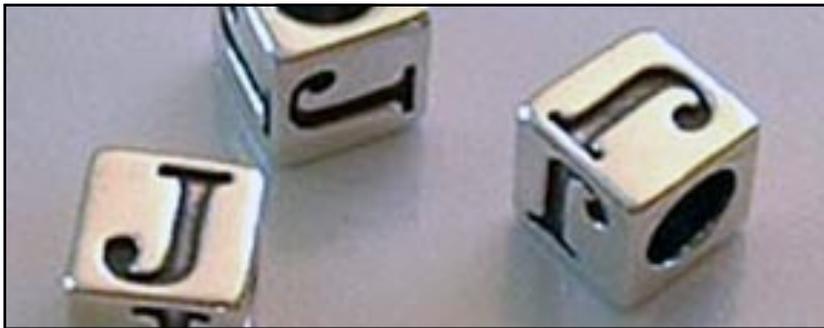




# DID YOU KNOW?

## THE LETTER “J”



In the AV<sup>1611</sup> (the King James), the name of our Lord is **IĖSVS**. A similar spelling had been used by The Catholic Church since the 12th. cent.

The spelling JESUS could not have been in any Bible before 1634 because there was

no letter “J” in the European alphabets.

“J” was not recognized as a separate letter before 1634, but was as an alternative form of the letter “I” and appeared as “J”.

When “J” was added to the alphabet it was pronounced “Y”.

When my sister became a professional dancer she chose a new “stage name”, and her fans knew her by that name. If someone phoned and asked for her by that stage name we knew this was a business contact, and responded accordingly. When someone called and asked for her by her real name, we knew it was a friend, or relative, and so they would be welcomed. Now if someone contacted her and said “Hello stage name, I am a long lost cousin, and I have known your Mother since you were a child”, she would know that this person was not a family member at all. She might say “I’m sorry I don’t know you and I don’t think you know me.”

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The Lord said

*“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied **in thy name?** and **in thy name** have cast out devils? and **in thy name** done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity [unjust behavior - working without my approval]” Matthew 7:22, 23, KJV.*

### CRYPTOGRAMS AND SACRED NAMES

All the earliest biblical documents (e.g. Codex Vaticanus, Papyri P Oxy 2, 5th. cent.) use cryptograms for the Lord’s name and title. Just as the Hebrew Torah used YHWH as a cryptogram for the name of God (in this case the cryptogram was called the tetragrammaton) they used the symbol IC for the name of the Lord. When a Pharisee read the tetragrammaton YHWH in the Torah scroll he would pronounce it as “Adonai”.

When a Christian saw the cryptogram for the name of the Lord in the Gospels, he would pronounce the sacred Hebrew name “Yeshuah”.

Though His friends knew His real name, it was never revealed in the Gospels - no disciple ever called Him by His real name. It was “Master”, “Rabbi” etc.

You see, knowing the name gives you a special power. That’s why The Lord never gave His name to the demons in the stories in the NT.

In the OT, God gave His name as “I AM” in the English version. But to Moses He revealed His real name so that Moses would have the power to release the captives. But this name was never written in any OT [ But in Jewish Kabalah, the Chasidim say that God’s name is the entire Torah scroll, and is unpronounceable].

## WHAT THE LORD WAS CALLED AT HOME

The AV 1611 was dedicated not to King James, but to King Iames (ee-yame-ez).

The only beings **in the Gospels** who talked to the Lord using His given name were the evil spirits and the enemies of God, like leader of the men who came to arrest Him at Gethsemane.

The “Jewish” Christians referred to the Lord by His divine Hebrew name EESHUAH or EESHUAH (even if they were Greek speakers).

All sacred names for God and The Lord, were in Hebrew, and never translated into the local language. We first read of the Lord being referred to (but not called) by his given name **in the later Greek versions (after the 5th. cent.) of the Epistle to the Thessalonians** wherein the Lord was referred to by a Greek name which sounded much like his Aramaic name of “ee-shoe”. The Greeks having no letter for the sound “sh”, spoke His name as ‘ee soos’ which was written Ἰησοῦς (*I soûs*).

