



# **EXPLODING THE INSPIRED GREEK NEW TESTAMENT MYTH!**

*by*  
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OUR COVER: The Parthenon—symbol of Greek mythology—stands crumbling. Meanwhile scholarship amasses a nuclear arsenal of evidence to EXPLODE the very foundations of the most insidious myth Greece ever perpetrated, that our Savior was a Greek! Will you worship the Greek “Jesus” or the Hebrew “Yahshua” after reviewing the facts presented in this article? Your salvation depends on your answer to this vital question!

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# 1. The Original Autographs

## of the New Testament– In What Language?

Many stumbling blocks have been placed in the pathway of the truth seeker! Almost with the difficulty of hacking a pathway through virgin jungle, the True Worshiper must grope through the tangled maze of undergrowth which has obscured the pathway back to Almighty Yahweh. The prophet Isaiah foresaw such a time as he wrote,

**And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and Yahweh saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no judgment. And He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore His arm brought salvation unto Him; and His righteousness, it sustained Him. For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon His head; and He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke. According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, fury to His adversaries, recompence to His enemies; to the islands will He repay recompence. So shall they fear the name of Yahweh from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun.** Isaiah 59:14-19.

Almighty Yahweh has informed us that in the last days knowledge would be increased, Daniel 12:4. You are living in those days right now! While some of the fundamentalist groups assert that knowledge is unimportant and others declare that doctrine is unimportant and

that we should merely love one another, your Bible states that knowledge and wisdom are **indispensable** if we are to find salvation (Proverbs 8). 2 Peter 1:3-11 includes mention of the word **knowledge** four times. Let us resolve to utilize the increased knowledge to substantiate the Scriptures!

The Sacred Name of Almighty Yahweh and the Name of His Son our Messiah are a part of that knowledge which had been neglected over the centuries; but in these last days at the close of this age, it is once again revealed just before the Savior returns.

However, most people don't like to be in the wrong, nor do they wish to take a positive approach and prove whether these things are so. One of the stumbling blocks which seems to deter some people from accepting the Name of the Savior is the often quoted concept that the English translation which we use was from the "original inspired Greek." This article will seek to delve into this subject deeply and see if such an argument against the use of the Savior's Hebrew Name is credible. It is important that we, the people of Yahweh, have this knowledge now because it will add to our faith and make it immovable in the day of testing which is approaching at the end of this age. Do you really know which Name will bring you salvation? Do you have a living, knowing faith which cannot be shaken? Let us under-

stand some of this knowledge which has now been made available in these last days.

Was every word of the GREEK New Testament breathed by Yahweh as we have grown up assuming? Did Almighty Yahweh breathe the name "Theos" into the text, identifying Himself by this Greek appellation? With which languages were the human instruments, the apostles, whom Yahweh used to write the books of the New Testament conversant? What was Yahshua's native tongue? The answers to these questions are vital to your salvation for we must know what name is referred to in Acts 4:12. There is "NONE OTHER NAME under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Is that all-important name Greek or Hebrew?

### **Yahweh - Breathed**

First of all, let's make it crystal clear that it is the editorial policy of the **Sacred Name Broadcaster** to affirm that "all (Holy) Scripture is given by inspiration of Yahweh, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16). We believe this unequivocally and without reservation. The stand taken by the editor is that the New Testament was INSPIRED in Hebrew and Aramaic, and subsequently translated by uninspired men into Greek and then into English as well as many

other languages. We believe that although the original text was inspired, there is no such thing as an INSPIRED TRANSLATION. Therefore, until such time as the original documents are unearthed we must base all doctrine on the Old Testament. We should utilize the New Testament, however, and always allow the Old Testament to interpret the New. Yes, we believe that every word of the New Testament was Yahweh-breathed in its original Hebrew or Aramaic purity. At present, however, because of man's tampering with and corrupting the text, we must research and study to know what He breathed.

The dilemma that theologians have been confronted with for well over a millennium now is that there exist no original manuscripts of any New Testament books unless they remain undiscovered. The oldest manuscripts extant with the exception of some Syriac fragments are Greek. And yet the authors of the New Testament books in some cases were incapable of writing in Greek and in other cases would not have chosen to. At a very early date, undoubtedly late in the first century of the common era, the New Testament assembly became apostatized, the original New Testament writings were translated into Greek, and the original documents were hidden, lost or destroyed, perhaps intentionally.

Therefore, the purpose of this booklet is to set forth evidence that the books of the New Testament were written originally in Hebrew or Aramaic. If any of these books were written originally in Greek (which we doubt), we maintain that the authors would have retained the true inspired Hebrew Names for the Heavenly Father and His Son. We can substantiate that they realized the

vital significance of these Names and that they COULD NOT be translated, but in order to maintain sound doctrine and harmony with the Old Testament, they had to be transliterated.

#### No Originals Extant

In order to confine our study to known facts rather than speculative opinion, the first point we will establish is that there are no original manuscripts of any book or portion of a book of the New Testament extant today. All have been lost, hidden, or destroyed. Therefore, the oldest manuscripts available for examination are copies of copies, possibly copies of other copies far removed from the originals. This means that each time they were copied, conceivably there were scribal errors occurring. Furthermore, inasmuch as the scribes who did the copying had already deviated from sound doctrine, there is the distinct possibility that they altered their product to make it conform to time-honored and cherished pagan ideas.

Many people who believe in the INSPIRED GREEK New Testament will resort to a Greek interlinear such as the **Interlinear Englishman's Greek New Testament** as their authority when a doubtful translation in the **King James Version** arises. In the introduction to this work, however, we find on page v, "We have taken the Greek Text of Stephens 1550, which is the common text in this country." Therefore, those who go to such interlinears as their authority are not in actuality appealing to the ORIGINAL INSPIRED NEW TESTAMENT, but to a copy that was translated from Hebrew or Aramaic a millennium and-a-half before it reached its present form, and was copied time and time

again by apostate Christians over that time.

To establish the FACT that errors have occurred in copying we will quote from "**An Illustrated History of the Holy Bible**," by John Kitto, D.D., F.S.A., pp. 37-38:

The different manner in which some passages are expressed in different manuscripts, together with the omission or insertion of a word, or of a clause, constitute what are called **various readings**. This was occasioned by the oversights or mistakes of transcribers, who deviated from the copy before them, these persons **not being**, as some have supposed, supernaturally guarded against the possibility of error; and a mistake in one copy would, of course, be propagated through all that were taken from it, each of which copies might likewise have peculiar faults of its own, so that **various readings would thus be increased in proportion to the number of transcripts that were made**. [Emphasis ours.]

Further down in the same paragraph we read "... at the same time they were unwilling to correct such mistakes as they detected, lest their pages should appear blotted or defaced; and thus they sacrificed the correctness of their copy to its fair appearance."

In **McClintock and Strong's Cyclopædia** we learn under the article "New Testament," "The original copies seem to have SOON PERISHED." (Emphasis ours.) Further along in the same article we read, "Partly, perhaps, owing to the destruction thus caused, but still more from the natural effects of time, no manuscripts of the New Testament of the first three centuries remain. Some of the oldest extant were certainly copied from others which dated from within this period, but as yet **no one can be placed further back than the time of**

**Constantine.**" (Emphasis ours.) And still further along in the article we read, "History affords no trace of the pure apostolic originals." Based on this evidence it should be obvious that any faith based on the so-called "inspired Greek New Testament" is a faith not founded upon a solid rock.

