

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God*

IN CHRIST JESUS.

(Philippians 3.13-14 NASB)

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No OTHER NAME

And she shall bring forth a son; and you shall call his name YAHSHUA [Yeshua] ; for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this is come to pass, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Yahweh through the prophet, saying, Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanu El; which is, being interpreted, Elohim is with us. (Matthew 1.21-23 TSS [HNV])

Be it known to you all, and to all the people of, that in the name of the Messiah of, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, in him does this man stand here before you whole. (Acts 4.10 HNV)

Be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel [Yisra'el], that in the name of Yahshua [Yeshua] the Messiah of Nazareth [Nazeret], whom you impaled, whom Yahweh raised from the dead, even in this name does this man stand here before you whole. (Acts 4.10 TSS [HNV])

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4.12 NASB)

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son. They shall call his name Immanu’el;” [Immanu El] which is, being interpreted, “God with us.” (Matthew 1.23 HNV [TSS])

Scripture tells us that there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we [i.e., all mankind] must be saved. This name is not a common name given to the sons of Adam; it is a special name given to the Son of God. This name means “He shall save His people from their sins.” It is by this name that mankind is not only saved but also healed from all afflictions. The One who holds this name was raised from among the dead. He is also known as *Immanu El*, that is, God with us. [For an explanation of *El* and *Elohim*, see issue #01-0709 October 12, 2007.]

So, what is this name? To most of us in the English-speaking world, the name is **Jesus**, which is a Latinized and Greek transliterated word that comes from the Latin *Domini salus* or *Salvator*, meaning “Salvation of God; Saviour:—the Christ” (source: *Dictionary of Bible Proper Names* by C.A. Potts, Bible Truth Publishers, 1981). However, the Lord was given the Hebrew name **Yahshua** or **Yeshua**, as noted in the above verses taken from translations that use the Hebrew name that carries the meaning of saving His people. It literally means “salvation.” **Yahshua** is also the Hebrew name for **Joshua**, the one chosen by the Lord to lead the Hebrews into the land of promise after being led through the wilderness for 40 years. **Jesus** is our **Yahshua** who will lead us out of the wilderness of this world into His celestial kingdom in the eon to come. **Yahshua** is salvation!

Periodically, I receive literature from well-meaning saints stating that the name of **Jesus** has no power to save and that the only name that does is **Yahshua**. They go so far as to say that God does not listen to prayers offered up in any other name than **Yahshua**, and that the true worshippers of God are the only ones that use this name. Obviously, this put my mind into overdrive. How could this be? Most of us do not know Hebrew, and most that have English Bibles have no way of knowing what the

sources of the English words are. This does not seem to be in the character of the God who is love. If it were true, then all of us who love the Lord Jesus and have set our hearts to walk in a manner to please Him and have actually experienced His life in suffering and discipline have been wasting a lot of time and energy. May it not be coming to that!

To add to this discussion, in doing some research, I ran across another thought on the name of Jesus. E.W. Bullinger's *The Companion Bible*, Appendix 98, page 143 states the following: The name "Jesus" is the name associated with "the shame" which He endured in order to "save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1.21). His people therefore never addressed Him as "Jesus", but always as "Master" or "Lord", and so should all His people to-day; not following the example of demons (Matt. 8.29), or of His enemies, who irreverently called Him "Jesus".

Regardless of one's view on the matter, it should cause us to reflect on how we approach our God and Savior. I do not present these views to try to confuse anyone but to challenge us to think about the many things that we have come to accept as believers, often without considering the source or the Scriptural basis. Personally, I see *some* merit in these views. After all, Scripture is filled with references to "Your name." But I am also concerned that they could lead to a form of legalism and even another gospel. However, I do believe that the Lord's people often take our Lord's name too lightly. If we use the name **Jesus** instead of **Yahshua**, we need to think of His name for what it means in the original, and that is **He saves**. Jesus is the One who saves. He is our Savior! We also need to realize that He is our Lord and Master. We need to approach Him as our Lord and Master in all reverence and awe. Yes, He can be our best friend, but let us not forget that He is the Son of God and the very Creator of all things. This alone should cause us to have the utmost reverence for Him. Personally, I speak to Him as **Lord** and, at times, as **Yahshua**. Actually, I love the thought of **Yahshua** leading His conquerors into the land of promise, the inheritance of a glorified body like His.

Most of us understand the concept of a name meaning something. My name is Stuart. As my mother's days in her body of humiliation were waning, she told me several times that she named me Stuart and did not want me to be called by another name, even the shortened form Stu. Interestingly, I respond best to Stu, which is what most people call me. However, if I hear some derivation of my name I also respond. When I was young, my relatives called me Stueie. Some still do; whatever! I recall quite vividly the night we entered Ghana for the first time. We arrived at the airport and after a traumatic trip through customs, which we will never forget; we wandered out of the airport terminal to join the brethren who had invited us to meet with them. We had never met them personally, and we only had a picture of one brother. If we have ever felt cast upon the Lord, that night was it, for as we left the terminal, we found ourselves amongst a sea of people, some trying to take our bags for a fee. There was very little light in the outside waiting area, which added to the difficulty. We saw no greeting party for us, just a sea of people and a mass of confusion. You can imagine the feelings that started to well up inside us. Well, the feelings actually started inside the airport as we dealt with customs officials, but this now heightened it. I began calling out the name of Bernard, the one brother of whom we had a picture, but Bernard was not to be seen. But then, this young woman appeared, and she was calling out a name that sounded like Start. All we could hear was: "Start! Start!" Finally, it dawned on me that Start might be me, so we approached her and then Bernard showed up. Thank God! When I knew that Start was Stuart, I responded. It wasn't a matter of correctness, but of the heart. They greeted us very warmly and affectionately as a brother and sister in Christ.

What is the point? Names have meaning and we should make every attempt to respect proper names, even more so as they refer to our God and Lord, for this is the proper fear of the Lord. Yet, let us not turn the matter into another form of legalism or even another gospel. It seems to me that the real issue is a matter of the heart. Do you love Him? If so, then He most assuredly will respond to His name that is written upon your heart. **Yahshua** or **Jesus!**

But let us remember that **Yahshua means salvation, and He is our Lord and Master!**