

You shall name Him Jesus - Why? - December 2024



An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, **and you are to give him the name Jesus**, because he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1.20-21)

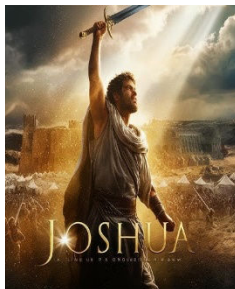
What did the angel actually say?

The angel wouldn't have spoken to Joseph in English. The words on the right give us the actual words in Aramaic, the language he spoke. We can see that the baby's name was to be YESHUA! - Jesus was only the Latin version which we adopted into English

ותקרא שמה

ישוע

“Wa tikra shemay
YESHUA”



Yeshua is the same name as Joshua

Joshua is the incredible Jewish hero of the Old Testament. When the Israelites came to the edge of the Promised Land, out of the 12 scouts sent to recce the opposition, only Joshua and Caleb believed in the power the LORD to take the land. After Moses died, it was Joshua who led them into the beautiful land. So, our Joshua, **Jesus** leads us into the fulness of all that God has prepared

The name Yeshua was too ordinary

About 300 years before the time of Jesus, the land of the Jews, Judaea, was taken over by the Macedonian Empire – everything went Greek! Language, culture and learning. Many Jews loved this new sophistication, dressed Greek and spoke Greek. Many people adopted the Greek name nearest to their Jewish name. Jews with the common name Yeshua (Jesus) changed to Jason! Our Yeshua had no airs and graces, no sophistication. Yeshua brought the simple but powerful message of love to us.

The angel gave the name Yeshua because of its rich and deeper meaning

When the Hebrews (Jews) were escaping from Egypt, pursued by chariots and soldiers, their escape was blocked by the Red Sea. As panic, pessimism, and criticism set in, Moses lifted his staff over the sea and declared: “Stand still and see the SALVATION of the LORD!”and the escape route appeared.



If you look to the right, you can see that, amazingly, the word for salvation is **YESHUA!**

The very name of the Messiah Yeshua means **salvation, rescue, escape, release, save, redeem, deliver**

The salvation of the LORD

אֶת־יְשׁוּעַת יְהוָה
Et Yeshua Yahweh
(the salvation LORD)

“On October 14, 1987, 18-month-old Jessica McClure fell into an eight-inch diameter well pipe in the backyard of her aunt in Midland, Texas. She remained there for 58 hours before being rescued at about 8:30pm October 16”



You may remember this story? It’s a really good picture of the meaning of the word Yeshua (Jesus)

Yeshua does mean salvation and rescue, but deeper still, it contains the sense of being rescued from a tight space.

So often, we find ourselves, in a tight space, stuck, hemmed in, down a dead end, in suffocating circumstances or worry – it’s to these experiences of our lives that Jesus comes; that Jesus gets in with us; that Jesus pulls us out of.

Salvation is not meant to be a numbing word, it is dynamic, powerful and real. The angel gives this name as a promise: Jesus will pull you out of the deepest hole, and into His Kingdom. Amen! Trev