

## Was the New Testament Originally Greek?

In an effort to deny the importance of YHWH's (Yahuah's/Yahweh's) great Name, there are those who mistakenly contend that the New Testament (Brit Hadasha) was originally written in greek. They assume that because the sources from which our New Testament (Brit Hadasha) is translated are greek, that the names YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh) and Ya'sha (Yahusha/Yahshua) as revealed in the Hebrew are missing in the New Testament (Brit Hadasha) and therefore unnecessary. Is this true? Here are some facts revealing why the Hebrew manuscripts of the New Testament (Brit Hadasha) are not extant, though clearly evident, and why worship today has strayed from the "faith once delivered."

**THOSE WHO MAINTAIN that the original New Testament (Brit Hadasha) text was Greek believe they have the right to call YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh) by the titles "lord" (from old english meaning keeper of the loaf) or the noun "god" (old english, from anglo-saxon/german), or perhaps call Him "Eternal," as does James Moffatt in his translation.**

**Yet, the Name YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh) is the only Name YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh) Himself has given us by which He wishes to be remembered:**

**"And YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh) said moreover unto Moses, Thus shall you say unto the children of Israel (Yisra'ël), YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh), The Almighty One of your fathers, The Almighty One of Abraham (Aḅraham), The Almighty One of Isaac (Yitsḥaq), and The Almighty One of Jacob (Ya'aqob), has sent me unto you: this [is] my name for ever, and this [is] my memorial unto all generations." Shemoth Exodus) 3:15.**

**Interestingly, Moffatt apologizes for substituting "The Eternal" for YHWH's (Yahuah's/Yahweh's) Name in his translation. Note his candor:**

**"Strictly speaking, this ought to be rendered 'YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh),' which is familiar to modern readers in the erroneous form of 'Jehovah.' Were this version intended for students of the original, there would be no hesitation whatever in printing 'YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh).' But almost at the last moment I have decided with some reluctance to follow the practice of the French scholars and of Matthew Arnold (though not exactly for his reasons), who translate this name by 'the Eternal,' except in an enigmatic title like 'the lord of hosts.' There is a distinct loss in this, I fully admit, to drop the racial, archaic term is to miss something of what it meant for the Hebrew nation..."**

**Moffatt implies that those who insist on substituting the Name YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh) with "the Eternal" are not really interested in being deep students of the Bible (Scriptures), but are content to accept human substitute titles instead of calling on the very Name YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh) has Himself selected as His memorial Name to be remembered by all generations.**

**Moffatt agrees that students of the true or original texts know and call Him by His correct Name YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh). Those referring to YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh) as the "Eternal"**

grudgingly concede that the titles “god” or “the lord” are incorrect. Humble reverence directs His people to call Him by the Name He chose for Himself... YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh)!

**The all-powerful Creator tells His Creation what we must call Him. We cannot decide what is appropriate to call Him. We as His Creation can no more name our Creator than children can name their parents!**

YHWH's (Yahuah's/Yahweh's) Name is the same the world over. He revealed it to those who understood and spoke Hebrew. Names are transliterated into other languages. That is, the sound is brought over into another language, using its alphabet to produce the same sound.

Devout Hebrews Writing Greek?

Every book written in the New Testament (Brit Hadasha) was written by Israelites (Yisra'elites) whose native language was Hebrew (with the possible exception of Luke). This raises the question, were any of the 27 New Testament (Brit Hadasha) books first penned in greek? Some critics declare that in spite of the preponderance of Israelites (Yisra'elites) authors, the entirety of the New Testament (Brit Hadasha) was written in the greek language.

A number of competent scholars, however, contend that the New Testament (Brit Hadasha) was first written in Hebrew (or Aramaic, a sister language), basing their assertion on valid grounds.

“The writers were Hebrews; and thus, while the language is greek, the thoughts and idioms are Hebrew...If the greek of the New Testament (Brit Hadasha) be regarded as an inspired translation from Hebrew or Aramaic originals, most of the various readings would be accounted for and understood,” Dr. E. W. Bullinger, Companion Bible (app.94).