### Hellenist Jews?

Occasionally we hear the assertion that the Greek-speaking Jews (usually called Hellenists) were so numerous during the time of Yahshua that synagogues had to be built for them. Acts 6:9 is given as scriptural verification, but this in itself is a very weak verse to substantiate such an important point. Please read it. After researching for this article we feel that all of the evidence at hand will easily refute such an assertion. We would like to introduce here a quote from an article called "Judaism as a Religion," written by Dr. Solomon Zeitlin, **Jewish Quarterly Review**, October 1943, and ask that you give it serious consideration since Dr. Zeitlin is a well-known scholar.

"Thus the phrase—Hellenist Jews, which is found in the history books, encyclopedias, and even dictionaries is erroneous,—it is a contradiction of terms. There were no Hellenist Jews, one was either a Hellene or a Jew."

We shall continue to quote from the footnotes of this article. Here Dr. Zeitlin introduces quotes from dictionaries and encyclopedias:

Hellenist—applied to those Jews of the Dispersion who used the Greek language and were more or less affected by the Greek influences, **Oxford**. These Jews understand Greek, and use the Greek Bible, and are therefore called **Hellenists** (Hammond on Acts 6:1), **Century**. Especially a person of Jewish

extraction who used the Greek language as his mother tongue as did the Jews of Asia Minor, Greece, Syria, and Egypt, **Webster**.

The used word **Hellenist** in Acts 6:1, is the basis of the belief that the word **Hellenist** means a Greek-speaking Jew. The context, however, does not support this theory. The word **Hellenist** in this passage refers to the Hellenes who believed in [Yahshua]. Compare Acts 9:29; 11:20. See Henry J. Cadbury, Note VII, **The Beginnings of Christianity**, Volume V, edited by Kirsopp Lake and Henry J. Cadbury. The word **Hellenist** in ancient time referred only to those who followed the mode of life of the Hellenes, similarly the word **Judaist** had the connotation—one who followed Jewish practice and ritual.

As you can see, Dr. Zeitlin has given ample support to his conclusion in refuting the definitions which are given above. A Hellene then was a Jew who had become apostatized, one who had accepted the language and customs of the Greek culture. No synagogues had to be built for them since they were not part of the synagogue. Please review again Acts 6:9, where you will find some italicized words in the text which are not found in the Greek. The Libertines, Cyrenians, Alexandrians, those of Cilicia and Asia were part of the synagogue, meaning that they were members of the Jewish religion and attended the common synagogue. Since they were followers of the synagogue they were opposed to the Messianic worship and attacked the teachings of Stephen. Again another vital aspect in support of erroneous doctrine falls before the Word of Yahweh and scholarship!

### The Language of Yahshua

Referring to the time of Yahshua, Joseph Klausner, Ph.D. states on page 263 of his book

entitled **Jesus of Nazareth**, "After the reading of the Pentateuch they concluded with the reading of the Prophets, translating orally to the people in Aramaic (this was specially the case in Galilee where the unlearned were more than in Judea, and where few people spoke Hebrew)." For the benefit of those who have not studied languages, allow us to mention that Aramaic is a Semitic language, a dialect of Hebrew.

In the same book on page 234 we read, "[Yahshua] certainly knew the Law and the Prophets and the Book of Psalms, and had, also, some knowledge of the Book of Daniel and also, perhaps, of the Book of Enoch. It may be, however, that He had only heard the Law read in Hebrew and translated into Aramaic, HIS SPOKEN LANGUAGE, in the synagogue of Nazareth (there was then practically no Jewish town without its synagogue), for all the sayings of [Yahshua] which have been preserved in the Gospels in His actual language are in Aramaic. Both the Talmud and the Gospels tell us that, in Judea, Galileans were recognizable by their language (Aramaic)." (Emphasis ours.)

There is an enormous volume of evidence to the effect that Yahshua's native language was Aramaic, but inasmuch as this is not a controversial point among scholars, we will rest our case on this point with the foregoing quotations.

### The Language of the New Testament

Most knowledgeable modern scholars have concluded that all of the writers of New Testament books were capable of writing in either Hebrew or Aramaic. Paul and Luke may have been equally capable of writing in Greek as

well. But this does not mean they chose to do so. There are numerous renowned scholars who feel that certain books were written originally in Hebrew or Aramaic, and subsequently translated into Greek. Some believe the ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT can be traced back to Hebrew and Aramaic originals. Scholarship will prove if such a conclusion is correct.

To substantiate the foregoing statements we will quote from the Introduction to Lamsa's **Holy Bible from the Peshitta**. On page xi we read:

When we come to the New Testament, the new Covenant, we must not forget that Christianity grew out of Judaism. The [Messianic] gospel was another of [Yahweh's] messages, first to the Jewish people and then to the Gentile world. For several centuries, the [Messianic] movement was directed and guided by the Jews. All of the apostles and the evangelists were Jewish. These facts are strongly supported by the gospels and history.

The Pauline epistles were letters written by Paul to small [Messianic] congregations in Asia Minor, Greece, and Rome. These early [believers] were mostly Jews of the dispersion, men and women of Hebrew origin who had been looking for the coming of the promised Messiah whose coming was predicted by the Hebrew prophets who had hailed Him as a deliverer.

At the outset, the Romans were the masters of the world and the Greeks were not looking for a deliverer to rise up from among a people whom they had hated and had crushed. Paul, on his journeys, always spoke in the Jewish synagogues. His first converts were Hebrews. Then came Arameans, the kindred of the Hebrews, as in the case of Timothy and Titus. Their fathers were Aramean and their mothers were Jewish.

[Yahshua] and His disciples spoke the Galilean dialect of Aramaic, the language which the early Galileans had brought from the other side of the river Euphrates (2 Kings 17:22-25). Mark tells us in his Gospel, 14:70, that Peter was exposed by his Galilean Aramaic speech.

Paul was educated in Jewish law in Jerusalem. He was a member of the Jewish Council. His native language was Western Aramaic but he acquired his education through Hebrew and Chaldean or Palestinian Aramaic, the language spoken in Judea. He defended himself when on trial in his own tongue and not in Greek (Acts 22:2). Paul was converted, healed, and baptized in Damascus in Syria (Acts 9:17, 18).

The Epistles were translated into Greek for the use of converts who spoke Greek. Later they were translated into Latin and other tongues.

#### **More on the New Testament Language**

Possibly the most outstanding

study Bible ever compiled is the **Companion Bible**, which was produced by Dr. E.W. Bullinger. To further support the conclusion that the New Testament was not written originally in Greek, we shall quote from Appendix No. 94, page 134: "The writers were Hebrews; and thus, while the language is Greek, the thoughts and idioms are Hebrew. These idioms or Hebraisms are generally pointed out in the notes of the **Companion Bible**. If the Greek of the New Testament be regarded as an inspired translation from Hebrew or Aramaic originals, most of the various readings would be accounted for and understood." Please read again the emphasized sections in the above quote (emphasis ours). When such renowned scholars as Dr. E.W. Bullinger regard the Greek as most realistically a translation, setting forth the logical conclusion that the New Testament is a translation from Hebrew and Aramaic originals, can we then continue to make dogmatic statements such as, "the inspired Greek original New Testament?" To answer our own question we must utter a resounding negative response! Please note also that we cannot logically support a misnomer like "an inspired translation."



## 2. The Scholars Speak

### Scholarship Favors Hebrew Originals

There is an abundance of evidence which has accumulated over the centuries in support of an underlying Hebrew or Aramaic document to the New Testament. We will now quote some of this pro-Hebrew New Testament scholarship with the hopes that our more scholastically inclined readers will go to the trouble of verifying our source material. All of the sources quoted in this article are available for examination at our Home Offices in Bethel, in the event you are unable to find any of them in your local library.

