Throughout the whole NT, the Lord's name is written "Jesus" (in Greek, *Iesous*. Don't think the Greek alphabet can be e-mailed, so I transliterated.) and "Jesus the Christ." So do we trust the Bible or don't we?

Mat 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: (in Greek, *Iesous*) for he shall save his people from their sins.

Luk 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus (in Greek, *Iesous*).

That's what the Bible says, so here's the question? Did the Creator of the Universe allow His whole church for 20 centuries to call Him by a wrong name or didn't God know what He wanted His Son to be called? The Germans spell Jesus' name Jesu, the Latinos pronounce His name Haysoos, the Karen people of Burma call Him Y'wa, the Incas called Him, "The God who made the Sun" and He has many more revealed names in the Bible. The Lord doesn't care how we believe His name should be pronounced. The Lord cares about the intents of the heart, "for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance (i.e., how we might say His name), but the LORD looketh on the heart," 1Sa 16:7.

That we have to address Him by just one of His many names is just another legalistic error that has crept into the Church. "God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth," John 4:24.

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