“...we must not forget that christianity grew out of Judaism (Yahudism)...The Pauline epistles were letters written by Paul (Sha'ul) to small [Messianic] congregations in asia minor, greece, and rome. These early [believers] were mostly Jews (Yehudim) of the dispersion, men and women of Hebrew origin...The Epistles were translated into greek for the use of converts who spoke greek.” holy bible from the Peshitta, George Lamsa, p.xi.

We read that Peter (Kěpha) and John (Yoḥanan) were untaught, unschooled, illiterate, ordinary men. “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter (Kěpha) and John (Yoḥanan), and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with [Yâsha (Yahusha/Yahshua)], Ma`asei (Acts) 4:13.

Impetuous Peter (Kěpha) was, along with James (Ya`aqob) and John (Yoḥanan), a fisherman. Peter (Kepha) and the others who became fishers of men hardly would be expected to write their epistles in a second language, but would logically write in Hebrew, their native tongue. Greek might be more prevalent in cosmopolitan trading and business centers such as Caesarea than in Galilee (Galil), but it was neither the language of the Apostles nor of the Temple (Set-apart Place).

Greek is a very precise language, while Hebrew is picturesque and poetic, using similes, metaphors, and allegories (The Hebrew Bible (Scriptures) contains only 8,198 different words-

by contrast the english language includes more than 550,000 words.) Renowned Jewish (Yehudite) historian Flavius Josephus (Yosēphus) wrote that although he far exceeded those of his own nation in Jewish (Yehudite) learning, he could not pronounce greek with sufficient exactness, and that “our nation does not encourage those that learn the languages of many nations...”

Furthermore Josephus (Yosēphus) reveals, “The greeks called old nations by names of their own, Antiq. I,v, and put the Hebrew names into their own form, c.vi.” This explains why some Hebrew names end up in English texts in a grecianized form.

Because the greek language adds suffixes in its declension of nouns, such as ending with s in the nominative, masculine singular, vestiges of greek influence appear in our king james bible not only in the latinized name of the Savior “jesus,” but many other Hebrew names ending in the greek s, such as: Yehudāh (Judas), Yeshayahu (Isaiah), Ēliyahu (Elijah), Uriyah Uriah, Yeḥezqēl (Ezekiel), Yehoyaqim (Jehoiakim).

## Importance of the Greek Language

Greek is a very exact language, a prime reason that YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh) has preserved both the Old and New Testaments (Torah, Tanach and Brit Hadasha) in the greek. His wisdom has gone unrecognized by most bible teachers.

Let us examine the history of greek influence upon our civilization.

The importance and influence of the greek language and culture has its roots with Alexander the son of Philip of Macedonia. Time-Life’s book Empires Ascendant on page 31 states:

“Few men changed the world so profoundly. In his brief reign- scarcely 13 years- Alexander conquered more territory than any other warrior before or since. In his epic march across Asia, he pulled a vast tide of humanity in his wake, not only soldiers but a massive influx of traders, administrators, and ordinary settlers. He vastly broadened the ancient world’s horizons, mixing races and cultures, carrying civilization into a new more cosmopolitan age.”

After Alexander’s death at Babylon, his kingdom was divided among four generals. This is alluded to in Daniel (Dani’ēl) 8:5-7, 21-22. Verse 8 refers to Alexander’s untimely death as the he-goat’s horn, which is broken, and his kingdom divided into four. Greek culture and influence (known as hellenism) continued among these sprawling kingdoms. To emphasize this concept, we quote the following:

“Most cities welcomed hellenism, however, because of it, educated men throughout the ancient world, spoke one language-a common greek known as koine. Business was conducted in koine, laws were passed in it, and books written in it, including all the New Testament (Brit Hadasha) and much of the Old Testament (Torah and Tanach)...The mystery religions of thrace and asia minor had long been popular among greeks. Now the persian god mithra, with his firm insistence on unswerving duty, gained favor among army officials. His cult which employed secret rites of baptism and rebirth long before christianity began, would eventually be carried through the roman soldiers. Another pervasive faith was the egyptian

(mitsrite) belief in isis and horus, holy mother and tender babe, and in the father osiris, resurrected from the dead. It, too, was to spread throughout the mediterranean world. The Hellenistic kingdoms survived for well over a century, tied together by common bonds of language, culture, and trade," Ibid.