*Title Page of AV 1611 showing the name of the Lord as IESVS. (the V is pronounced U)*



*Dedicatory Page of AV 1611 showing the name of the King as IAMES.*



## ETYMOLOGY OF THE NAME JESUS - IHS ON THE ALTAR CLOTHS

In Wyclif's Bible (16th. cent).—Lat. Jesus (Vulgate).—Gk. Ἰησοῦς.—Heb. Yéshu'a (Jeshua, Nehem. viii. 17, another form of Joshua); contracted form of Yehóshu'a (Jehoshua, Numb. xiii. 16), signifying 'help of Jehovah' or 'Saviour.'—Heb. root yásha', to be large; in the Hiphil conjugation, to save. Der. [Jesuit](#), q.v. Doublets, Joshua, Jeshua, Jehoshua. ⇨ In M.E. commonly written in a contracted form (Ihs̄), which by editors is often printed Jhesus. This is really an error, the h standing for the Gk. H (long e), so that **'Ihs̄'** = **Iesus**. So also 'Ihū' = Iesu. In Gk. capitals, it is IHC, where H = long e and C = s, being a form of the Gk. sigma; the mark above signifying that the form is contracted. In later times IHC became IHS. Lastly (the H being misunderstood) the ingenious fiction arose that IHS meant Iesus Hominum Salvator = Jesus Saviour of Men. The mark, being then unmeaning, was turned into a little cross, as on modern altar-cloths.

From An Etymology Dictionary of the English Language, by Walter W. Skeat, 1893

Christ" is not part of the Lord's name. The word comes from the Greek Χριστός ("Christos" or "Crestus") which is a translation of the Hebrew "Messiach". It is a title which means "annointed one". In the Gospels it was usually written "The Christ". (Mt 16:16,20; 26:63; Mr 8:29).



## IN THE NAME OF

When something is done "in the name of Jesus Christ" it implies the speaker is a disciple of Jesus Christ, and is operating (or praying to God) with His authority (read about those who only use the name but are unauthorized Mt 7:22,23).

# NOTES

The Jerusalem Congregation mandated the use of the nomina sacra devices [symbols that stood in for the divine name, like YHVH for the name of God], so that all early Papyri or MSS used it. By this the Hebrew words were meant. Here is a chart of the nomina sacra in the NT.

## Seven Sacred Names (nomina sacra)

- (1)  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Yahweh} \\ \text{Lord} \end{array} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \overline{\text{KY}} \\ \overline{\text{KS}} \end{array} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{יהוה} \\ \text{אדני} \end{array} \right\} = \text{אָ יָ אָ נְ}$
- (2) Elohim =  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \overline{\text{ΘΥ}} \\ \overline{\text{ΘΣ}} \\ \overline{\text{ΘΩ}} \end{array} \right\} = \text{אלהים}$       (3) Anointed One =  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \overline{\text{XY}} \\ \overline{\text{XS}} \\ \overline{\text{XΩ}} \end{array} \right\} = \text{משיח}$
- (4) Yeshua =  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \overline{\text{IY}} \\ \overline{\text{IS}} \\ \overline{\text{IΩ}} \end{array} \right\} = \text{ישוע}$       (5) Father =  $\overline{\text{ΠΑΤΗΡ}} = \text{אבינו}$
- (6) Son =  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \overline{\text{ΥΥ}} \\ \overline{\text{ΥΣ}} \end{array} \right\} = \text{בן}$       (7) Spirit =  $\overline{\text{ΠΝΑ}} = \text{רוח}$

In the 4th century, scribes who no longer knew or cared about the Nazarene use of the Name expanded the devices into normal Greek. This was translated into Classical Latin by Jerome as 'Iesu,' In the 16th. cent. the English version based on the Latin Vulgate text was IESVS (the "s" was added as in the original Greek name IESOUS) and not until after 1634 when the letter "J" became an independent sound from "I" and was added to the English alphabet, and the "U" became an independent sound from "V" did the name appear in the Bible as JESUS. But the 'J' was still pronounced like the German 'J,' i.e. it had a 'Y' sound as 'J' still has in German to this day. So, it would have sounded like "yehs-us". The Y sound is still found in the song "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" composed by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Here are the steps from Yehoshua to Jesus (gees-us).

