

The Whole Bible Was Written In Hebrew

The whole Bible; the Old Testament and the New Testament, were written in Hebrew. The New Testament was translated into Greek about 300 AD. Jesus and His disciples all spoke Hebrew and lived within the Jewish culture. Paul's original letters were written in Hebrew. Why it is assumed Jesus spoke Greek, is because the Bible was translated into Greek and the translations were adopted instead of the original Gospel. Many people are ignorant of the fact that the early Christian church was of wholly Jewish origin (Romans 11:17) and God has entrusted the Jews with His oracles, His intentions and His utterances (Romans 3:2). 'He declares His Word to Jacob; His statutes and His ordinances to Israel. He has not dealt with any other nation; they have not known His ordinances. Praise the Lord' (Psalm 147:19 & 20).

The Jews living in Jerusalem during the time of Jesus and the apostles, spoke and read Hebrew. It was one of the three main languages of the day and it is inconceivable to think that the high priests and the dedicated Jews spoke any other language. When Jesus preached in the synagogue, He would have spoken in Hebrew. Hebrew was frequently spoken and was written everywhere during the days of the New Testament. 'There is a gate in Jerusalem, a pool near the Sheep Gate. This pool in the Hebrew is called Bethesda' (John 5:2).

'There was an inscription above Him in letters of Greek, Latin and Hebrew: "This is the King of the Jews"' (Luke 23:38). 'Hearing this, Pilate brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgement seat at a place called the Pavement – in Hebrew, Gabbatha. And they took Jesus and led Him away; so He went out bearing His own cross, to the spot called The Place of the Skull – in Hebrew it is called Golgotha. Pilate wrote a title on a placard and put it on the cross. And the writing was: "Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews." And many of the Jews read this title for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city (Jerusalem), and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin and in Greek' (John 19:13, 17, 19 & 20)

Paul spoke and preached in Hebrew and could not even speak Greek. 'Just as Paul was about to be taken to the barracks, he asked the commandant, "May I say something to you?"

The commandant replied, "Can you speak Greek? Are you the Egyptian who not long ago stirred up a rebellion and led those 4,000 men who were cutthroats into the wilderness?"

Paul answered, "I am a Jew from Tarsus ... I beg you allow me to address the people."

'And when the commandant had granted Paul permission, Paul standing on the steps, gestured with his hand to the people and there was a hush. Then Paul spoke to them in Hebrew saying: "Brethren and fathers, listen to the defence which I now make in your presence." And when they heard that Paul addressed them in the Hebrew tongue, they were all the more quiet, and he continued ..."' (Acts 21:37 to 40 on to Acts 22:1 & 2).

The commandant obviously mistook Paul for someone else who was Egyptian, but we see that Paul had to gesture to the people to be quiet because he could not speak the language and it stands to reason, that when he began preaching in the Hebrew tongue, he would have continued preaching in Hebrew. If he could have spoken in Greek, why didn't he preach in Greek and not in Hebrew? It also stands to reason, at least that part of the book of Acts was written in Hebrew, because it is a record of what Paul was saying. If Paul could not speak Greek, logically, he couldn't write in Greek either and again logically, the epistles written by Paul were written in Hebrew. Another point here is; Paul often wrote in his own hand and rarely used a scribe, except as it is recorded in Romans 16:22. Read the verses that tell us Paul wrote in his own hand; 1 Corinthians 16:21; 2 Corinthians 13:10;

Colossians 4:18; 2 Thessalonians 3:17 and Philemon 1:21. In Philippians 3:5, Paul says he was born of the race of Israel, a Hebrew from the tribe of Benjamin. Jesus spoke to Paul (Saul) in the Hebrew language as Paul himself testifies. That would make sense if, as we have seen already, Paul could not speak Greek. 'And when we had all fallen to the ground, I (Paul) heard a voice in the Hebrew tongue saying to me, "Saul, Saul why do you persecute Me?" (Acts 26:14).

Jesus spoke Hebrew in Mark 14:36 while He was praying. He called God "Abba." Abba is the Hebrew word for a close paternal endearment. A little bit like we would say 'Darling Daddy', but with respect, reverence and adoration. Paul repeated the same Hebrew word 'Abba' in two of the epistles that he wrote; Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6. Obviously then, these epistles were written in Hebrew.