At the time of the Messiah (Mashiach), koine greek language was the international language. The Hebrew Old Testament (Torah and Tanach) had already been translated into greek, known as the "septuagint," from the latin septuaginta meaning "70" and often represented by the roman numerals LXX. It is said that 72 Jewish translators sent from Jerusalem (Yerushalayim) produced the version for Ptolemy II for his library in Alexandria, egypt (mitsrayim), in the third century BCE.

John (Yoḥanan) 19:19-20 reveals that Hebrew, latin, and greek were the languages spoken in Palestine at the time the Savior (Saviour) was impaled. Not all understood greek, latin, or Hebrew. When the Messiah was teaching His Disciples (Talmidim) on this earth, the koine Greek continued as the international language, but was relatively unknown or not understood in the rural towns nor by the Apostles, according to french archaeologist Ernest Renan.

## Impact of Growing Anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitism played a big part in the Gentile (Goyim) Believers' rejecting the study of Hebrew and rejecting the Old Testament (Torah and Tanach). Men want to accept the Hebrew Savior (Saviour), but reject His message and the Old Testament (Torah and Tanach) verification of His Messiahship (Mashaichship). This is true even today.

In His wisdom, YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh) had prepared the world to receive the Old Testament (Torah and Tanach) in the greek language. Dani'el (Daniel) 8:8 (already alluded to) is recognized as a clear reference to Alexander and his conquest of the middle east, promoting greek culture and customs throughout his domain. The Old Testament (Torah and Tanach) was translated into greek, now the New Testament (Brit Hadasha) would survive in its greek translation.

The number of Gentile (Goyim) converts soon surpassed those converted from Judaism (Yehudāhism). This is evident by the seven deacons of Ma`asei (Acts) 6:5, considered to be of Hellenistic persuasion.

The Old Testament septuagint greek was used by early catholic scholars because of their disdain for the Jews (Yehudim) and their ignorance of the Hebrew language, according to Adam Clarke.

At first the Jews (Yehudim) lauded the LXX (Septuagint) as a masterful accomplishment, but when it was later appropriated by the Gentiles (Goyim) who spurned the Hebrew Old Testament (Torah and Tanach) texts, the Jews (Yehudim) rejected the LXX as not being a faithful rendition.

McClintock and Strong's Cyclopedia shows that the Jews (Yehudim) lamented the perversion of the septuagint by catholic scholars:

**“But now the Jews saw to their grief that their Scriptures [LXX] were made the instruments for teaching the principles of a religion [Catholicity] which they regarded as nothing less than an apostasy from Moses (Moshe),” p. 988, “greek Versions.”**

### **‘Jewish Christians’ Keep the Truth**

**Interesting comments are given from the perspective of an Islamic author, critically observing three groups that had evolved from the Israelite religion. Author Shlomo Pines classifies them as Jews (Yehudim), christians and what he terms “Jewish (Yehudite) christians.” The “catholics” are viewed as gentiles (goyim) who, because of their pagan background, rejected truth found in the Old Testament (Torah and Tanach) and abandoned the religion Yâsha (Yahusha/Yahshua) lived and taught. The “Jewish (Yehudite)-christians (Set-Apart Ones)” continued obeying the Old Testament (Torah and Tanach). Pines’ appraisal is very revealing:**

**“The Jewish (Yehudite) christians...are not vegetarians and they do not reject certain portions of the Old Testament (Torah and Tanach)...they are, as far as the observance of commandments is concerned, orthodox Jews (Yehudim)...They thus carried on the old tradition of the first christian (Yehudite) community of Jerusalem (Yerushalayim),” p. 39, from The Jewish (Yehudite) christians of the Early Centuries of christianity according to a new source.**