"The method of determining a Semitic original underlying Greek or other texts has often been discussed in connection with the New Testament. For a survey of research, see Matthew Black, *An Aramaic Approach to the Gospels and Acts*, 3rd edition (Oxford, 1967)." (Emphasis ours.)

A very prominent and eminent scholar, Professor Charles C. Torrey, maintained that all the evangelists were originally written in Aramaic and that our extant text is a translation. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, article "Aramaic."

In a book review of Dr. Torrey's *Documents of the Primitive Church* which was published in the *Jewish Quarterly Review* we read the following challenge of Dr. Torrey: "At the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, in New

York City in December, 1934, I challenged my New Testament colleagues to designate even one passage from any of the Four Gospels giving clear evidence of a date later than 50 A.D., or of origin outside Palestine. The challenge was not met, nor will it be, for there is no such passage."

In this same book review we read, "The main thesis of Prof. Torrey, in his book, is that all four Gospels were compiled in the early period of the first century C.E. and were written in Aramaic." Dr. Solomon Zeitlin, Professor of Rabbinic Law, an elder statesman scholar of wide acclaim, did this book review which was published in the *J.Q.R.*, April, 1942. Although he takes issue with Dr. Torrey's assertion that the book of John was written in Aramaic and before 50 C.E., he makes the following dogmatic statement: "The reviewer, however, agrees with Prof. Torrey that the Synoptic Gospels were written in Aramaic," page 429. The "Synoptic Gospels" are Matthew, Mark and Luke.

A quote from a previous paragraph is rather interesting when we reflect on the missing original manuscripts of the New Testament. Dr. Zeitlin says, "It is possible that Jewish [Messianic believers] wrote part of the Gospels on the margins of the scrolls of the Holy Scriptures [The Old Testament], to which practice some rabbis objected very strenuously. (According to R.

Jose, the names of [The Almighty] in these writings should be torn out and stored away, while the writings should be burned: Shab. 116; Tos. 14.5)." Interestingly, Matthew records the words of Yahshua in which the new treasures could be the New Testament record written on wide margins of the old scrolls. Please read Matt. 13:52.

There are many excellent points brought forth in favor of the New Testament having been originally written in Hebrew or Aramaic in the book entitled *The Quest of the Historical Jesus* by the widely known and renowned scholar, Dr. Albert Schweitzer. Here are just a few:

"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," p. 275.

"That [Yahshua] spoke Aramaic, Meyer has shown by collecting all the Aramaic expressions which occur in His preaching. He considers 'Abba' in Gethsemane decisive, for this means that [Yahshua] prayed in Aramaic in His hour of bitterest need," pp. 275-276.

### The Work of Dr. Charles Cutler Torrey

In the world of scholarship a giant in his field is frequently way ahead of his time. Such was the case with Dr. Charles Cutler Torrey. In the early 1900's he began to espouse the position that

the New Testament bears an unmistakable watermark of being a translated document. Dr. Torrey presented his views to the academic community with every available opportunity. However, since the traditional viewpoint of New Testament scholars had been that it was written in Greek, Dr. Torrey and his theories were given little credence, nor were they seriously discussed. Among the more prominent works he published are the following: **The Four Gospels**, New York, Harper and Brothers, 1933; **Our Translated Gospels**, Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1936; **Documents of the Primitive Church**, Harper and Brothers, 1941.

Possibly the most widely circulated of these works is the second one (**Our Translated Gospels**). In this book Dr. Torrey artfully explains that many of the problems with the Greek text evaporate when we research the Aramaic or Hebrew languages for a word that could have stood in the original and then was wrongly translated by someone who had misunderstood the text. As Dr. Torrey pointed out in his book, the instances in the Greek text which present problems are too frequent and the discrepancies too easily explained for this to be simply coincidence. Even though you may be unable to read Greek or Hebrew, it will be well worth your while to read this book. It is now out of print, but some libraries have copies; if your library is not in possession of one you might obtain the use of a copy through inter-library loan.

Recently, various New Testament scholars have become interested in the work of Dr. Torrey. One noted professor of Bible and biblical languages has said that he feels the new thrust of scholarship during the next

decade will be in the direction of a serious re-evaluation of Dr. Torrey's studies. Those of us who are seeking truth have realized for some years that this should long ago have been done. A pilot article along those lines was recently published in the **Journal of Biblical Literature**, Vol. 96, No. 1, March, 1977. Written by Dr. George Howard of the University of Georgia and entitled, "The Tetragram and the New Testament," this article explores the exciting possibility that the Tetragrammaton (the four letters of the Sacred Name in Hebrew), was originally contained in the New Testament texts. If the Evangelists were indeed translated from the Semitic autographs (Hebrew and/or Aramaic), then without a doubt it would have appeared there. Dr. Howard sees the distinct possibility that it also was retained in the first documents of the Greek translation just as it had been retained in the Septuagint translation of the Old Testament from Hebrew into Greek. (Do you have a copy of our article, "Septuagint Study Proves the Sacred Name"? If not write for your free copy today.) The surrogates, **kurios** and **theos**, were employed to stand in place of the Sacred Name because of a desire by some Messianic believers to be in harmony with Jewish tradition. Without a doubt, many articles will be written in support of this view and others will be written in rebuttal. It will be interesting to see what new evidence and thinking will rise to the surface as Dr. Torrey's works are resurrected after having been almost completely ignored for four decades.

#### Josephus Speaks

"According to Josephus the knowledge of Greek in Palestine at that time, even among educated

Jews, can only have been of a quite elementary character. He himself had to learn it laboriously in order to be able to write in it. His 'Jewish War' was first written in Aramaic for his fellow-countrymen; the Greek edition was, by his own avowal, not intended for them," p.276, **Quest**.

"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.

"I have proposed to myself, for the sake of those who live under the government of the Romans, to translate those books into the Greek tongue, which I formerly composed in the language of our country, and sent to the Upper Barbarians." **Wars**, Preface.

This is quite a different picture than what is frequently painted of Josephus. Remember, Josephus was a priest of Israel and a highly educated person for his time, and he couldn't even enunciate Greek properly! So what conclusion would prompt an understanding that the uneducated apostles could write Greek?

Then, in **Antiquities**, Book 1, Chapter V and VI, we read that the Greek had a special kind of proclivity to change the names of places and people so that they would sound well to themselves. By way of interjecting a thought, are we not first to heed the Word of our Heavenly Father and call upon His true Name (Psalm 68:4) rather than to seek popularity or culture which will ultimately perish with this wicked world?

#### The Evangel of John

We feel that the evidence in

favor of the book of John having been written in Aramaic is conclusive. This evidence is set forth in a book entitled **The Aramaic Origin of the Fourth Gospel**, by Professor C.F. Burney, M.A., D.Litt. A book review of this important contribution to getting back to the faith once delivered is available in article form for those who desire to examine this evidence. Just write to us and ask for the article entitled "Is the Book of John Greek to You?"

### The New Testament as a Whole

The following are quotes from the article "New Testament" in the famous **Dictionary of the Bible** by James Hastings, 1900 edition:

Before any part of the NT had been written, the Heb. canon had been virtually closed; and the idea of a new collection of sacred writings which would be held in no less veneration than the old was slow to take possession of the Christian Church. Hence the OT Scriptures, to which the apostles constantly appealed for evidence that [Yahshua] was the Messiah, continued to be for many years the only authoritative writings in the Church.