If we have a quick study of language, we see that every language and culture has its own structure and idioms, and Hebrew is no exception. The idioms within a particular language are fully comprehensive in that language and in no other. What we are trying to show here, is that the New Testament's original language was neither Greek nor was it Aramaic. To look at the history of the time, Israel had only recently overcome the might of the Greek/Syrian Empire and was then under the control of the Roman Empire. The Greek/Syrian Empire tried to force every person in their territory to speak Greek, however the Jews refused and after a mighty battle (the war of the Maccabees), the Jews retained their own land and their own unique language, while everyone else spoke Greek and Aramaic, which was the native Syrian language. When the Romans invaded, Latin was then introduced, but the Jews continued to speak Hebrew and retained their own culture. Jesus was born after the fall of the Grecian Empire and soon after the start of the Roman Empire; blending the two cultures. But, as we read earlier, Hebrew, Latin and Greek were still spoken regularly, in the same way that in today's Israel, Hebrew, Arabic and English are spoken. Since it is recorded in the scriptures that during Jesus and the apostle's time, the Jews spoke, read and wrote in the same Hebrew the Old Testament was written in, it is only natural that the New Testament should also be written in Hebrew. We are after all, dealing with the same country, race, culture, people and language.

We have researched this subject deeply to see if we could find any proof that the New Testament was written in Hebrew, and the Lord has helped us find many facts. The Dead Sea Scrolls found in the Judean wilderness included 40,000 fragments of scrolls, 600 partial manuscripts, 80 Old Testament chapters and the famous Temple Scroll and almost all of these writings were written in Hebrew. Out of the nine Hebrew scrolls, or 179 modern A4 pages, only the equivalent of 22 pages were in Aramaic. The Dead Sea scrolls state quite clearly that Hebrew was the language spoken and written at the time of Jesus.

There have been 5,366 manuscripts of the New Testament discovered written in Greek, and they all differ from one another and contain hundreds of variants, as they would if they were translations. In each of these manuscripts there are language idioms which are meaningless in Greek and only make sense in the Hebrew language. This can only be explained because they were all originally written in Hebrew and the content of the idioms were lost in translation.

When the four eyewitnesses to Jesus' ministry, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John recorded their testimonies in writing, they would have written in Hebrew because as we have seen, Jews at that time spoke, read and wrote in Hebrew. It wouldn't make sense to write their testimonies down in any other language because they were writing it down for the Jewish

people. The Gospel didn't go out to the Gentiles for a few years afterwards and Greeks were Gentiles.

To quote four ancient Christians who were church elders: Irenaeus; Elder of Lyons, Gaul (now France) (120 – 202 AD) "Matthew indeed, produced his Gospel written among the Hebrews in their own dialect."

Papias; Elder of Hierapolis (circa 150 AD) "Matthew put down the words of the Lord in the Hebrew language and others have translated them, each as best as he could."

Origen; (circa 225 AD) "The first Gospel composed in the Hebrew language was written by Matthew for those who came to faith from Judaism."

Eusebius; Elder of Caesarea (circa 325 AD) "Matthew had first preached to the Hebrews and when he was about to go to others also, he transmitted his Gospel in writing in his native language."

Ephiphanius and Jerome both translated the scriptures into Latin from Hebrew!

Looking at Hebraic idioms, one of the most common is the phrase 'Son of man'. Although well known in most languages, it is misunderstood and does not really mean anything except in Hebrew. In Genesis 5:2 we see that the first man was named Adam, which in Hebrew, translates as 'man'. When Jesus referred to Himself as the 'Son of Man', He would have said in Hebrew 'Ben Adam' which literally means 'Son of Adam'. 'Thus it is written; the first Adam became a living soul and the last Adam (Jesus) became a life-giving Spirit' (1Corinthians 15:45). In Luke 3:38 we see that Adam was referred to as the son of God and we know Jesus, the last Adam, is the Son of God. The phrase 'son of man' is written about 92 times in the Old Testament and 43 times in the New Testament. A common phrase in the Hebrew language today is 'here comes this Ben Adam' which translates into English as 'here comes this man'.

Further proof that Jesus spoke in Hebrew is found in Matthew 5:18; "Not one 'jot' and not one 'tittle' will pass away..." Only the Jews would have understood that idiom because it is from the Hebrew language. The 'jot' and 'tittle' are definitely not punctuation marks in the English language. Jesus spoke Hebrew and was referring to two letters in the Hebrew alphabet. A 'jot' in the Hebrew language is translated as 'yod' and is written like an upside down, capital 'L' and is the smallest of all the Hebrew letters. The 'tittle' is a tiny curve at the top of a letter like this ~ and is little more than a tiny stroke of a pen. The tittle was called the 'thorn' of the yod. So we can see that Jesus was definitely speaking in Hebrew when He said that about the 'jot' and 'tittle', and definitely not in Greek. It makes no sense in Greek. If we can understand this, what Jesus was saying was, "Not the tiniest letter or the notch on a letter will disappear from the law until everything has been completed – according to the will and purposes of God."

