

Come let us Grow Together: Jesus is the name Joshua or Jehoshua

Come let us Grow Together is a weekly series that deals with the many topical categories that exist within the Word of God. The purpose of this series is to grow in wisdom, knowledge, and understanding in things pertaining to God.

When reading in the New Testament we come across two passages of scriptures that uses the name of Jesus, but from the context of the scriptures we can see that it is Joshua the son of Nun that is being referenced.

Acts 7:44-45

44 Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen.

45 Which also our fathers that came after **brought in with Jesus** into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;

We know that the successor of Moses was Joshua the son of Nun who brought the children of Israel into the promised land.

Hebrews 4:6-8

6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

8 For **if Jesus** had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

Again, we can see from the context of these scriptures that Joshua the son of Nun is being referenced.

So why is the name of Jesus used here instead of Joshua in the King James Version of the Bible?

The answer for this is the name of Jesus is the name Joshua or Jehoshua.

Exodus 33:11

11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant **Joshua**, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

The word Joshua in the Hebrew is:

3091. Yehowshuwa', yeh-ho-shoo'-ah; or Yehowshu'a, yeh-ho-shoo'-ah; from H3068 and H3467; Jehovah-saved; Jehoshua (i.e. Joshua), the Jewish leader:--Jehoshua, Jehoshuah, Joshua. Comp. H1954, H3442.

Numbers 13:16

16 These are the names of the men which Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Oshea the son of Nun **Jehoshua**.

Again, we see that the same Hebrew word for Jehoshua is:

3091. Yehowshuwa', yeh-ho-shoo'-ah; or Yehowshu'a, yeh-ho-shoo'-ah; from H3068 and H3467; Jehovah-saved; Jehoshua (i.e. Joshua), the Jewish leader:--Jehoshua, Jehoshuah, Joshua. Comp. H1954, H3442.

Matthew 1:21

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **JESUS**: for he shall save his people from their sins.

The Greek word used for Jesus is:

2424. Iesous, ee-ay-sooce'; of Heb. or. [**H3091**]; Jesus (i.e. Jehoshua), the name of our Lord and two (three) other Isr.:--Jesus.

So the reason why the name of Jesus is used in those two passages of scriptures instead of the name of Joshua in the King James Version of the Bible is because the name of Jesus is the name Joshua or Jehoshua.

There are some people who claim that the name of Jesus is the incorrect name of our Messiah due to a conspiratorial cover up to hide his true name from the world. But as we have seen up to this point Jesus is the name Joshua or Jehoshua.

Nehemiah 8:17

17 And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of **Jeshua the son of Nun** unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.

Here we see the name of Joshua being translated as Jeshua. Therefore Jehoshua can be contracted as Joshua or Jeshua.

Is there a translation problem into the English language?

The answer is no!! Joshua is an English transliteration straight from Hebrew. Jesus is from Hebrew, then Aramaic, then Greek, then Latin, and finally English.

“Before closing our remarks on the genealogy it is proper to say something of the great difference between the forms of proper names in the Old Testament and in the New. This difference forces itself on the attention of the reader here more than anywhere else in the New Testament. The difference arises from three distinct causes: First, from the loss of certain letters by Hebrew names in passing through the Greek, the language in which the New Testament was written. The Greek has no h nor j, and it usually terminates masculine proper names with an s; so

that Hebrew names with the former letters in them must be spelt in Greek without them, and those terminating in h, which is a very common Hebrew termination, must have h changed to s. Thus, Rehoboam becomes Roboam, Hezekiah becomes Ezekias; Elijah, Elias etc. Second, the Hebrews were much given to contraction of proper names: thus, Jehoshaphat is contracted into Josaphat, Jehoram into Joram, Azariah into Uzziah. This last name furnishes an example of the co-working of both these causes. Originally Azariah, it became by contraction Uzziah, and then, by the peculiar mode of spelling in Greek, it became Ozias, as in verses 8 and 9 above. Third, all living languages undergo some changes of pronunciation, and subsequent changes of spelling to suit the new pronunciation. Some of these differences are doubtless to be accounted for in this way, e. g., Salathiel, of Chronicles and Matthew, is Shealtiel in Ezra and Nehemiah; while Zerubbabel, of all these Old Testament writers, is Zorobabel in Matthew and Luke.”

—Commentary on Matthew and Mark

What does the name Jesus mean?

The name Jesus is the same as Saviour. It is derived from the verb signifying to save. In Hebrew it is the same as Joshua.

—Barnes' Notes on the New Testament

shalt call his name JESUS -- from the Hebrew meaning "Jehovah the Saviour"; in Greek JESUS

—Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary

The word Jesus is the Latin form of the Greek Iesous, which in turn is the transliteration of the Hebrew Jeshua, or Joshua, or again Jehoshua, meaning "Jehovah is salvation."

—Catholic Encyclopedia <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08374x.htm>

The Significance of the Name of Jesus

Before the Son of God was born, an angel gave Joseph the name by which He was to be called—Jesus. God chose this name to reveal Himself in flesh as Savior, for the name Jesus literally means “Jehovah-Savior,” “Jehovah our Savior,” or “Jehovah is Salvation.”

—David K. Bernard "In the Name of Jesus"

The Greek form of a Hebrew name, which had been borne by two illustrious individuals in former periods of the Jewish history - Joshua, the successor of Moses, and Jeshua, the high-priest, who with Zerubbabel took so active a part in the re-establishment of the civil and religious polity of the Jews on their return from Babylon. Its original and full form is Jehoshua, becoming by contraction Joshua or Jeshua. Joshua, the son of Nun, the successor of Moses, was originally named Hoshea (saving), which was altered by Moses into Jehoshua (Jehovah (our) Salvation) (Numbers 13:16). The meaning of the name, therefore, finds expression in the title Saviour, applied to our Lord (Luke 1:47; Luke 2:11; John 4:42).

—Vincent's Word Studies