Probably the earliest nucleus of the NT consisted of notes of the apostles' preaching, either drawn up by their hearers for their own use, [Matt. 13:52] or intended as an aid to catechists and teachers. Some such notes (probably in Aramaic, of which we have many traces in the Greek text) seem to have formed the basis of our Synoptic Gospels.

It is not, indeed, till near the close of the 2nd century, that we find a generally accepted collection of sacred books substantially identical with our NT and equally sacred with the OT.

These quotes are found in the venerated unabridged edition of Hastings' **Bible Dictionary**, frequently quoted by many scholars.

### The Hebrew Language

Some have stated that Hebrew

was already a dead language at the time Yahshua was born. We would like to refute this charge by quoting from the book **How the Hebrew Language Grew** by Edward Horowitz. On page 6 we read,

Hebrew gradually ceased being a spoken language after 70 C.E., when the Jews were driven from the land of Israel by the Romans and were scattered throughout the world. Hebrew, of course, remained alive, and was used constantly in other ways. It was the language of prayer, study, reading the Torah, and correspondence. Above all it was used as the language of a tremendously rich literature of law, theology, philosophy, science, medicine, astronomy, poetry, grammar and other fields of human knowledge.

Yes, the writers of the New Testament books were capable of writing in Hebrew and/or Aramaic. The only question is whether they were even capable of writing Greek!

The following is an enlightening quote from Robert Taylor's **Diegesis**, published 1869,

It is a false representation, or what would be called in common parlance—a lie, upon the title-page, where it is represented, that the New Testament is 'translated out of the original Greek,' seeing there never was any original Greek. The original of Matthew's gospel is believed to have been Hebrew. The Epistle to the Romans, and indeed, the whole of the New Testament, existed in a barbarous monkish Latin, from which the oldest Greek manuscripts in existence are but barbarous translations. [Appendix, page 422. (Emphasis ours.)]

Edward Gibbon (1737—1794) is regarded as standing among the greatest of modern historians. "Whatever else is read, Gibbon must be read, too," wrote Freeman. On page 185 of Gibbon's **History of Christianity** we read in a footnote, "The modern critics are not disposed to believe what the fathers almost unanimously

assert, that St. Matthew composed a Hebrew gospel, of which only the Greek translation is extant. It seems, however, dangerous to reject their testimony."

In another footnote on the same page we read,

Papias, contemporary of the apostle St. John, says positively that Matthew had written the discourses of [Yahshua the Messiah] in Hebrew, and that each interpreted them as he could. This Hebrew was the Syro-Chaldaic dialect then in use at Jerusalem: Origen, Irenaeus, Eusebius, Jerome, Epiphanius, confirm this statement. [Yahshua the Messiah] preached Himself in Syro-Chaldaic, as is proved by many words which He used, and which the Evangelists have taken the pains to translate. St. Paul, addressing the Jews, used the same language: Acts xxi 40, xxvi 14. The opinions of critics prove nothing against such undeniable testimonies. Moreover their principal objection is, that St. Matthew quotes the Old Testament according to the Greek version of the LXX., which is inaccurate; for of ten quotations, found in his Gospel, seven are evidently taken from the Hebrew text; the three others offer little that differ: moreover, the latter are not literal quotations. St. Jerome says positively, that, according to a copy which he had seen in the library of Caesarea, the quotations were made in Hebrew (in Catal). [Emphasis ours.]

The concurrent testimony of so many early writers leaves no reasonable ground to doubt the fact, that there was a Hebrew original of Matthew's gospel. Eusebius repeats it no less than six times; and all assert it so positively, that to question it is, as Gibbon hints, to shake the very foundation of all primitive ecclesiastical history.

### The Panin New Testament

Occasionally we receive inquiries about the Panin translation of the New Testament. We are asked if this work does not prove that the New Testament

was indeed written in Greek rather than Hebrew or Aramaic. First, a little history of the Panin version. Ivan Panin was reputedly a Russian revolutionary who decided to translate the Bible by a numerical system during which he was reported to have filled 40,000 pages with figures. This concept was supposed to have proved that the Bible was divinely inspired in the Old Testament Hebrew and in the New Testament Greek. Research has shown that Panin used a rather flexible system to produce his translation, which was most complicated. In our library we have a **Panin Numeric New Testament** and we have scrutinized it with great care. It is a truism that almost anything can be proved by numerology. Numerics is indeed a fascinating and interesting subject for study, but in the final analysis it is the Word of Yahweh which will endure forever. In the Assemblies of Yahweh we base our faith on this Word and upon provable facts which have come down to us through the ages. Panin's work has done little to support the concept of an original inspired Greek New Testament, since he apparently never took into account the possibility of an Aramaic or Hebrew text underlying the Greek. True scholarship will take into account all possibilities.

#### Internal Evidence in the Book of Revelation

As one of the readers of this article you may be interested in something tangible which you yourself can understand without knowing languages or the technicalities involved. The book of Revelation offers such an area of understanding since it was obviously a translation from Hebrew. First of all, in chapter 5, verse 1, we see the reference to

the book written within and on the backside. This would be a rather awkward way for a scroll to be written (since the word **book** would be "safer" in the Hebrew meaning scroll). Mr. David Einhorn, writing in a New York newspaper in 1956, in an article called "Are We in the Days of the Messiah?", said that this should have been translated, "written from right to left." Now ask yourself the question, which languages are written from right to left? The answer would of necessity be Hebrew and Aramaic.

Then we proceed to Revelation 19:16. "And He hath in His vesture and on His thigh a name written, King of Kings and Ruler of Rulers." Don't you think that to have His Name written on His thigh would be puzzling and peculiar? There is no record of any monarch having either his name, or his titles, written on his thigh. The problem is instantly solved if we realize that the book was written in Hebrew. The word **thigh** in the Hebrew is "ragel" (No. 7271 in Strong's), while it should have been **banner** "dagel" (No. 1714). Evidently a sloppy scribe omitted the little extension on the top of the **dalet** and made it into a **resh**, changing from a **ת(d)** to a **ת(r)**, the first letter of the word. This information comes from Professor Charles Torrey.

This is very outstanding evidence that the book of Revelation was written in Hebrew. There is even more, such as the transliteration of the Hebrew word **HalleluYAH** (Alleluia) four times in chapter 19. **HalleluYAH** means "Praise ye YAH," so you see the true Name of the Almighty does appear in the Greek New Testament after all!

#### No Scriptural Support

In the membership magazine of

a widely-known religious organization a writer asserted that the Scripture "...to the Jew first and also to the Greek" meant that the Greeks were given the divine right to preserve and transmit the text of the New Testament to future generations. In the succeeding issue the editor printed the following retraction reprimanding the author for making an error in expounding the Word of Yahweh:

But the glaring ERROR which slapped me in the face with shock, amazement and dismay, occurred in the middle column of page 18. The question is asked: "To whom then was the New Testament given for preservation and transmission?" And I was actually horrified to read the answer: "Romans 1:16 reveals the answer." And then the writer only partially quoted the verse, omitting the vital words! Here is what actually got into print:

"Romans 1:16 reveals the answer. 'For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of [Messiah] ... to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.' "

By omitting the vital words in the middle of the sentence—and the three periods denote that words, supposedly without altering the meaning, have been omitted)—and by emphasizing the words "also to the Greek," it was made to appear to say, "The writings, preservation, and transmission of the New Testament was committed to the Greek.

BUT IT DID NOT SAY THAT AT ALL!