It is often said that the New Testament was written in uneducated (Koine) Greek, which is an inferior kind of Greek. That would seem the case if it were translated from the original language, Hebrew, into Greek and Aramaic, which make the Hebraic idioms meaningless. Another idiom is 'Shalom' which is still today, the most common Jewish greeting. Only in Hebrew does it make any real sense. The true translation of 'Shalom' into English is 'Peace be to you'. In English we would say, 'Hello, how are you?' not 'Peace be to you' for that phrase is not spoken in our culture; neither is it spoken in Greek.

Two main idioms of the Hebrew language/culture is answering a question with another question as Jesus did many times, and repeating oneself, either using the same words, or forming another sentence which means the same as the first sentence. Jesus did both. Jesus answered the Sanhedrin by asking another question in Luke 20:3; 'And He answered and said to them, "I will also ask you a question. Now answer Me'.'

Again in Matthew 19:3 & 4, when the Pharisees asked Jesus about the legalities of divorce, Jesus answered their question with another question; "Have you never read ...?"

Jesus repeated Himself in Matthew 27:46; "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which in English translates as "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?." If we take note here: Jesus spoke those words in Hebrew. The bystanders (the Romans who spoke Latin) could not understand what Jesus was crying out and thought He was calling for Elijah. There is another sensible piece of logic to think about here. At the time Jesus cried out, He would have been in extreme agony. He had just endured the most prolonged, agonising physical battering; He was hungry, thirsty, exhausted and in severe pain. He would not have stopped to think about what language He was using to cry out. In that situation, it is logical, He would have cried out in His most familiar tongue – the language He was raised with at home with His parents. Jesus cried out in Hebrew, and because He used Hebrew to voice His despair of the moment, so Hebrew would have logically been His first language; Latin and Greek would have been His secondary spoken languages.

The theory that the New Testament was written in Greek is a very modern theory, and was non-existent prior to 400 AD. When Jesus said in Revelation 1:8 & 11, and again in 22:13, "I am the Alpha and Omega" which are Greek words, it does not mean Jesus actually said that in the Greek language. Modern theorists have taken those words as 'proof' Jesus spoke Greek so therefore they assume whole New Testament was written in Greek. That is an awfully big assumption. Jesus certainly said those words, but He said it in Hebrew and the words were later translated from Hebrew into Greek. Let's look into this. The Hebrew alphabet begins with the two characters; aleph and beth. Written together, they are remarkably like the first two Greek characters; alpha and beta. The last letter of the Hebrew 'aleph-beth' (alphabet) is Taw, and the character for that letter is a 'T', which also signifies the cross. Translated, it means He is the Beginning and the End, and His end on earth as a flesh and blood human, was the cross. It is more logical for Jesus to have said, "I Am the Aleph – Taw" than for Him to have said it in Greek.

There is no more 'proof' Jesus spoke Greek than there is 'proof' the Israelites spoke Egyptian once they had exited Egypt. It is written that Joseph spoke Egyptian because he spoke to his family through an interpreter (Genesis 42:23). It is logical that Moses spoke both Egyptian and Hebrew because he was raised as an Egyptian prince and was educated in the Egyptian language, but once he left Egypt, he must have clung to the Hebrew language because we know that he wrote the first five books of the Bible in Hebrew. The Lord told Moses to write everything down stage by stage, rehearse it with Joshua, read it to the people and record the covenant so it could be kept by Israel (Exodus 17:14; 24:4 & 7; 34:27; Numbers 33:2). The fact that the Old Testament was written in Hebrew is proof enough that the Jews spoke Hebrew. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew right up to Malachi, the last book in the Old Testament which was penned about 430 BC. There was no break in the Hebrew language between the writing of Malachi and the war of the Maccabees in 160 BC. The war of the Maccabees was a rebellion against the Greek/Syrian Empire when they tried unsuccessfully to force the Jews to speak Greek and Aramaic (the Syrian language) and worship Greek gods [as mentioned earlier in this text]. The Jews won the war! Israel was made an independent nation and the Jews

continued with their own language and culture. It is not logical to assume that after fighting to retain their own language and culture, that the Jews would abandon it such a short time later. On the contrary, as we read in the New Testament, the written and spoken Hebrew language was everywhere.

