

## The Right Name?

Proponents of the **Sacred Name Movement** declare that only the right, original Hebrew Name of God may be used, but amongst those that think like this there is ironically no consensus of what it really should be. If according to them, there is only one Holy Name, they better make sure that they get the right one! Whilst *Yahweh* and *Yahshua* are commonly used, others propose, amongst others, names like *Yahvahshua*, *Yahvah* and *Yahwah* (<https://www.encyclopedia.com/sacred-name-groups>).

Although some insist that only the Hebrew name for Jesus, *Yeshua* or *Yahoshua* should be used, these Hebrew names of Jesus do not appear in the Greek New Testament.

In the Pentateuch, a Greek translation of the first five books of the Old Testament, *Kurios*, the Greek equivalent to the Hebrew word *Yahweh* or *Jehovah*, is regularly used. In the Septuagint translation of the Hebrew scriptures it appears a few thousand times. It appears in the Koine Greek New Testament about 740 times, usually referring to Jesus.

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyrios>)

(<https://larryhurtado.wordpress.com/2014/08/22/yhwh-in-the-septuagint/>)

In the New Testament in Greek, instead of the Hebrew names, the words **Theos** – God, (**Matt. 3:9, Hand. 7:42, Mark 10:6**), **Kurios** – Lord, **Iesous** – Jesus, **Christos** – Christ (**1 Kor. 8:6**) and **hagios pneuma** – Holy Spirit (**1 Kor. 12:3**), are used.

Surely Paul and the other writers of the epistles would have used *YHWH*, *Yahvahshua*, *Yeshua* or *Yahoshua*, or any of the other Hebrew names if they were the only “holy” names that could be used. They did not, and yet they were deeply devoted to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

### Acts 9:5 (Greek)

ΕΙΠΕΝ ΔΕ ΤΙΣ ΕΙ ΚΥΡΙΕ Ο ΔΕ ΚΥΡΙΟΣ ΕΙΠΕΝ ΕΓΩ ΕΙΜΙ **ΙΗΣΟΥΣ** ΟΝ ΣΥ ΔΙΩΚΕΙΣ  
 “I am Jesus (**ΙΗΣΟΥΣ (Iesous) –Jesus**) whom you are persecuting.”

Today there still exist more than five thousand original copies of the New Testament in Greek. In Hebrew only copies of the Greek copies can be found. In the John Ryland Library in Manchester, England, there is a section of the eighteenth chapter of the Gospel of John in Greek, and although it is not in John’s own handwriting, it is a copy of the original. It is generally accepted as the earliest record of a canonical New Testament text ([wikipedia.org/wiki/Ryland's Library, Papyrus P52](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ryland's_Library,_Papyrus_P52)). It is interesting to note that the Name of Jesus in Greek appears in it. Another significant fact is that the letter to the Hebrews was originally also written in Greek.

Because the teachings of the Greek New Testament do not fit in with what is taught in the *Hebrew Roots* and the *Sacred Name Movements*, they question its authenticity. Some, who know that Paul wrote in Greek, go so far as to question the fact whether he was inspired. The strong emphasis on using Hebrew names is often accompanied with the idea that Old Testament laws concerning the Sabbath, the Kosher diet and the Jewish feasts must be kept. Some believe that because the Christian faith has been polluted by heathen influence, true worship can only take place by obeying the Torah.

Those who question the authenticity of the Greek New Testament, question the only original source in which we can find the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. Herein lies the unbridgeable gap that exists between New Testament Christians and those who question the New Testament in Greek. Whatever their arguments, due to their focus on the Old Testament and due to the fact that they insist on using only Hebrew names and customs, they have to respond in a disparaging way towards the Greek New Testament. This is inherent to their teachings. It is perplexing to think that someone who calls himself a Christian, by whatever name, questions the book from which he initially heard about Jesus and His message!

It is illogical to think that God who Himself confused the languages of the earth (**Gen.11**) now expects the nations to first learn the Hebrew language and culture before they can understand His plan of redemption! Nowhere in Scripture is this even hinted at. The fact that the Bible has been translated into so many languages, ties in with Jesus' command to go and make disciples of all nations (**Matt. 28:18-19**). With this command the Gospel stopped being Jewish. But that does not imply that it then became Greek. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has an identity of its own, which is Christian. If the world did not have copies of the Greek New Testament, we would have known nothing of what Jesus said.

Empiric evidence shows without a shadow of doubt that our New Testament was originally written in Greek.

If *iesous* can be transcribed as *Jesus* in Afrikaans and English, why would it be wrong to pronounce it in Russian, Spanish or French? Our salvation does not depend on pronouncing the Names of God correctly, but it rests upon the fact whether we are in a faith relationship with the Person of Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and His character is the same yesterday, today and forever (**Heb. 13:8**) – It does not change because His Name is pronounced incorrectly.

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