

Love Is For Ever -- Rediscovering Abba's Fantastic Truths

Please read Acts 7:56

Q. How did they used to get “Stoned” in the Old Days? A. They said His Name out loud!

Did you know that Joshua of the OT and the NT Yahushua have the same name? Did you know that one of the things Yahushua was “anointed” to do was to restore the right use of the Father’s Name in Israel? Did you know that in the 4th century B.C., the rabbis decided that the Name of the Father was never to be spoken (even though it was spoken all through the OT), and Malachi was the prophet sent to try to stop them (see **Malachi 2:2**). The main reason why you probably knew not these things is because of the NT Greek “translation”.

The problem in recognizing the facts above begin with those who translated the New Testament from the original Hebrew/Aramaic into Greek. For various reasons, (mostly hatred of the Jews) the original Hebrew manuscripts were destroyed and all we have left are the Greek translations. If this is news to you, don’t be surprised. If you doubt the verity of this statement, here are a few scholarly quotes about this issue:

A prominent scholar, Prof. Charles C. Torrey, maintained that all the four Gospels were originally written in Aramaic and that our existing text is a Greek translation. Dr. Solomon Zeitlin, Prof. of Rabbinic Law, an elder statesman scholar of wide acclaim takes issue with Torrey that the book of John was written in Aramaic, but before 50A.D. However, Zeitlin, “...agrees with Prof. Torrey that the Synoptic Gospels were written in Aramaic.” *Jewish Quarterly Review*, April, 1942, p. 429. The Synoptic Gospels are Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Renowned scholar, Dr. Albert Schweitzer said, “The fact is that from the language of the New Testament it is often difficult to make out whether the underlying words are Hebrew or Aramaic.” *The Quest for the Historical Jesus*, p. 275. Referring to another scholar, Schweitzer says, “That [Yahushua] spoke Aramaic, Meyer has shown by collecting Aramaic expressions which occur in his preaching. He considers ‘Abba’ in Gethsemane decisive, for this means that [Yahushua] prayed in Aramaic in his hour of bitterest need.” *ibid*, pp. 275-276

The Jewish priest and historian, Josephus, wrote that knowledge of Greek in Palestine during the first century was very crude at best, even among educated Jews. A little known fact--even Josephus struggled to learn Greek. Says he, “I have also taken a great deal of pains to obtain the learning of the Greeks, and understand the elements of the Greek language, although I have so long accustomed myself to speak our own tongue, that I cannot pronounce Greek with sufficient exactness.” *Antiquities*, Book XX, Chapter XI, Section 2.

This is quite a different picture than what is frequently painted of Josephus. Remember, he was a highly educated person for his time, and even he couldn’t enunciate Greek properly! So what conclusion would prompt us to think that uneducated fishermen could read, write or compose a thought in Greek? It was considered unpatriotic for Israelites of this era to speak Greek. They snubbed these Gentiles in every facet of life except when there was an exchange of money or a business deal to be ironed out.

Then in *Antiquities, Book I, Chapters V, and VI*, Josephus says that the Greeks had a tendency to change the names of people so that they would sound good to their own ears. For example:

<u>OT</u>	<u>NT</u>
Noah	Noe - Matt 24:37
Judah	Jude - the NT Book
Korah	Core - Jude 11
Hosea	Osee - Romans 9:25

Admittedly, Paul’s epistles to his Gentile converts were probably written in Greek, but Matthew, John, James, Jude and Peter could not even speak Greek and their target audiences were not Greek speaking people. The “good news” was for the Judeans first, and also the Greeks (**Romans 1:16**).

One of the reasons for this translation from the original Aramaic into Greek was to mask the Name. The original manuscripts were then destroyed, erasing the evidence of the Hebrew origin. This was Satan's way of getting rid of the evidence. And if it were not for a few minor details, Satan was successful. Minor details?

Hebrew idioms. An idiom is an expression that is peculiar to a particular language. *That's cool!* means that something is *incredibly acceptable* in English, but translated into any other language and it sounds like we are talking about the temperature. Want a few examples that the NT was originally written in Hebrew/Aramaic?

Read **Revelation 19:16**. There is no record of any monarch having either his name, or his titles, written in his thigh for John to have come up with this phrase. The problem is instantly solved if we realize that **Revelation** was originally written in Hebrew. The word **thigh** in Hebrew is "ragel" (Strong's H# 7271), while it should have been **banner** "dagel" (H# 1714). Evidently a sloppy scribe omitted the little extension on the top of the letter **dalet** and made it into a **resh**, changing the first letter of the word from a ד (d) to an ר (r). A Greek translator coming across this word would have written exactly what he read the Hebrew language to be whether it made sense or not. A Hebrew scribe would have recognized the error and corrected it to **banner**.

There is more evidence from **Revelation**. Four times in **Chapter 19** the Hebrew word *Hallelujah* is transliterated (which means crammed) into the Greek as *Alleluia* for there is no Greek equivalent for this word. HalleluYah means "Praise ye Yah." Well would you look at that, the true Name of the Almighty appears in the Greek NT after all! YHVH will not be without a witness—whether Hebrew or Greek.

"*And He answered and said unto them,*" (**Matt 21:24**, but found numerous times in the first four books of the NT) is a Hebrew/Aramaic idiom.

"*Peace be unto you,*" (**John 20:21**) is a Hebrew/Aramaic idiom.

OK, back to our study! Remember, according to their own man-made laws, it was blasphemy for the Israelites to utter the Sacred Name of the Father and the penalty for blasphemy was death. The Israelites were killing those who were saying the Father's Name (see **Acts 7:54-60**; **9:1-2**; **9:20-21**; and **26:9-11**) and beating them for teaching in Yahushua's Name (see **Acts 4:13-22**, **Acts 5:40-42**).

Fact: Stephen was a Hebrew. In **Acts 7:56**, he did not say, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the son of man standing at the right hand of *Theos*!" (*Theos* is the Greek word here translated as God.) *Theos* is another pronunciation of the name *Zeus*--a word that a Hebrew would never utter (and we write at our own peril) for doing so would violate the covenant: **Exodus 23:13**. What Stephen said was, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the son of man standing at the right hand of *Yehovah*!" He said the Father's Name which was forbidden in Israel and it got him killed. The same infraction nearly got the son of man stoned a few times too. No Hebrew was ever stoned for saying the word *Theos* for it brought no civil penalty, and besides, a good son of Israel would never say that word anyway. Do you see how the translation into Greek corrupted the intent of the original language the book of **Acts** was written in?

In **Acts 7:45** and **Hebrews 4:8**, the KJV translators encountered *Iesous* in the Greek manuscripts, which in the 1611 versions was unchanged. Later they changed *Iesous* to *Jes-s*, when in fact Luke and Paul were speaking of the OT character, Joshua, who had the same Hebrew name as the NT Yahushua. BIG GOOF! The NKJV, NIV, etc. have corrected this oversight. If you have a good reference margin, the KJV even admits this mistake in the margin for **Exodus 17:9**. In **Numbers 13:16**, Joshua is even called Jehoshua in the KJV. So we can see the concept of the Father's Name being involved, because of the similar, yet erroneous "Jehovah". Remember, there is no "J" in Hebrew. YHVH is pronounced Yehovah (the Hebrew letter "v" makes a "w" sound). This can be verified in Scripture such as the "Elijah" story. Please see that good KJV marginal reference for **1 Kings 17:1** and **18:3**. These men's names were originally EliYahu (My Mighty One is YHVH) and ObadYahu (Serving YHVH), not EliJeho or ObadJeho!

Be a Berean!