

## His Very Words, Part 1

### A Fresh Look at New Testament Terms

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I'll start with a quick overview of the Bible's origin before sharing a fresh list of New Testament terms that will lead us into awe of His beautiful words and encourage us on our journey.

#### Original Languages

The Old Testament was originally recorded in Hebrew with a few spots of Aramaic in the books of Daniel and Ezra. The New Testament was originally recorded in Hebrew by Jewish disciples of Yeshua (Jesus), except for Luke who was Greek (however, Luke gathered the Hebrew writings).

The Hebrew writings were then translated into Greek because it was the language spoken throughout the Roman empire during the first century. This Greek translation was subsequently used to translate the Bible into more languages including English.

Just as with English, the Hebrew language that underlies all translations is filled with words and idioms understood only in the Jewish culture. We must study to understand them. You may find some of these studies at [ShaleFragments.com/In His Dust](https://ShaleFragments.com/InHisDust).

#### Early Manuscripts

No original documents exist of the Scriptures but only thousands of copies called *manuscripts*. These manuscripts were copied by hand repeatedly over 1,400 years for the New Testament and longer for the Old Testament. The thousands of early New Testament manuscripts are consistent with one another and, therefore, are reliable. Later manuscripts show inconsistencies after biases were inserted. Therefore, it is important to study translations based on the earlier manuscripts.

#### Translations

There are different types of translations. A *literal* translation is one that translates word-to-word rather than thought-to-thought or in paraphrase form. A literal translation keeps the English words in the same order as the Greek words. Each Greek word is given an English word closest to its meaning. This is often very difficult to do.

Key English words used in the New Testament were often *transliterated* from the Greek by the translator rather than choosing the best English word. A transliteration is the creation of a new word using the closest corresponding letters of a different alphabet. For example, the word *baptism* comes from the Greek *baptizmo* which means *immersion*. When the Church of England translated the Greek texts, they were in a quandary because they did not immerse. So, they created the word *baptize*. Unfortunately, these transliterated terms have often masked the true meaning of the original Hebrew word and its intent, creating misunderstanding, confusion, and even division in the body of Messiah.

Other key English words have been coined over time, such as *church* and *cross*. The average person associates these terms only with Christianity. Since words can be powerful bridges or barriers, shedding the baggage associated with these terms and using clearer words descriptive of their true meaning will help us to make the Gospel clearer when sharing with those who don't yet know Yeshua and His love.

With the help of Dr. Dwight Pryor of *The Center for Judaic Christian Studies*, Kevin Geoffrey of *Perfect Word Ministries*, and my own study, I have given a fresh look at 25 commonly-used New Testament words. Each word is followed by the Greek word from which it was translated or transliterated, followed by the Hebrew word from which the Greek was translated, and finally the word that most clearly conveys the original Hebrew intent. I have added my own thoughts underneath each word. Each of the 25 words below can be used for one Bible study as you discuss them among one another and search for corresponding verses.

| <b>English</b>  | <b>Greek / Pronunciation</b>         | <b>Hebrew / Pronunciation</b> | <b>Best Word</b>                             |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. <b>Angel</b><br>Some angels have wings (such as the cherubin and seraphim), but wings are not specified in most appearances. About these messengers, the author of Hebrews wrote, "Are they not all ministering spirits sent to give service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14)   | angelos / ang' el-os                 | mal'āk / mal-awk'             | <b>Messenger</b> , ambassador                |
| 2. <b>Apostle</b><br>We are all ambassadors of Messiah, but some people are specifically sent out to other regions, such as Paul.   | Apostolos / ap-os'-tol-os            |                               | <b>Emissary</b> , a person sent on a mission |
| 3. <b>Baptism</b><br><i>Tâbal</i> or <i>immersion</i> was a foreshadow of the Holy Spirit. We are immersed in the Holy Spirit when we receive Jesus. For more about immersion and the Holy Spirit, please read <i>In His Dust - 7. Immersion and the Spirit</i> at ShaleFragments.com   | baptizmo / bap-tiz'-mo               | tâbal / taw-bal'              | <b>Immerse</b> , dip, or plunge.             |
| 4. <b>Bishop</b><br>An overseer is not an office in an organization, but a function in the organism called the Body of Christ with Christ as the head.  | episkopos / ep-is'-kop-os            | tâbal / taw-bal'              | <b>Overseer</b> , watchman                   |
| 5. <b>Church</b><br>Thoughts from Dwight Pryor – The word <i>edah</i> was first used in the New Testament at Yeshua's last Passover. <i>Edah</i> is the <i>called-forth ones</i> of Yeshua created in crisis, forged in the redemption of Passover in the New Covenant in His blood, expressed in a united <i>community</i> of priests, and called in commitment to bear witness to Him, <i>citizens</i> of a new kingdom, a <i>body</i> to be Yeshua's body with Yeshua as the Head, the <i>incarnation</i> of the fullness of Him, a <i>body</i> with functions not offices, an <i>organism</i> not an organization, born again by the Holy Spirit for His purposes. It is not a building or a place we go, although a building can be used as a gathering place for the Called-Forth Ones. | ekklesiá / ek-klay-see' ah           | edah / ā-dah'                 | <b>The Called-Forth</b> , the Summoned       |
| 6. <b>Cross</b><br>The Roman execution stake in the first century was shaped like a T. The original Greek translation uses only the word <i>stake</i> , not <i>execution</i> , telling us that everyone was familiar with the <i>stake</i> and what it was used for; these executions were common. When we are called to pick up our <i>stake</i> daily, it means we choose His will over our own, love Him first, and we are willing to obey to the point of death. (Luke 9:23)  | stauros / stow-ros'                  |                               | <b>Stake</b>                                 |
| 7. <b>Deacon</b><br><i>Diákonos</i> is mentioned five times in the New Testament, in Philippians and 1 Timothy. Yeshua said at the last Passover meal with His disciples, "I am among you as one who serves." (Luke 22:27)  | diákonos / dee-ak'-on-os             |                               | <b>Server</b>                                |
| 8. <b>Devil</b><br>Our enemy's identity is accusation. Any time we are accused, we know the origin, because God does not accuse us; He may lovingly nudge or warn us, but He has declared us righteous solely because we have received Yeshua's payment for our sin.  | diábolos / dee-ab'-ol-os             |                               | <b>Accuser</b>                               |
| 9. <b>Elders, Eldresses</b><br>Both are from the same Greek word and refer to the respected older people in the community. See Titus 2:2-3.   | presbuteros / pres-boo'-ter-os       |                               | <b>Older men and women</b> , Seniors         |
| 10. <b>Evangelist</b><br>A proclaimer is not someone who tries to convert another person but someone who simply proclaims the message of salvation through Yeshua. Paul said he did not come with "persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power." (1 Corinthians 2:4) Also see Isaiah 52:7 and Romans 10:15. <i>Shâma</i> means proclaim, sound aloud, hear, and obey depending on its context.  | euaggelistés / yoo-ang-ghel-is-tace' | shâma / shaw-mah'             | <b>Proclaimer of Good News</b>               |

