

Why is the name, Jesus, pronounced “Yeshua” in Hebrew and footnoted as “Joshua” in the Bible and Concordances?

In the Greek, the name for Jesus is identical to the name for Joshua. In the examples below, I have two verses that are clearly speaking about Jesus (Matthew 1:25 and Matthew 2) and two verses that are clearly speaking about Joshua (Acts 7:48 and Hebrews 4:8) Notice that the Greek letters for their names are the same. A suffix letter is sometimes added due to grammatical functions in the sentence. In the following examples, the first has no suffix; the second example has a nu, pronounced ‘n’ at the end; the third has no suffix, and the last has a sigma, pronounced ‘s’.

Jesus examples:

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| <p>CHAPTER 2</p> <p>¹Now when Jesus had been born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men arrived from the east to Jerusalem, ²saying, Where is He born king of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him. ³But Herod the king having heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴And having gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he asked of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵And they said to him, In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been</p> | <p>CHAPTER 2</p> <p>1 Τοῦ δὲ Ἰησοῦ γεννηθέντος ἐν Βηθλεὲμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας, ἐν <small>2250 2424 1080 1722 965 2449 1722</small> <small>And Jesus having been born in Bethlehem of Judea in</small> <small>ἡμέραις Ἡρώδου τοῦ βασιλέως, ἰδοὺ, μάγοι ἀπὸ ἀνατολῶν</small> <small>(the) days of Herod the king, behold, Magi from (the) east</small> 2 παρεγένοντο εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα, λέγοντες, Ποῦ ἐστὶν ὁ τεχθεὶς <small>arrived into Jerusalem, saying, where is he born</small> <small>βασιλεὺς τῶν Ἰουδαίων; εἶδομεν γὰρ αὐτοῦ τὸν ἀστέρα ἐν</small> <small>king of the Jews? we saw For of him the star in</small> 3 τῇ ἀνατολῇ, καὶ ἦλθομεν προσκυνῆσαι αὐτῷ. ἀκούσας δὲ <small>the east, and came to worship him, hearing And</small> <small>Ἡρώδης ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐταράχθη, καὶ πᾶσα Ἱεροσόλυμα μετ'</small> <small>Herod the king was troubled, and all Jerusalem with</small> 4 αὐτοῦ. καὶ συναγαγὼν πάντας τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ γραμματεῖς τοῦ λαοῦ, ἐπυνθάνετο παρ' αὐτῶν ποῦ ὁ Χριστὸς <small>him. And gathering all the chief priests and scribes</small> <small>of the people, he inquired from them where the Christ</small></p> |
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Mt 1:25 [Greek Font Size: - / +] [View in: [BYZ / TR](#) | [Side-by-side](#) | [Greek Lexical Parser](#)]

And knew (5707) her not till she had brought forth (5627) her firstborn son: and he called (5656) his name JESUS.

καὶ οὐκ ἐγινώσκεν (5707) αὐτὴν ἕως οὗ ἔτεκεν (5627) υἱόν· καὶ ἐκάλεσεν (5656) τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν.

Joshua examples:

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| <p>possession of the nations; whom God expelled from the face of our fathers, until the days of David; ⁴⁶who found favor before God, and asked to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob; ⁴⁷but Solomon built Him a house.</p> | <p>2980 3475 4160 846 2596 διετάξατο ὁ λαλῶν τῷ Μωσῆ, ποιῆσαι αὐτὴν κατὰ τὸν commanded the (One) speaking to Moses, to make it according to the 5179 3739 3708 3739 1521 1237 45 τύπον ὃν ἐώρακεῖ. ἦν καὶ εἰσήγαγον διαδεξάμενοι οἱ πατέρες pattern which he had seen, which also was led, having inherited the fathers 2257 3326 2424/1722 2697 1484 3739 1856 ἡμῶν μετὰ Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῇ κατασχέσει τῶν ἐθνῶν, ὧν ἐξῆστον ὁ of us with Joshua in the taking of the possession of the nations, whom put out 2316 575 4383 3962 2257 2193 2250 Θεὸς ἀπὸ προσώπου τῶν πατέρων ἡμῶν, ἕως τῶν ἡμερῶν God from the face of the fathers of us, until the days 1138 3739/2147/5485 1799 2316 154 2147 46 Δαβὶδ· ὃς εὗρε χάριν ἐνώπιον τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ ᾔησαστο ἐναντίον of David, who found favor before — God, and asked to find 4638 2316 2384 4672 3618 846 47 σκηνῶμα τῷ Θεῷ Ἰακώβ. Σολομῶν δὲ ὠκοδόμησεν αὐτῷ</p> |
| <p>... saying a time, according as He has said—"Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts." ⁸For if Joshua gave them rest, then He would not have afterwards spoken about another day. ⁹So, then, there remains a rest to the people of God. ¹⁰For He entering into His rest, He Himself also rested from His works, as God had done from His own.</p> | <p>3004 3326 5118 5550 2531 2046 4594 1437 λεγῶν, μετὰ τοσούτον χρόνον, καθὼς εἴρηται, Σήμερον εἶαν saying after such a time, as He has said. Today, if 5456 848 191 3361 4645 2588 τῆς φωνῆς αὐτοῦ ἀκούσητε, μὴ σκληρυνήτε τὰς καρδίας the voice of Him you hear do not harden the hearts 5216/1487/1063/846 2424 2664 3756/302/4012/243 8 ὑμῶν. εἰ γὰρ αὐτοῦς Ἰησοῦς κατέπαυσεν, οὐκ ἂν περὶ ἀλλῆς of you, if For them (Joshua) rested, not concerning another 2980/3326 5023 2250 686 620 4520 9 ἐλάλει μετὰ ταῦτα ἡμέρας. ἀρα ἀπολείπεται σαββατισμὸς he would after these things day. Then remains sabbath rest 2992 2316 1063 1525/1519 2663 848 10 τῷ λαῷ τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὃ γὰρ εἰσελθὼν εἰς τὴν καταπαύσιν αὐτοῦ to the people of God. He For having entered into the rest of Him, 846 2664 575 2041 848 5618 576</p> |