**“The break between “Gentile (Goyim) catholicism” and “Jewish (Yehudite) christianity” came when the “al-Rum” [Roman or Byzantine christians] complained to the roman governors about the Jews (Yehudim). They were told by the Roman rulers that if they would separate themselves, praying as the romans do (while facing east), eating things romans eat, regarding as permissible such as romans do, then the romans would extend special favor to the Gentile (Goyim) christian body, according to Pines.**

**When the Gentile (Goyim) catholics reported this offer to their fellow companions [Hebrew christians], they were rebuffed. The romans should have no part in determining the religion of the Messiah (Mashiach), contended the Hebrew christians. They refused to surrender their New Testaments (Brit Hadasha), but gathered them and fled. The Gentile (Goyim) catholics reported this to the romans, who accordingly made a search for them, capturing some who were burned or killed, page 15.**

### **‘Gentile Catholics’ Drift from the Faith**

**Author Pines discusses how the Gentile (Goyim) catholics took counsel to replace the New Testament (Brit Hadasha) Evangel, seeing that the true and original was lost to them. They constructed their own. A great part of what was contained in the original was missing in their version. Acquaintances among the Gentile (Goyim) christians were those who remembered much of the true Evangel, but because they were attempting to establish a following, the Gentile (Goyim) catholics refrained from communicating with them. Quoting from author Pines concerning the Gentile (Goyim) christians:**

**“Then there is not among these a Gospel (Besorah) written in the language of [Messiah (Mashiach)], which was spoken by Him and His companions, namely the Hebrew language,**

which is that of Abraham (Abraham), the friend of [YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh)] and of the other prophets, the language which was spoken by them and in which the Books of [YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh)] were revealed to them and to the other Children of Israel (Yerushalayim), and which [YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh)] addressed them. They have abandoned this language.

“Thus there is no christian among them who in observing a religious obligation recites these Gospels (Besorah) in the Hebrew language: he does not do so out of ruse using a stratagem, in order to avoid public shame,” pp. 16-17.

Pines goes on to show the reason they declined to use the Hebrew language was that “the people of the Book” who spoke Hebrew quickly recognized the error and deception of the Gentiles (Goyim) catholic’s gospel, such as quotations from counterfeit authorities. Thus, they employed a language other than Hebrew so the men of knowledge would not grasp their teaching.

Pines notes the Gentile (Goyim) catholics, “Accordingly, they gave up Hebrew and took up numerous other languages which had not been spoken by [Messiah (Mashiach)] and His companions,” page 17, *ibid*.

## Language Used to Bypass Truth

“...Jewish (Yehudite) christian authors...also deplored the fact that the christians...no longer read the Gospels in Hebrew, the language of [Yâsha (Yahusha/Yahshua)], and all the prophets. Quite clearly, these Jewish (Yehudite) christian believed that they preserved and continued (perhaps clandestinely) the traditions of the first not yet corrupted christian community of Jerusalem (Yerushalayim) founded by the immediate disciples of [Yâsha (Yahusha/Yahshua)] who professed His religion, i.e....observed the Mosaic Commandments,” page 65.

Pines goes on to recount how those denouncing the Hebrew Evangel were triumphant in their use of foreign languages to convert many nations. This gave them the opportunity to bypass the Hebrew Scriptures who were numerous among the Jews (Yehudim). Thus, the Hebrew language and the Old Testament (Torah and Tanach) were set aside and Israelite laws ignored as more and more pagans took up New Testaments (Brit Hadasha) “christianity.”

When catholicism became the state religion of rome, the position of the Hebrew christians worsened. They were the minority, and their beliefs became the heresy of the romanized christian world. The Hebrew christians found it easier to gather with the Jews (Yahudim) at the synagogue (as did Paul), for both groups observed the Old Testament (Torah and Tanach) laws. However, paganism was baptized by the church and had become the state religion.

If we can rely upon Pines’ work, it is quite understandable that when titus and his Roman legions destroyed Jerusalem (Yerushalayim) in the year 70 C.E., and hadrian put down the revolt of Bar Kochba in 135 C.E., that the Jews (Yehudim) became fair game because of their insurrection. Along with the Jews (Yehudim), however, were the converts to the Messiah (Mashiach) who continued to worship in the synagogue and Temple rather than take up the pagan celebrations of gentile (goyim) catholicism.