1. A formal title of Messiah:  $\text{יהושוע בן דָּוִד}$ ; Yehoshua Ben David
2. Messiah's Aramaic everyday name:  $\text{ܝܫܘܥ}$ , "ee-shoe". This spelling appears in the oldest Bible in a Syriac dialect (in the British Museum 4th cent. MSS). Syriac is the name for the Eastern Aramaic dialect.
3. The nomina sacra symbols for Yeshua in the early Papyri were:  $\overline{\text{IY}} \overline{\text{IN}} \overline{\text{IΩ}} \overline{\text{IC}}..$  These forms were in the earliest Greek Manuscripts. The practice was to use these symbols to stand for the Hebrew insertion of Yeshua into the text. Here is an example in the manuscripts.
4. The fourth century Greek translation was:  $\text{ΙΗΣΟΥΣ}$  (Uncial version of Iesus) By the 4th century, the scribes had discarded the nomina sacra of the Jerusalem Congregation. This is where the proper pronunciation was lost initially. They were now saying [ee] [ay] [soo] s (rather than e-shoe (Aram.) or ee-soos (Gk.). In other words they had added the sound "ay" to the name. The Greek H (lowercase e) was a long "ee" sound, but this had been misunderstood.
5. Later Greek: . The later Greek modernized the font (to ΙΗΣΟΥΣ) This was purely an orthographic change.
6. Late Latin: Iesu. (Translated to Latin, intial 'y' sound still intact; 'sh' still missing. Greek nominative sigma ending dropped). St Jerome spent his later life with the Jews in Bethlehem and so became an expert of Hebrew pronunciation and etymology. Iesu pronounced "ee-sou" is very close to the Aram. "e-shoe".
7. Old English: Jesus [Yesus, Iesus]. (Influence of Greek sigma ending restored. 'Sh' still missing. 'Ayin' still missing.



## Matthew 1:1 name of The Lord in old Bibles

GREEK (TR)	βιβλος γενεσεως ιησου χριστου υιου δαβιδ υιου αβρααμ
GREEK (STEPH 1550)	βιβλος γενεσεως ιησου χριστου
LUTHER 1545	<i>Büch iet das Buch von der Geburt Jesu Christi</i>
VULGATE (6TH.C.)	liber generationis Iesu Christi
AV 1611	“The book of the generation of IESUS Christ. ”
CROATIAN	Ovo je rodoslovlje Isusa Krista.
ITALIAN	Libro della genealogia di Gesù Cristo
ROMANIAN	artea neamului lui Isus Hristos
RUSSIAN	Родословие Иисуса Христа
UKRANIAN	Книга родоводу Ісуса Христа
PESHITTA TRANS.	<b>the son of Dawed the son the Messiah of Yeshua</b>
KING JAMES 1769	“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ”

### The Nicene Creed in its original

Greek:

Καὶ εἰς ἓνα Κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, [Iesus Christos]

Welsh: Credwn yn un Arglwydd Iesu Grist,

Scottish Gaelic: Tha sinn a' creidsinn ann an aon Tighearna, Iosa Crmosd,

The American Bible Society has since 1816 translated the Bible into 1500 languages, and all of the Bibles distributed by them have the name of the Lord as “Jesus” or its phonetic equivalent.

Only the ancient Bibles (5th. through 17th. cent) including the King James 1611 AV, call The Lord by His proper name.

### HOW THE LORD GOT THE NAME “JESUS”.

An unauthorized “Geneva Bible” (printed in Amsterdam, Holland in 1560) originally spelled the name as IESVS (“ee-soos”). But by the time the Puritan Pilgrims left Holland on the Mayflower in 1620 It was printed **Jefus** (i.e Iesus what looks like a “J” is actually an alternative symbol for “I”) The Pilgrims brought the Geneva Bible to America.

The 1643 Westminster Confession of the dissenting Protestants discarded the Apocrypha from the Bible and spelled **ee-shoe’s** name as “Jesus” . In 1648 this Confession was adopted by the American Church in New England.

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**What does the Lord mean when He tells us that we should do the will of God “ in My name”? (Mr 9:39,41; 13:6; 16:17).**

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So what do we call The Lord?

Fr. Frederick uses “yeshuah” in his sermons (properly pronounced “ee-shoe-ah” as the “Y” is pronounced as in “Ypres”, “Yves St. Laurent” D’Yquem” etc.)

I prefer to write “The Lord”, except that in prayer, I call Him “ee-shoe”, His Aramaic name.

What will you call Him?