Here we see an example of an author writing for a group which professes the doctrine of the inspired Greek New Testament. And yet when he attempts to quote Scripture to support this doctrine, the editor of his magazine and leader of his organization reprimands him acrimoniously and retracts the only possible scriptural authority for an inspired Greek New Testament!

Later on in this same editorial

we read, "But the article seemed, from that point on, to assume that [Yahweh] turned the custodianship of the New Testament portion of His WORD over to heathen Gentile Greeks of the Greek Catholic Church, as if [Yahweh] had 'bowed out,' and we must RELY on the Greek Catholic Church. THAT ASSUMPTION IS UTTERLY UNTRUE!"

We certainly agree wholeheartedly with the foregoing retraction, and if such a statement were to appear in one of our publications we would have to retract it as well. For there is not one iota of scriptural evidence to support the theory that Yahweh intended to preserve and transmit His inspired Word through pagan apostatized Greeks! There is no scriptural basis for an "INSPIRED GREEK NEW TESTA-

MENT." Therefore, let's take the next logical step that honest humility demands and admit that we have no inspired originals to which we can appeal when doctrinal disputes arise. We must go to the Old Testament for our doctrine as Yahshua the Messiah and all His original true followers did.

The assertion that there is an original, inspired Greek New Testament must now be viewed as a totally inaccurate statement which has been used to trap the unwary into believing something which cannot be proved. It has been used as one of the foremost supporting arguments to undergird an unscriptural doctrine which opposes the exclusive use of the Sacred Name of Yahweh and the Name of our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah. Certainly we must

admit that they are Hebrew Names and since the world is anti-Semitic as a general rule, they would necessarily be unpopular. Hasn't True Worship always been unpopular? Certainly! Possibly this is why Yahshua our Messiah turned a deaf ear to the Greeks who asked Philip to see Yahshua, since He knew what they would do with the pure Messianic worship (John 12:20-31). How can we really say that we are worshiping the true Mighty One unless we use His correct, inspired Name? Read Jer. 10:10. Can you know the true mission of the Messiah, can you really hold a true picture of Him in your heart and mind unless you recognize that He was the Messiah of the Jews?

### 3. Historic Evidence

Our research indicates that the four "gospels" were written originally by the Evangelists in the form of **targums**. These were notes in the margins of their scrolls (2 Tim. 4:13) relative to incidents in the Messiah's life which the disciples used to proclaim His Messiahship in their public messages. This could be the reason why they are not set down in a chronological manner, with the exception of the book of Luke.

Please review at this time Dr. Solomon Zeitlin's quote found earlier in this article regarding the rabbinic reference to writings on the margins of the scrolls. Evidently the Name of Yahweh was used in these writings or Rabbi Jose would not have instructed his disciples to destroy them and store away the Name of

the Almighty, Yahweh, which was used in them. These notations of incidents in the life of the Messiah would then have been compiled at a later date, when it was evident that the Messiah would not return until the end of the 6,000 years of man because Israel would not accept Him voluntarily. We feel that either the apostles themselves or some of their disciples compiled the notes from the targums. This would explain why there are no original manuscripts extant today. Also, it is our feeling that most of these ancient Hebrew and Aramaic New Testament manuscripts perished in the book burnings which accompanied the persecution of the Jews prefacing the great crusades of the Middle Ages. Many priceless documents perished at that time, simply

because they were written in Hebrew.

#### Two Additional Sources

Although no original manuscripts of the New Testament are currently extant, there is a Hebrew version of the New Testament available. This translation was completed in 1877 by Dr. Franz Delitzsch, a German Christian Hebrew scholar. Reviewers have accorded it the high position of being one of the best translations ever made in any language, on any subject. Dr. Delitzsch knew many languages and was a student of Jewish traditional law. This ability to place himself in the times of the Messiah made it possible for him to correct some of the deficiencies of the Greek text, and proved

once again that the Greek is an apparent translation from an underlying Hebrew or Aramaic original. Honorable mention should also go to his assistant, Dr. J. E. Salkinsohn, and a Jewish advisor, Dr. Arnold Ehrlich.

An additional source which envisions Semitic documents underlying the Greek New Testament is the **New World Translation**. Although the writers of the FOREWORD prefacing the work do not take the strong stand for such a document which we feel is justified by the evidence, they nevertheless do make some strong points which show that the Sacred Names would have appeared in the text. An example of these rather bold statements is the following: "The evidence is, therefore, that the original text of the Christian Greek Scriptures has been tampered with, the same as the text of the LXX has been. And, at least from the 3rd century A.D. onward, the divine name in tetragrammaton form has been eliminated from the text by copyists who did not understand or appreciate the divine name or who developed an aversion to it, possibly under the influence of anti-Semitism. In place of it they substituted the words **kyrios** (usually translated 'the Lord') and **theos**, meaning God." There is hardly one scholar who will affirm unequivocally that the New Testament was written in the Greek language exclusively, after taking a good, hard look at the facts which have emerged to prove otherwise.

### The Lost Originals

Obviously it was not imperative that the original New Testament documents be preserved for our day. Translations are fully acceptable; however, they should be faithfully translated, with the

Name of the Almighty Author and the Name of His Messiah restored to the text. In fact, without calling upon this Name which means "Eternal" we cannot hope to attain to everlasting life! This is the reason why the apostles taught that we must call upon **this one specific Name**, because there is EVERLASTING LIFE intrinsic within only this one Name. Please see Acts 4:12 and Acts 22:16. Yahshua the Messiah did indeed come to manifest the Name of the Almighty Heavenly Father to His people, John 17:6 and 26. He said to Jerusalem, "You shall not see Me henceforth, till you shall say, 'Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of Yahweh,'" (Matt.23:36) This prophecy could not be fulfilled without the Sacred Name being used.

It is a fact that the Greek texts which have come down to us are currently the main evidence of the apostolic writings, with the exception of the Aramaic Peshitta. However, Yahshua the Messiah charges two assemblies with the sin of heeding the doctrines of the Nicolaitanes (Rev. 2:6 and 15) and two assemblies who say that they are Jews (**Yahudim**, meaning "those praising Yah") but are not, but are of the synagogue of Satan (Rev. 2:9 and 3:9). The synagogue teaches that you should not use the **inspired Name Yahweh**, but rather "Adonai." Therefore, we must conclude that the leaders of the generally accepted religions of the world are hostile to a Hebrew Name for the Almighty and the Messiah. But the Scriptures show such hostility to be unscriptural and in actuality a sin which will be judged by Almighty Yahweh in the last days, Rev. 16:9, 11.

It is also evident that such apostate Jews as Philo Judaeus were attempting to make the Hebrew religion more palatable

for the masses, by using different names for the Almighty. Religious superstition is a very compelling force in the lives of people and most people will not go to the source to check their doctrines. If these Jewish apostates were as eager to dilute True Worship as the reference works indicate that they were, (simultaneously merging their endeavors with the zealous persecution from the developing Roman Catholic Church) then it is logical that this false pagan worship did indeed seek to destroy any ancient manuscripts which would prove them to be in error! It has not been the True Worship which has given us the GREEK New Testament, but it has come down to us through the corrupted worship of Rome! There were no True Worshipers in that organization, as the documented history of the true religion proves. Every manuscript which would prove Rome in error was destroyed systematically, so that the common people would submit themselves to the doctrines of Rome. With the universal inquisitions of the Middle Ages sweeping across Europe, the True Worshipers may have themselves destroyed some of these precious manuscripts to avert death, which was a dreaded certainty if they were caught with them.