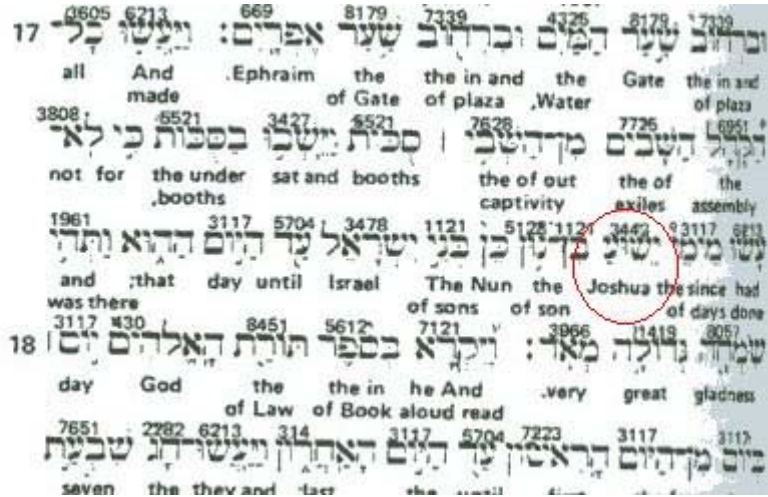
If you look up these two verses in a King James Bible, you will see that they are actually translated as 'Jesus' because in the Greek they were the same name. Later scholars understood that these verses were talking about a man that the majority of people knew as the name pronounced Joshua. Therefore most later translations use Joshua in these verses.

In the Old Testament, Joshua's name in Hebrew is usually Y'hoshua. This is shown in the following clip from Joshua 2:

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| <p>CHAPTER 2 ¹And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men out of Shittim to spy secretly, saying, Go look over the land, and Jericho. And they went and came into the house of a woman, a harlot; and her name was Rahab. And they lay down there. ²And it was reported to the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, men have come here tonight from the sons of Israel, to search the land. ³And the king of</p> | <p>CAP. II □ CHAPTER 2 7270 502 8147 7851 5126/1121/3091 7971 1 וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בְּנֵן נֹחַדִן שְׁנַיִם אַנְשִׁים מִדִּישְׁטִים spy to men two Shittim out Nun the Joshua And sent 935 3212 3405 776 of of son 7200 3212 559 2791 וַיֵּצֵא יְהוֹשֻׁעַ לִבְנֵי רָחַב אֲתֹנָתִית וַיֵּלְכוּ וַיִּבְנוּ and and Jericho and land the Look Go saying secretly to came went they 7901 7343 over 2 וַיִּשְׁמַע מֶלֶךְ יֶרִיכוֹ וַיִּשְׁמַע רָחַב אֲתֹנָתִית וַיִּשְׁמַע מֶלֶךְ יֶרִיכוֹ the to it And there they and Rahab her and a a house the of king told was 3915 down lay name harlot woman of 3478 1121 935 582 2009 559 3405 וַיִּשְׁמַע מֶלֶךְ יֶרִיכוֹ וַיִּשְׁמַע רָחַב אֲתֹנָתִית וַיִּשְׁמַע מֶלֶךְ יֶרִיכוֹ Israel the from tonight here have men See saying Jericho of sons came</p> |
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However, after Israel went into captivity, the names started to be pronounced a bit differently. In Nehemiah 8, after a remnant returned from their captivity, Joshua was pronounced Yeshua in Hebrew.

17 And all the congregation of those who had come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths. For since the days of Joshua the son of Nun until that day, the sons of Israel had not done so. And there was very great gladness. 18 Also day by day, from the first day until the last day, he read in the Book of the Law of God. And they made the feast seven days, and on the eighth day was an assembly according to the Law.



Scans of the interlinear text are from [The Interlinear Bible](#) by Jay P. Green, Sr., General Editor and Translator, Sovereign Grace Publishers, Lafayette, Indiana, 1986. Interlinear text of Matthew 1:25 from <http://studylight.org/isb/>.

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