**“The land was desecrated and stripped; Jews (Yehudim) were tortured, murdered, and sold as slaves on the open market; and the site of the Temple was plowed under. From this time on Jerusalem (Yerushalayim) increasingly became a gentile (goyim) city,” p. 509, the “Bible Almanac”.**

## Romans Destroy Hebrew Manuscripts

**Angry, hadrian was determined to destroy Jerusalem (Yerushalayim), vowing there would never be a city there. The Hebrew Scriptures had been misinterpreted by the Jews (Yehudim), assuming Yehezqel (Ezekiel) was referring to rome as the enemy that would be overcome. Hebrew Scriptures were blamed for the Jewish (Yehudite) insurrection. The romans took vengeance upon the Jews (Yehudim), not recognizing converts to the Messiah (Mashiach). Unaware of a Hebrew New Testaments (Brit Hadasha), the Romans destroyed all Hebrew texts, including Hebrew scrolls of the Hebrew-christian New Testament (Brit Hadasha)as well. Rome did not differentiate between Old Testament (Torah and Tanach) and New Testament (Brit Hadasha) Hebrew writings nor between Jews (Yehudim) and Hebrew christians.**

**Later came a division between the religion of the Jews (Yehudim) and the New Testament (Brit Hadasha) believers in the Messiah (Mashiach). Not only were the romans responsible for eradicating many Hebrew New Testament (Brit Hadasha), but the Jews (Yehudim) themselves took part in such activity.**

**Pines makes a point that the Jews (Yehudim) and certain “Jewish (Yehudite) christians” worshiped together;**

**“After Him [Yasha (Yahusha/Yahshua)] His disciples were with the Jews (Yahudim) and the Children of Israel (Yisra’el) in the latter’s synagogues and observed the prayers and the feasts of the Jews (Yehudim) in the same place as the latter. However, there was a disagreement between them and the Jews (Yehudim) with regard to [Messiah (Mashiach).]”**

**Pines goes on to quote the Toldot Yahusha/Yahshua, detailing the great war and slaughter, cases of confusion, killings, and loss of money. “Everyone was killing his relatives without pity. And yet they did not abandon the Torah of Israel (Yisra’el). And the Jews (Yehudim) could not enter the Temple because of the reprobates.”**

**Eventually, there came a parting of the ways between the Jews (Yehudim) and those who believed in the Messiah (Mashiach) and kept the Commandments. These True Believers were persecuted by both the Jews (Yehudim) and the pagan christians down through history. Little is heard of them as the romanized catholicism gained the ascendancy and ruled in consort with the emperors of europe.**

**Perhaps the recent discovery and publishing of the contents of the Dead Sea Scrolls will help shed more light on this era of history. The lack of any Hebrew New Testament (Brit Hadasha) continued.**

## Truth and Manuscripts Under Attack

Later came the crusades, which were religious wars from the close of the 11<sup>th</sup> to the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was christian europe against the mohammedans for the conquest of the Holy Land. Conquered by Arabs in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, Palestine soon fell to seljuk turks in 1078, with their cruel ways and heavy taxes upon christians living in Palestine.

The first of the seven crusades began with the cry “Deus Vult,” (g-d Wills It!). Made up of a rabble from france, england, flanders, and lorraine, every member wore a cross. They ravaged the countryside, especially afflicting the Jews (Yahudim) whom they murdered, then confiscated their property, burning their possessions and looting the country. These “crusaders” did not differentiate between Jews (Yahudim) and Hebrew christians (those Messianic converts who continued obeying Israelite laws). Those rejecting the cross were considered Jews (Yahudim) and fair game. The victims were either burned or strangled- so there would be no shedding of blood!

The middle ages witnessed the Inquisitions, which were against heretics and all persons guilty of any offense against roman catholic orthodoxy. From valentinian I and theodosius onward heretics were subject to exile or confiscation, disqualified from inheriting property and under condemnation of death.

