There is a controversy rising today concerning the use of the word ‘shua’ as it relates to the Name of the Messiah. This controversy rises due to a certain people who attempt to cause division, claiming to know something that they clearly do not.

The Name of the Messiah is the same as the name of the man called Joshua. In the Tanak, the name Joshua is spelled in two ways: (Hebrew is read from right to left)

**יהושׁע** is found in 198 verses and used **216** times, while **יהושׁוע** is found in Deuteronomy 3:21 and Judges 2:7 used **2** times, for a total of **218** times.

This confusion has two parts, the first comes from the two different ways this name is spelled in Hebrew.

**H3091 - יְהוֹשֻׁעַ** (yehôshûa‛) and **יְהוֹשׁוּעַ** (yehôshûa‛), both pronounced “yeh-ho-shoo'-ah”

You see that both forms of spelling are mentioned here, and a concordance will tell you that these two forms both come from the combination of the following words:

From **יְהֹוָה** (H3068), which is the Name of the Creator/Father given in the Tanak and transliterated as “yehôvâh” according to Jewish and Christian teachers, but is more accurately transliterated as “Yahuah”, “Yahwah”, “Yahueh” or “Yahweh”.

And

From **יָשַׁע** (H3467) yâsha‛, which is a primitive root; properly to be open, wide or free.

However, the addition of the second (**ו**) in **יהושׁוע** is the combination of the Name of the Creator/Father (Yah) and the Hebrew word:

**יֵשׁוּעַ** (H3442) yêshûa‛, which is the masculine form of **יְשׁוּעָה** (H3444), and means “something saved or deliverance/salvation”.

So, we have “yasha”, the primary root of the word “yesha” (H3468), meaning “saved or salvation” and can be translated as “he saves”, and “yeshua”, meaning “salvation” and can be translated as “he saves or his salvation”.

Whether you call the Messiah, “Yahusha” (Yah saves) or “Yahushua” (Yah’s salvation) is immaterial because they mean the same thing. If you choose to drop the first (**ו**) or ‘u’ in the Name and call Him “Yahshua”, is immaterial because it is still the Name, just as “Yahweh or Yahuah” and “Yah” are still the Name of the Creator/Father.

The other point of confusion arises from the two words that can be transliterated as ‘shua’ in English but are NOT spelled the same in Hebrew and thus, they mean two different things.

The first is **שַׁו**, which is transliterated as “shav or shab” and means “desolate, useless or evil (as in destructive)”. This word is sometimes spelled **שָׁוְא**, in Hebrew, which is still transliterated as “shav or shab” because the last letter (**א**)is generally understood to be silent when spoken.

The other spelling of this word is **שׁוע**, which is transliterated as ‘shua’, generally.

As you can see, these two words are not spelled the same, the first ending in an aleph (**א**) and the other ending in an ayin (**ע**).

It is true that both these letters are typically understood to be silent letters that produce a guttural stop in the word when pronounced and it is also true that both letters are sometimes pronounced as vowels when a vowel point or nikkud is added to them.

The patriarch Yahudah (Judah) was married to a Canaanite woman named ‘Shua’ who bore him three sons. This woman’s name is listed in the Strong’s Concordance as H7770 and comes from the primary root **שָׁוַע** (H7768), which means “to be free” or saved.

In what is called the Third Commandment, we are told to not take the Name of YHWH in vain, or bring it to nothing. In that passage the word vain/nothing is **שָׁוְא** (H7723), which comes from the word **שׁוֹא** (H7722), meaning destruction, and itself comes from an unused root that means, “to rush over” like a storm or flood.

The word **שׁוֹא** (H7722), is pronounced “sho” or “sho’ah” (שֹׁאָה ,שׁוֹאָה) and not ‘shav or shua’. So, as you can see, the word ‘shua’, meaning destruction and the word ‘shua’, meaning salvation, are NOT the same word.

In conclusion, the word **שׁוֹא** is found in 58 verses and used 63 times as far as I can tell. It is translated as vain, false, vanity, desolate, lying, lies, destruction, destroy, etc., and as the name ‘Sheva’ in 1Chr 2:29.

In each of the cases mentioned the word **שׁוֹא** is pronounced as “shav” in Hebrew. I have not yet found in instance where it is pronounced as “shua” or something similar, except in a name such is mentioned above.

If this word was used in conjunction with the Name, Yah, it would likely be pronounced as Yahushav and may mean something like “Yah destroys”, but I know of no instance where that is true.

IF you sounded out the letters of **שׁוֹא** strictly, without vowel points, you could possibly come up with a pronunciation of “sh-oo-ah”, however, I have never seen or heard it used in this way and even if it was, it does not mean the same thing as the word **שׁוע**, they are two different words.