The Hebrew language is the only language spoken in the synagogues when they read out the Hebrew scriptures just as Jesus did in Luke 4:15 to 22. It is written there that Jesus taught in the synagogue. He would have taught the Jews in their native tongue of Hebrew. There is also not one verse in the whole of the New Testament, where it is said that Jesus spoke Greek or Aramaic, but it is recorded several times that He spoke Hebrew.

To fill in the whole of what Jesus said in Revelation 22:13, we have to look at the whole sentence where His comment was repeated in three different ways; "I Am the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." We all know the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, so now turn to Isaiah 41:4; "I, The Lord – the First and the Last – I Am He."

In Isaiah 44:6; "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts; I Am the First and I Am the Last; besides Me there is no God."

Isaiah 48:12; "Listen to Me, My called ones; I Am He; I Am the First, I Am also the Last."

All of these quotes from the Old Testament were written in Hebrew in the exact same words Jesus spoke, and they have all been translated from the Hebrew into other languages. There is no proof that the New Testament was ever written in Greek and Aramaic – but there is proof it was translated from an original language into Greek, because the translations are so inferior. Mass printing did not exist 2,000 years ago, so all the copies of Paul's epistles were written by hand. There have been a few extremely fragile letters discovered in the original Hebrew text that are exactly the same as other letters written by Paul. There are no variants in the Hebrew-written letters, like there is in the letters translated into Koine Greek.

The assumption that the New Testament was written in Greek and Aramaic, was probably based on prejudices, and that attitude is prevalent in some churches today. The shocking and despicable history of the Christian church has had a consistent record of incessant anti-Semitism. From the beginning, there has been an evil motion away from anything Jewish. Even today, those who insist that the New Testament was written in Greek, have a very hard and incorrect attitude towards the Jews and Israel – almost to the point where they deny the church's Jewish roots. They forget that the promise was made to Abraham – who was a Hebrew and the father of the Hebrews (Genesis 14:13). His great-grandson (Abraham – Isaac – Jacob – Judah) is where the Jews obtain their name. Jesus springs from the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14).

A sustained campaign of de-Judaisation began with the Romans and continues to this day. The Romans tried to erase any trace of the Jews from Judea and Israel. Then after cruelly slaughtering thousands of Jews and expelling them, they then named the land Palestine. Israel is not Palestine. It is consistently called Israel in the Bible and that has never changed! From then on, Jews have been blamed for terrible things they would never do.

The name of our Lord in Hebrew is Yeshua not Jesus, which is Greek. He was given the new name of Jesus as part of the campaign to de-Judaise the New Testament. The name of one of Yeshua's brothers was Jacob, or in Hebrew; Yaaqob. When the King James

Bible was translated into English, the people who were translating it, substituted the name Jacob for James in deference to the King who had commissioned the work. Originally, the epistle of James was the epistle of Jacob. The Greek and Aramaic theories were not isolated mistakes, but very definitely a centuries-old campaign to de-Judaize the scriptures and make the church Jew-free, despite the fact the church is worshipping the Jewish God of Israel and the promised Messiah who was born in Israel – a Jewish Man from the tribe of Judah. The whole Bible was written by Jewish men in the ancient language of Hebrew. Here is another point to ponder. ‘The God of heaven shall set up a Kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people’ (Daniel 2:44). The sovereignty will never be left to any other nation – nor will it be left to another nation’s language. The Lord never dealt with any other nation – so it is not logical He would allow the Jewish salvation message to be preached – initially – in any other than the Hebrew language. The scriptures record that the Jews told non-Jews what God was saying; in essence, the Jews interpreted God’s will. We need to notice one important fact: The Lord never once, throughout the whole Bible, used an interpreter when He was speaking to His people, the Jews.

Here is another question relating to the Hebrew language. Is Hebrew spoken in heaven? Does this seem too far-reaching? Let’s look at some scriptures that show there is every possibility that Hebrew is indeed spoken in heaven. There are so many scriptures that tell us about God speaking directly to people we can’t add all of them, but here are a few. We do not know what language Noah’s family spoke, but we do know their experiences were recorded in Hebrew, as they were written by Moses at the Lord’s instruction. Noah’s son Shem was the ancestor of Eber, from whom the Hebrews spring from. Eber is mentioned in Genesis 11:21, 24 & 25. In Genesis 11:7 & 8 we read that the tri-une God confused the languages because of the sin that was unfolding due to the fact that every person spoke one language, and the population was then scattered upon the whole earth. Continuing from Genesis 11:10 to 26, we read the lineage of the Hebrews from Shem, right through to Abraham, and verses 14 to 17 again mention Eber. We can now safely deduce that Abraham’s family all spoke Hebrew, from at least Eber to Abraham, and we know that Abraham spoke Hebrew.