The condemnations of books were carried out from the burning of the Arian writings by constantine to the burning of the talmud by justinian. The inquisitors could not take proceedings against Jews (Yahudim) as such. The Jews (Yahudim) might profess their religion and observe its rites without being in a state of heresy; they were only heretic when they attacked christian faith or community, made proselytes, or returned to Judaism after being converted.

After the expulsion of Jews (Yahudim) from spain under queen isabella, the attacks centered on catholic converts descended from infidels (Jews (Yahudim)). Note the following account:

“As late as 1715 a secret association was discovered at madrid, consisting of 20 families, having a rabbi and a synagogue. A great number of people were denounced, sent to the gallows, or burnt, for having returned to their ancestral religion, on the flimsiest of evidence, such as making ablutions during the day time, abstaining from swine’s flesh or wine, using henna, singing moorish songs, or possessing Arabic manuscripts.” Encyclopedia Britannica, 11<sup>th</sup> Ed. P. 596, “inquisition.”

Possessing “Arabic manuscripts” soon included the Hebrew scrolls, whether Old Testament ( Torah and Tanach) or New Testament (Brit Hadasha) sections of the bible. Resentment and arrogance play a big part even today among those who reject anything “Jewish (Yahudites).”

The young greek conqueror tried his utmost to respect local customs, to revere local deities, to administer captured lands through existing hierarchies, and to win the populace to his side, page 26.

“Most cities, welcomed hellenism, however. Because of it, educated men throughout the ancient world spoke one language-a common greek known as koine. Business was conducted in koine; laws were passed in it, and books written in it, including all the New Testament (Brit Hadasha) and much of the Old Testament ( Torah and Tanach). Greek architects, sculptors, artisans and goldsmiths left their imprint from the apennines to himalayas. Greek-style jewelry

was worn in siberia, and on the Indian subcontinent some statues of the buddha wore greek clothing and posed with and elegant aegean grace...The Hellenistic kingdoms survived for well over a century, tied together by common bonds of language, culture, and trade.” Page 36.

Seminaries continue to teach koine greek and Hebrew. The Hebrew of the Bible (Scriptures) is Sephardic or Temple Hebrew, while the language spoken today in Israel (Yisra'el) is Ashkenazi Hebrew, a germanic dialect. In His wisdom YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh) allowed the Old Testament ( Torah and Tanach) to be translated into greek. To help the New Testament (Brit Hadasha) more easily cut across language and cultural barriers, it was the greek copies that survived. There is no known “original” greek New Testament (Brit Hadasha) existing, nor is there an original greek septuagint of the Old Testament ( Torah and Tanach).

English today is the world language. America probably actively promotes the Bible (Scriptures) around the world more than all other countries combined. It behooves us to do all we can to promote YHWH's (Yahuah's/Yahweh's) Name and His Truth in every way we can.

Although there is no original Hebrew New Testament (Brit Hadasha) available today, history shows there was indeed an original, which contained the Name of YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh) and His Son Yahsha (Yahusha/Yahshua). And we can now understand better how we have a greek New Testament (Brit Hadasha) and why the sacred Name was changed in the greek and then in the english.

YHWH (Yahuah/Yahweh) says that “Yahuah/Yahweh” is His Name for eternity and is not to be changed. “This is my Name forever, and this is My memorial unto all generations,” Shemoth Exodus) 3:15. Not even a language can change that.

**But you, stay in what you have learned and trusted, having known from whom you have learned,  
and that from a babe you have known the Set-apart Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for deliverance through belief in Messiah יְהוֹשֻׁעַ.**

**All Scripture is breathed by Elohim and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for setting straight, for instruction in righteousness,  
that the man of Elohim might be fitted, equipped for every good work.  
Timotiyos Bět (2 Timothy) 3:14-17**

**Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, But he who hates reproof is stupid.  
The good obtains favour from יְהוָה, But the man of wicked devices He declares wrong  
A man is not established by wrongness, But the root of the righteous shall not be moved.  
Mishlě (Proverbs) 12:1-3**

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