

## **YESHUA: JESUS — “YHWH Saves”**

“She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Yeshua [He Saves], because he will save his people from their sins.” (Matt. 1:21)

What in the world was going on? Joseph had to think that his world was crumbling around him! He was engaged to Mary, and now she’s pregnant?! He had never touched her! Surely she wouldn’t betray him like that! Well, he would break the engagement privately, and just send her away. He didn’t want to shame her publicly. How could this have happened? Just while he was thinking about all of this, an angel appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, descendant of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She is pregnant by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Yeshua [He Saves], because he will save his people from their sins.” (Matt. 1:21). Pregnant by the Holy Spirit! When Joseph woke up, he obeyed the angel and took Mary to be his wife. The Bible says that he did not have marital relations with her until after she gave birth to a son. He named him, “Yeshua”, as per the instructions of the angel. The first time that we encounter the name “Yeshua” in the Bible is in the Old Testament. It is a shortened version of the name “Yehoshua” or “Joshua” and is the literal Hebrew word for “Salvation”.

The ancient name for Jesus was “Yeshua”. That was the name that He was probably called as a child growing up in His home. “Jesus” is a Greek transliteration of the word, “Yeshua”, which means, “YHWH is salvation”. Yeshua is a Hebrew name that indicates God’s power to save. He saves His people “from”, not “in” their sins. It is interesting that many today don’t want to acknowledge sin. They think that to do so is to insult people, or demean them in some way. There are even some evangelical preachers who won’t preach about the cross, repentance, or the blood of Jesus. That suits Satan just fine. You see, if we can’t call sin by its rightful name, then we can’t realize our need for a Savior. Someone had to pay the price for mankind’s sin. Someone had to remove the wall of separation that sin creates between us and our Creator, our Elohim.

How wonderful to have a God who would assume our form, live a sinless and holy life, allow Himself to be crucified in order to pay the price for the sins of mankind, and then promise to return to take us home with

Him! If you want to get a good sense of who Yeshua was and is, read the gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They outline his birth, life death, and resurrection. They explain His purpose and mission. He loves everyone, no matter how distant they may feel from Him. Yeshua said that He came to seek and to save that which was lost. Is that you?

When we read in the Bible about Yeshua (Jesus), we realize the power that He has, not only to save, but to transform. Not only to transform, but to deliver us from the evil forces that seek to destroy us. Samuel had to find this out for himself.

## **Samuel J.'s Story**

Samuel knew that he was gay at a very young age. Born in Iraq Kurdistan into a Muslim family, he knew that his same-sex attraction was socially tabooed. At 15 he moved to Sweden as a refugee. He thought that he would at last be happy and able to live his life freely as a gay man. Instead, he became more and more depressed.

Eleven years later, Samuel packed his bags and moved to Los Angeles where he lived for about 17 years. It was in Los Angeles that he became recognized as the 24th most successful realtor in the nation. It was in Los Angeles that he lived the "high life" with private jets, multiple lovers, and lots of money. But he couldn't have been more unhappy. He began to look for happiness and peace in the New Age movement. He did yoga, practiced Transcendental Meditation, tried hypnosis, and even became a level 3 Reiki Master. He was still miserable.

One night, he was at a party with his boyfriend at the time, when he met a handsome guy who said that he had left homosexuality and had given his life to Jesus Christ. Samuel thought to himself, "Poor guy, someone has brainwashed him." Samuel, by his own admission, was a proud gay man who would get angry if anyone implied that homosexuality was something to be saved from.

Six months later, his niece, Vala, who was one of his closest friends who had been struggling with drug addiction since she was 13, also said that she met Jesus Christ, and Samuel saw how she was set free from all depression and drug use. It was a true miracle!

This really got Samuel thinking that maybe he too should get to know Jesus. If Jesus could help the guy at the party, and set his niece free from drugs and depression, could He do the same thing for him?

Samuel decided to surrender his life to Jesus Christ, and he says it's the best decision that he ever made. He said that he's never had more peace and joy in his life than he does now. Samuel said, "I have been saved about 2 years now and the peace and joy that I have surpasses all human understanding. I do not miss anything from my old life. Jesus Christ has given me victory over homosexuality. When I tell people that I have repented from homosexuality and I follow Christ, many feel sorry for me and think that I am denying my identity or that I turned my back on the gay community. But the truth is that God has saved me from a life of pain and selfishness and self destruction. I wish more people would give Jesus a chance. One of my favorite Bible verses is: ".....I COUNT ALL THINGS BUT LOSS FOR THE EXCELLENCY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS MY LORD: FOR WHOM I HAVE SUFFERED THE LOSS OF ALL THINGS, AND DO COUNT THEM BUT DUNG, THAT I MAY KNOW CHRIST." PHILLIPPIANS 3:8 (KJV)

Only Yeshua, Jesus, has the power to change a life. He removes despair and replaces it with joy and peace. Samuel found out for himself. What about you? Do you want to find out for yourself just what He has to offer? Romans 10: 9,10 says, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus (Yeshua) and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

You may have been given this book as a gift, or you may have picked it up somewhere. Just know that it's no coincidence that you're reading this. Whether you're a seasoned Christian, or a curious agnostic, renewing or accepting Yeshua as your Savior is life changing. Samuel saw the transforming power of the Lord as demonstrated in his formerly gay acquaintance, and in his previously drug addicted and depressed niece, Vala, (whose testimony, by the way, is also in this book). Samuel made a DECISION to give Yeshua a try, and it's a decision that he has not regretted. Won't you decide for Yeshua today? What do you have to lose? You won't regret it, and I promise, your life will never be the same again!