Look at Genesis 12:1; ‘The Lord said to Abram ...’ Since we know Abraham spoke Hebrew and for him to understand what God was saying, logically speaking, the Lord (God the Father) must have spoken to Abraham in Hebrew. Genesis 18:1 to 33; the Lord appeared to Abraham in the form of a Man (Jesus) and they had a lengthy conversation. How did Abraham understand the Lord (God the Son) unless He spoke to Abraham in Hebrew? Genesis 22:11; the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven, so again, Hebrew is shown to be spoken in heaven. The Angel of the Lord was Jesus before He was born on earth; see the sermon on this website titled ‘Jesus, Son of God; Angel of the Lord’.

From Exodus chapter 3, right through to Deuteronomy chapter 34, we read about the Lord and Moses speaking together dozens of times. Moses spoke Hebrew, he wrote his five books in Hebrew, so logically, God spoke to him in Hebrew.

Isaiah 6:3 tells us about how Isaiah himself was able to look into heaven. He saw God on His throne and heard seraphim worshipping God saying, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is filled with His glory.” Remember, Isaiah was looking into the throne room in heaven; so how did Isaiah understand what the seraphim were saying unless they were speaking in Hebrew?

In Ezekiel 1:1 to 27, we read about how Ezekiel saw into heaven. In verse 28 he heard a voice and fell on his face, then in 2:1 the Holy Spirit entered Ezekiel, spoke to him and set him upon his feet and then spoke to him about the children of Israel. The Lord spoke to Ezekiel numerous times after that. Ezekiel spoke Hebrew, so their conversations must have been in Hebrew for Ezekiel to understand.

Turn to Daniel 10:5 to 12:13. There we read about a very long conversation Daniel had with an angel about Israel. Again we ask, how did Daniel understand what the angel was saying unless the angel was speaking Hebrew?

In Judges 6:12 to 21, the Angel of the Lord (Jesus) spoke to Gideon and they spoke for some time before Jesus vanished from his sight. Again, their conversation must have been in Hebrew for Gideon to have understood.

In Luke 1:11 to 20 we read how Zachariah and the Archangel Gabriel chatted about the upcoming birth of John the Baptist. Further on in Luke 1:26 to 38, Gabriel told Mary about the birth of Jesus. As we know, the Jews spoke Hebrew, so Gabriel, the Archangel sent from heaven must have spoken Hebrew so they could understand him.

We know that the Apostle John and Jesus had a very close friendship while Jesus was on earth. In Revelation 1:9; Jesus is in heaven, but we have Jesus communicating to John through an angel. John spoke Hebrew so the angel must have, for John to have understood him. In Revelation 4:1, John describes his vision of heaven. Further on in the same chapter, we read in verse 8 where the four living creatures worship the Lord day and night by saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, Who was and Who is and Who is to come." Then in verses 10 & 11 the twenty-four elders cry out, "Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honour and dominion, for You created all things; by Your will they were created." The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders must have been worshipping in Hebrew for John to have understood what they were saying. The twenty-four elders were all Jewish men who had spoken Hebrew while on earth – so it is logical they would continue to speak Hebrew in heaven. See the sermon on this website titled 'Four Living Creatures and the Twenty-Four Elders',

In Revelation 22:8 John says he witnessed these things; in 22:16 Jesus says He sent an angel to John. We know Jesus spoke Hebrew while on earth. We know John spoke Hebrew so here we have John and Jesus speaking once again in Hebrew; otherwise, how would John have understood what Jesus said to him from heaven?

So here we see in the Old Testament that God the Father speaks Hebrew, God the Son as the Angel of the Lord spoke Hebrew, the Holy Spirit speaks Hebrew, Our risen Lord still speaks in Hebrew as He did on earth, the seraphim speak Hebrew, angels speak Hebrew, we see the twenty-four elders, all of whom were Jewish men now in heaven, worshipping God and speaking Hebrew – in heaven, the four living creatures worship in Hebrew and we know they are in heaven, Gabriel spoke Hebrew, so we can come to the logical conclusion, that Hebrew is the main language spoken in heaven. There may be other languages, but they are not recorded in the scriptures. Hallelujah!

Amen and God bless you.

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