History offers MANY CLUES as to what did happen to the New Testament's original manuscripts. However, we may still today be certain that we are in True Worship if we adhere to the Old Testament and allow this ageless document to interpret the New. There was no pressing need to preserve the original texts of the New Testament since Almighty Yahweh knew that the Jews would preserve the Old Testament, that knowledge would be increased in the last days, and

that students of the Scriptures would be taught by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit and returned to the truth of the pure Messianic worship at that time. In fact, some early Messianic groups of believers **never used** what we call the New Testament.

### Dialectic Differences

Now let us deal with the question: "When the Aramaic names of the Creator are different from Hebrew names, are these dialectic forms of Semitic permissible?" It is a fact that the Aramaic names of the Almighty and the Messiah do closely resemble the Hebrew names. For instance, **Mariah** means "the master Yah," and although **Mar** is proved to be derived from the Babylonian deity **Marduk** and is used in place of Adonai, the YAH is retained. The form **Yeshua** came into being from the Jews' insistence on dropping the correct form **Yah** and corrupting it so that its true pronunciation would be distorted.

Where the variations of the Hebrew word **Elohim** are employed in the Aramaic text (**Elah**, **Alaha**), it is obvious that these are very little different from **El** or **Eloah**, the titles for the Almighty which are used in the Hebrew Scriptures. Again we should emphasize that these are not **names**, but merely **titles**. They are not sacred as is the Name of Almighty Yahweh. This is the Name which will alone bring us salvation. The student of Semitic cultures will realize that variations of the word **Elohim** have been used by many of the ancient Middle Eastern nations, but the Name Yahweh has been protected from corruption by the mighty hand of the Heavenly Father.

We stand firmly with Dr. Solomon Zeitlin of Dropsie University when he says that the Hebrew Name of the Messiah is **Yahshua** and not **Yeshua**. Please remember that the oracles of Yahweh were committed to the Jews, Romans 3:2. They preserved them faithfully, although Scripture has been distorted by the vowel points which are much less ancient than the letters (which can be pronounced with no assistance from vowel points). Is it not a fact that the translators will disregard indicated vowel points when a more intelligible translation can be attained? This explanation can be found in a number of translations, among them notably the **RSV**. So by their own admission even the translators will correct the document before them in order to be consistent.

### The Language of Adam

Now we will address ourselves to the question of how we can know that the Hebrew is not in itself a Semitic dialect which would differ from the language of Adam. Please review Exodus 19:19 and Deut. 4:9-13. Almighty Yahweh spoke to Israel at Sinai and they understood Him, just as did Adam. The Greeks could not understand the voice from heaven as you can determine from the context of John 12:20-30. The Hebrew says literally in Genesis 11:1, "one language and few words." This has led some scholars to surmise that the Ugaritic dialect may be more ancient than the Hebrew. However, again we would have to rely upon Romans 3:2 and Isaiah 40:8, along with Psalm 147:19-20. These Scriptures indicate that Yahweh has never chosen to speak directly to anyone other than people

speaking a Semitic language. We read in Zephaniah 3:9 that Yahweh will restore to the people a pure language or lip, that they may all call upon Him to serve Him with one consent. Such a restoration should be beginning now at this present time with Elijah the prophet, who we believe to be the group which boldly proclaims today that "My El is Yah!" People have become confused occasionally by Matt. 17:11, but Elijah must first come before the Great Day of Almighty Yahweh, Malachi 4:5-6. Israel did not accept the message (Matthew 11:14), so this prophecy is not exhausted.

### Which Came First?

Some scholars have surmised that the Aramaic is a translation from the Greek and not vice versa. This theory will not find support by the searching mind, since internal evidence shows that the speakers were obviously speaking in Hebrew or Aramaic. Some examples are: "And He answered and said unto them," (Matt. 21:24); "Peace be unto you" (John 20:21), etc., each of which are Hebraisms or Aramaisms.

But now let's look at those passages which show an interpretation in the Greek, for example, John 1:38, 41, 42. Dr. Lamsa explains this in his translation as explanation of terms from one Aramaic dialect to another. Furthermore, about half of these instances do not exist in the Peshitta, which are evident in the Greek and the English. It is possible that the authors were again following the example of the Targums and offering interpretation, so this argument is invalid to support a Greek text for the New Testament.

# 4. Taking a Stand

The Assemblies of Yahweh have taken their firm stand upon the Sacred Name of the Almighty Heavenly Father Yahweh and Name of the Savior Yahshua the Messiah. This stand has been dictated by the revelation of the Sacred Name to the people of the Most High through His Inspired Word in the Old Testament Scriptures. It would hardly be possible that the Almighty Heavenly Father would have inspired a Name to be written in His Word, and then several centuries later reversed Himself and decided to accept worship in a multitude of different names. Human logic where the Sacred Name is concerned must conclude that the Almighty meant what He said in Malachi 3:6, "For I am Yahweh, I change not: therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." The nation of Israel had accepted the worship or rule of Yahweh and entered into the covenant with Him (Exodus 24). He promised to punish the guilty parties who would break His covenant. He also promised to accept any of the people who would come to Him in the latter days, Deut. chapters 30 and 31. He is Yahweh who never changes, but will always be faithful to the covenant which was made in His Name. Therefore our reverence of Him will always be rewarding since His dependability is unimpeachable.

It is obvious then that since the Almighty Heavenly Father declares that He will not change,

no extra scriptural names are pleasing to His worship. Consistently throughout the Old Testament we find that He has revealed His Name on 7000 occasions as YAHWEH. When we begin to study the Bible deeply we are confronted squarely with this Sacred Name. We cannot in any way evade this subject. We cannot avoid the issue. We cannot ignore it in the hopes that it will just fade away and leave us pleasantly to our complacency. We must rise to the challenge which our Heavenly Father has given to us! Will we be dedicated enough to His truth to be able to enter into the covenant which He has presented to us?

We read in Jer. 32:40, "And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from Me." Did you comprehend completely this declaration from the Most High? He wishes to enter into an everlasting covenant with us, His people. His Name YAHWEH means everlasting, eternal, endless. In order for us to be able to enter into this everlasting covenant, we will have to call upon a Name which holds within itself this quality intrinsically, and we shall also have to be made immortal as He is. Reflect on this deep thought for just a few minutes and allow your mind to be expanded! Now do you see why knowing and using the Sacred Name is so vital to our salvation? Can you see how we will become

children of Yahweh and bear His immortal characteristics through calling upon His Name? Yahweh's people are called by His Name, Eph. 3:14-15. The covenant was made in the Name of YAHWEH! Calling upon any other Name will be useless!

## The Name for Salvation

In Acts 4:12 we read, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other NAME under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Now we are faced with a dilemma! We must call on only one Name which will bring us salvation.

Research of the New Testament as it has been transmitted to us in Greek would show that the Name of our resurrected Messiah was Iesous. However, how can such a foreign name be harmonized with the Old Testament Scriptures which say that the covenant will be made in the Name of YAHWEH? It is an uncontested fact that the Messiah was of the tribe of Judah, that He lived in Palestine where Aramaic and Hebrew were used naturally, and that the first converts to the new Messianic Worship were Israelites, mostly of the tribe of Judah, who also spoke the common Aramaic tongue. Can we discount all of these facts or reject them entirely as having no influence on the final doctrines which we must believe and obey to enter into our covenant with the Most High YAHWEH? Should we continue to follow a doctrine

merely because it is popular and widely accepted? If this were the case, we would have no faith at all, since the majority of people on this earth today have no **viable** religion.