11. **Fellowship**      koinonia / *koy-nohn-ee' ah*      **Sharing in His life**
12. **Grace**      charis / *khar' ece*      **Unmerited favor**
13. **Justified**      dikaiōō / *dik-ah-yo'-o*      **Declared righteous**
14. **Kingdom**      basileia / *bas-il-l' ah*      **Reign**  
The kingdom of heaven (or of God) is the realm over which God reigns. It is the place or sphere where everything is in order and at peace. For a short time, evil is present, but one day it will be destroyed.
15. **Lord**      kurios / *koo' ree-os*      Adonai / *A-do-nigh'*      **Master**
16. **Parable**      parabole / *par-ab-ol-ay'*      **Analogy**  
A parable is an analogy which is the comparison of two similar concepts to illustrate a lesson or story.
17. **Pastor**      poimén / *poy-mane'*      ra'ah / *raw-aw'*      **Shepherd**  
*Pastor* is a function in the body or community of Messiah that describes a person who is gifted in selflessly nurturing, feeding, protecting, counseling, and overseeing a flock of people. There may be many pastors in a community, some who are not even noticed. Mothers particularly have the gift to nurture and counsel in this way, but men also are gifted to care for the flock.
18. **Preach**      euaggelizō / *yoo-ang-ghel-id' zo*      **Proclaim**  
The word *preach* is not a likable word to most people. It connotes judgment, condescension, and pushiness. *Preachy* to us means *insensitive* and *self-righteous*. We don't preach the Good News, we proclaim it because we want to share our joy! See the notes for *Evangelist*.
19. **Repent**      metanoia / *met-an' oy-ah*      shûb / *shoob*      **Return, Reform**  
*Repent* is a change of mind resulting in a change of action. *Shûbâ* is a change of mind to *turn* from evil and *return* to God. "In returning (*shûbâ*) and rest you will be saved; in quietness and trust is your strength." Isaiah 30:15
20. **Sanctify**      hagiazo / *hag-ee-ad' zo*      qadash / *kaw-dash'*      **Set apart**  
This word means *set apart*, *consecrate*, *hallow*, *prepare* for a purpose. As followers of Yeshua, we have been set apart for His purposes. To be *sanctified* is to be distinct from the common.
21. **Supplication**      hiketéria / *hik-et-ay-ree' ah*      **Asking for help**  
I remember being taught that supplication meant praying for others when in fact it means simply to ask for help for yourself or someone else. *Supplication* is comes from the Latin verb *supplicare*.
22. **Transfigured**      metamorfo'o / *met-am-or-fo'-o*      **Transformed**
23. **Tribulation**      thlipsis / *thlip' sis*      sar      **Oppression**  
The Greek and Hebrew words mean *pressure*, *what constricts or rubs together*, or *a narrow place* that "hems someone in"; it can mean *internal pressure* that causes someone to feel confined or restricted without options. Many life events constrict us, such as disease, disability, loss, anxiety, prison, manipulation, abuse, war, etc.
24. **Jesus**      Iêsous / *ee-ay-sooce'*      Yeshua / *Yeh-shoo'-ah*      **Jesus or Yeshua**  
*Yeshua* means *salvation*. We are saved when we receive the Holy Spirit and come into a relationship with the Father through Him. Salvation is for now and eternity.
25. **Christ**      Christos      ha Mashiach / *maw-shee'-akh*      **the Messiah**  
These words mean *The Anointed of God*. Yeshua (Jesus) is *the Anointed King* Who was to come – the long-awaited Messiah God promised His people, spoken about through the prophets. The act of anointing with oil meant that it was God Himself who had given the authority. (Micah 5:2; 1 Chronicles 17:11-14; Genesis 49:10; Zechariah 9:9/John 12:13; Psalm 72:8-11,15; Isaiah 60:3,5-6)