### Separation Through the Name

Popularity is no scriptural criterion for judging the merits of truth. We must stand firmly upon the Word of Yahweh, or we will fall prey to doctrines which are not concretely scriptural. The Bible is not a book of ecumenical instructions. It does not seek to unite all religions of the world under one banner through compromise, but it seeks to separate the people of the Most High (Lev. 20:22-26) from those who are not interested in serving Him, guiding them toward the narrow way in which FEW people will be found.

Our only safe course to the Kingdom is one charted through the use of the Inspired Word of Yahweh. In the Old Testament we find several illustrations of the Messiah who was prophesied to rule Israel, notably Isaiah 53 and the book of Joshua. Interestingly, the man who took Israel into the promised land of Palestine 40 years after their exodus from Egypt was named Joshua, meaning in the Hebrew, "Yahweh is salvation!"

We find that this identical Name was given to the Messiah by an angelic messenger in Matt. 1:21. He (Yahweh) shall save (Hebrew-shua) His people (Israel) from their sins (transgressions against Him). This name can be found recorded also in Numbers 13:16, and it is explained as well.

### Proving Messiah's Name

Since there is none other Name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved, let us prove conclusively which Name

that must be. Is it too repulsive for you to conclude that since the Messiah was of the tribe of Judah, and since He was of Semitic stock, that His Name was a Semitic Name also, rather than Greek, which is an Indo-European language?

In basis of fact, the form of the name **Jesus** which is found in the English is not the same at all as **Iesous** in Greek. Etymology proves that **Jesus** is derived from the Latin language. It is candidly obvious from reading circulating literature which has been published with the purpose of opposing the necessity for using the Name YAHSHUA, that the crucial point which is used is the concept of an INSPIRED GREEK New Testament. The Assemblies of Yahweh have gone on record that such a term is ill advised and cannot be supported by scholarship. This is the reason why we have published articles devoted to this subject.

Again we wish to reiterate that we believe in the inspiration of the New Testament Scriptures. We find that they describe the life of a man who walked this earth, who lived a righteous life, and then died as an atonement for our sins. The record shows that He rose again from the dead and ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Almighty Heavenly Father Yahweh, from whence He shall return to rule this earth in righteousness for a period of a thousand years.

Scholarship has proved that the New Testament was not written first in the Greek language, nor is it the only language in which the New Testament has come down to us. The Aramaic or Syriac language New Testament yields manuscripts antedating the Greek manuscripts

which have come down to us. (Introduction to Lamsa's Bible, and appendix 94 in the Companion Bible, etc.)

### Hastings Bible Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics

In the article "BIBLE" in this noted work, we find the following quote. "The Gospel soon left the soil of Palestine and the Aramaic speech." This work recognizes that the Aramaic language was spoken almost exclusively in Palestine at the time of the Messiah. Later in the article they state, "Almost all of the books of the New Testament were composed in Greek." Evidently the editors feel that since religion is related to the classics, it would have been necessary for the New Testament to be composed in the classical Greek language to receive the proper credit and exposure. However, this is an erroneous conclusion, since the message was sent to the Jew first.

Paul makes this quite plain in Romans chapter one. Since the New Testament was written to the Jew first, the original language would have been either Hebrew or Aramaic, both well-known and popular languages. Please review our chapter entitled "Hellenist Jews?"—which shows that such a title is a misnomer. The concept that the Jews in the dispersion all knew Greek is the only possible reason which could be advanced for the necessity of writing the New Testament entirely in Greek. As a matter of fact, we have already proved that the books of Matthew and Hebrews can be documented historically as having been written in Hebrew, while the remainder can be shown to have Hebrew and Aramaic versions underlying them.

### The Text of Mark

A very interesting article appeared in the Autumn, 1971 issue of the **Journal of Semitic Studies** (Vol. XVI). It was called, "The Original Book of Mark," and was written by Dr. Isaac Rabinowitz. The writer shows that many passages in the book of Mark are purely of Hebrew origin and meaning, while some are Aramaic. To explain this situation correctly then, Dr. Rabinowitz writes, "... supposing, however, that the Gospel was originally written in Aramaic and subsequently translated into Greek. The translator from Aramaic into Greek, if in his Aramaic text he encountered a word that was not Aramaic but Hebrew, and if he wished to indicate to his Greek readers the presence at this point in the original text of a word in a language foreign to that of the text, could do this most easily and naturally by first transliterating the foreign word into Greek characters, and then translating it into Greek." (Emphasis ours throughout article.) Here then is an explanation of the Hebraisms in the book of Mark which have come down to us through the Greek text; obviously it can be shown to be a translation from a Hebrew word that was originally Aramaic. Later in the article Dr. Rabinowitz stated that it was his opinion that both a Hebrew and Aramaic original existed, and we would concur with this conclusion. This then is another penetrating work which goes deeply to the core of the problem and presents evidence in solving the reason for a Greek version of the fundamental documents of what was the Hebrew or Jewish religion.

### Rome Enters the Picture

Another invaluable work in

showing that Greek could not have been the language of the New Testament is by Dr. Frederick C. Grant, called **Roman Hellenism and the New Testament**. One of the most dynamic quotes from the entire book may be found on page 13. "Noteworthy Greek Religion itself NEVER PRODUCED anything like a Bible, though in later centuries Homer was often viewed as inspired—nor did it produce a church or a creed or a system of dogma, or a body of eschatological beliefs, either cosmic or terrestrial." It is obvious from a study of Greek religion, that each locality seemed to revere its own individual deity, just as did Baal worship. Most of the Greek religion was myth, passed down by word of mouth, or taken from the writings of Homer. Can we then suppose that the Greeks would have passed down to us immaculately the writings of a religion which they did not completely understand? This is why it seems to be a wise safeguard to check the Aramaic versions of the New Testament and give them credence in Bible study, and to base our every doctrine concretely upon the Old Testament laws.

"Another feature of the ancient Greek Religion was a certain quality of this worldliness. Happiness must be found here and now, if anywhere, any time; the after life is gloomy and uninviting." Hellenism was indeed a religion of the moment, to live for the day, to live in the world; it was perhaps an early example of the "now" generation. To keep the Old Testament commandments would have seemed to them to be restrictive and repressive, so the interpretation was made that they were annulled when the Savior died upon the tree. Then on page 5 we read, "The Romans simply borrowed their myths from the

Greeks." Historians have proved that the Roman religion was merely a copy of the Greek pagan worship, with each Roman deity having its Greek counterpart.

Page 16 yields another enlightening thought. "Roman Religion was an ancient agricultural religion which was later adapted to city life, and then finally to the control of an empire—but it never outgrew its original features as the local cultus of the old Italian farmers and herdsmen." After describing some of these cultish ideas, we find on page 19, "Eventually Christianity won this contest (for religious supremacy), though the victory was much nearer to a draw than to the total conquest of paganism which old fashioned writers and orators used to enjoy describing." How astonishing are the admissions which are poured forth from the pens of some noted, honest-hearted scholars. Certainly it is not difficult to recognize the paganism which has permeated to the very core of nominal Christianity, obscuring True Worship! It is our duty to weed out the error, through the Word of Almighty Yahweh, by adhering strictly to His covenant commandments.

On page 24 we find another gem of enlightenment. "Christ, in Greek is an attempt to translate the Hebrew or Aramaic word (Messiah) which means anointed—though the meaning was surely lost upon most non-Christian Gentiles. Eventually Christos ceased to be a title and became only a part of the proper name Jesus Christ." Do you see how the Greeks have not only corrupted the pronunciation of the Names of the Bible, but also have corrupted the meaning? This corruption has been responsible for painting a false portrait of the Savior. It should be obvious that Almighty

Yahweh has declared Himself to the Israelites or Hebrews (Psalm 147:19-20), and if we are to return to the original religion of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, which is the True Worship, then we must rid ourselves of all pagan influence. The place to begin this housecleaning is by beginning to use the Savior's true Name, Yahshua the Messiah. Try using it and see if you don't receive a much different mental picture of the man who died for you, the true picture of the **Jewish King who will be taking over the rule of this world in the Kingdom of Yahweh.**

#### Peter Preached in Aramaic

The following are quotes taken from the book, **The Birth of the Christian Religion and the Origins of the New Testament**, by Dr. Alfred Firmin Loisy. Dr. Loisy says that Mark and Matthew were written first in Aramean (Aramaic) language, of which we have only the **untrustworthy translations into Greek** (page 66). He continues, "Peter could probably express himself only in Aramean (Aramaic), no small drawback for an apostle to the world at large, even were his ministry limited to the Jews dispersed about the world, as our texts in no ways indicate that it was. Peter, so the evidence runs, **not knowing Greek**, would teach his hearers in Aramean; but he had Mark for interpreter; what he taught his hearers was what Mark the interpreter has reproduced in his Greek Gospel. . ." Do you comprehend the credibility which is given by scholars to the Hebrew and Aramaic languages as a basis for the New Testament? If the inspired Greek New Testament is the only obstacle to your accepting the Sacred Name of Yahweh or the Name of the Messiah, Yahshua, then that obstacle has

crumbled into the dust of antiquity, under the onslaught of end-time increased knowledge. Facts such as we are presenting are to be found in any library and these books have been gathering dust for too many years!

Another quote from this volume follows: "Just as Peter spoke in the Aramean, so the Apostle Matthew must have written in the same language. The difference was that Matthew, unlike Peter, had no disciple to act as his translator into Greek; the **first-comers undertook the operation without further credentials**. That this or that element in Mark or in Matthew was first written in Aramean is probable enough." (p.68)

#### Papias

The following is a quotation of Papias by one of the early "fathers" of the Messianic Worship. It is from the works of Eusebius as translated by Dr. Lightfoot. "And the Elder [Papias] said this also: Mark, having become the interpreter of Peter, wrote down accurately everything that he remembered, without however recording in order what was either said or done by [Messiah]. For neither did he hear the Master, nor did he follow him; but afterwards, as I said, attended Peter, who adapted his instruction to the needs (of his hearers) but had no design of giving a connected account of the Master's oracles. So then Mark made no mistake, while he wrote down such things as he remembered them; for he made it his one care not to omit anything that he heard, or to set down any false statement therein." Papias was a disciple of John the Apostle. He was a close associate and co-worker with Polycarp, another of John's disciples. He lived during

the 1st and 2nd centuries of our era and is one of our most reliable sources for the history of the New Testament and the early Messianic Assembly.

#### Conclusion

Now what will you as an individual do with the foregoing scholarship which we have presented for your consideration? We cannot turn our heads away from the studies of such an array of scholars, nor can we allow to go unchallenged dogmatic statements which are not provable, made merely to support "church" doctrine. Was the New Testament written in Aramaic?

Facts would strongly support such a conclusion. However, even if one or two books were written in Greek, which cannot be proved, there is **no reason** to assume that the Greek names were substituted for the Hebrew Names. We find many Hebrew names in our English Bibles, and we may ask why the true Name of the Almighty and our Savior should not appear there. Please read Acts 18:12-16 which indicates strongly that the apostles were indeed preaching the Hebrew Names for the Almighty and this is why they had aroused the ire of the Jewish community. Yahweh would hardly call Himself Theos, which Dr. Ignaz Goldzhier in his book **The Mythology of the Hebrews**, states conclusively is the same as Zeus, the idol of the Greeks! Is it really irresponsible to preach faith in the Name of the Messiah? The book of Acts discloses that the apostles preached in this Name (one specific Name) and were persecuted for it! Shouldn't we be the same as the early brethren, since the Sacred Name doctrine is most consistent in the Bible? We invite you to do some research and we challenge you to put the doctrines

you believe to the test. Will the New Testament continue to be Greek to you? It needn't be!

#### Summary

Once again we have shown from scholarship that the New Testament was written for the most part by Aramaic or Hebrew-speaking men, who wrote for the Jew first. If they wrote their manuscripts in the Semitic tongues of Hebrew and Aramaic,

then they did not use the names of our Savior which are in common use today! They wrote His Hebrew Name, Yahshua, and His title as designated by Almighty Yahweh Himself, Messiah. This is a name with **meaning** in the Hebrew as was pointed out previously. It means YAHWEH IS SALVATION. The other names which are generally in use today have no meaning similarly, nor do they fulfill Acts 4:12. Can we

reject such conclusive evidence? Can we continue to call the Almighty by a name which is not pleasing to Him? Let Yahweh be true! Let every man "Sanctify Yahweh of hosts Himself, and let Him be your fear and let Him be your dread," Isaiah 8:13. The Messiah came in His Father's Name, John 5:43. Is His Name written on your forehead? Revelation 14:1.

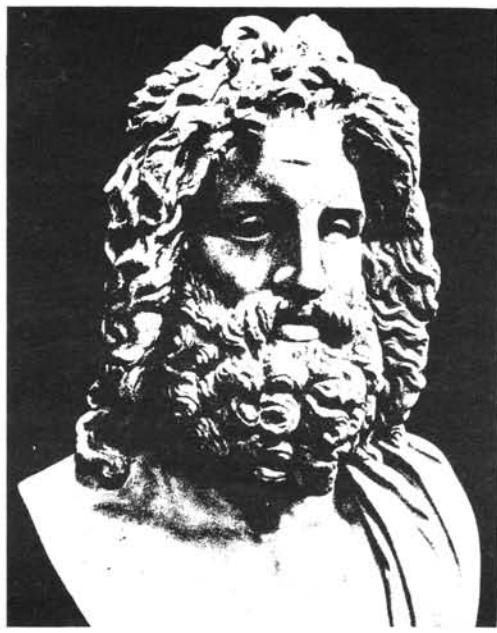
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It is not always realized that the New Testament writers' task of recording the Gospel in Greek was made easier because the Septuagint already existed. They did not have to invent a Greek theological library; such a vocabulary lay ready to hand in the Septuagint. The general religious vocabulary of the Greek language was pagan in character, but several elements of that pagan vocabulary had been taken by the Alexandri-

an translators and used as equivalents of the great words of Old Testament revelation. Thus it came about that in Greek-speaking Jewish circles these words did not bear their original pagan significance but the new significance which they acquired from the Hebrew vocabulary which they represented.

The Books and the Parchments  
(page 159)

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BUST OF ZEUS.

Do you recognize this man? He bears a suspicious resemblance to the Greek Messiah worshipped in nominal churchianity. He has crept unawares into the Greek manuscripts of the New Testament in the form of *Theos*. Ponder this startling quote from *Greek and Roman Mythology*, Appendix I, Survivals of Ancient Greek Divinities and Myths in Modern Greece, p. 312: "*Only in a few localities, notably in Crete, does any form of the name of Zeus survive, but the god still lives under the title Θεός [Theos], a title so conveniently equivocal that the Christian can use it without heresy and at the same time square perfectly with the ancient pagan belief.*" Does your faith square perfectly with paganism, or do you worship the invisible Mighty One of Israel?

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