Isaiah 7:14

Debunking Jewish Objections to the Virgin Birth

by: Tim Kelley

amiyisrael.org
NKJ Matthew 1:22-23 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."
NKJ **Matthew 1:22-23** So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

NKJ **Matthew 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.
To Debunk the Virgin Birth

You could claim that Mary was not a virgin at the time of Yeshua’s birth as did Yeshua’s opposition, but in doing so, you would be validating the New Testament.

You could claim that Matthew mis-understood the prophecy when he implied that the prophecy was fulfilled with birth of Yeshua.
To Debunk the Virgin Birth

Bible Question: Is Isaiah 7:14-16 talking about Jesus?
www.neverthirsty.org/pp/corner/read2/r00655.html

Bible Answer: Isaiah 7:14 is one of the great prophetic passages of the Old ... The word is used in Genesis 24:43 to refer to a woman - "maidens" - who was ...

Dual Prophecy' and the Virgin Birth | Outreach Judaism
outreachjudaism.org/dual-prophecy-virgin-birth

The context is only for the first application of this double prophecy. ... As mentioned earlier, the word "virgin" does not appear in the seventh chapter of Isaiah ... Isaiah 7:14 out of context and utilize it to support his infancy narrative of Jesus. ... In other words, if Christians claim that the virgin birth of Isaiah 7:14 was fulfilled on ...

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Did Isaiah Prophecy the Virgin Birth of Christ? : Christian ...
https://www.christiancourier.com/.../461-did-isaiah-prophecy-the-virgin-

What is the truth about Isaiah 7:14? ... It is then further said that Matthew took that text and applied it to Jesus' birth, though, allegedly, this was not the ... Nowhere in the Bible or elsewhere does almah mean anything but a virgin (1967, 6).

Isaiah 7:14 - creation.com
creation.com/isaiah-714  Creation Ministries International  Dec 20, 2011 - Is Isaiah 7:14 exclusively a prophecy of Jesus birth? ... And Matthew applied this prediction to Jesus' birth. But how does a birth 700 years after Ahaz
NKJ Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin (almah) shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."
1) “almah” does not mean “virgin”, but instead, it means “young woman” or “maiden”

2) If God wanted to say “virgin” in the passage, He would have used the word “betulah”

3) And since the first two claims are (in their minds) “true, then the prophecy has nothing to do with the Messiah and was fulfilled in Isaiah’s second son.
Daniel Gruber

“God, the Rabbis, and the Virgin Birth”
Elijah Publishing, Hanover, NH
Claim #1 – “Almah” does not mean “virgin”

1. “almah” does not mean “virgin”, but instead, it means “young woman” or “maid”
Claim #1 – “Almah” does not mean “virgin”

*almah* - עַלְמָה – Strong’s 5959
- a girl who is at marriageable age
- a virgin

*root = alam* - יָלַמ – Strong’s 5956
- to conceal
- be hidden
Claim #1 – “Almah” does not mean “virgin”

NKJV Leviticus 4:13 Now if the whole congregation of Israel sins unintentionally, and the thing is hidden (alam) from the eyes of the assembly . . .
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NKJ Leviticus 20:4 'And if the people of the land should in any way hide *(alam)* their eyes from the man, when he gives *some* of his descendants to Molech, and they do not kill him,
**Claim #1 – “Almah” does not mean “virgin”**

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**NKJ Leviticus 18:9** 'The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, whether born at home or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover.
NKJ **Genesis 24:43** 'behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass that when the virgin (almah) comes out to draw water, and I say to her, "Please give me a little water from your pitcher to drink . . ."
ESV **Genesis 24:16** The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a maiden whom no man had known. She went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up.
**Claim #1 – “Almah” does not mean “virgin”**

*NKJ* Exodus 2:8  . . . "Go." So the maiden (*almah*) went and called the child's mother.
Claim #1 – “Almah” does not mean “virgin”

**NKJ Psalm 68:25** The singers went before, the players on instruments *followed* after; Among *them were* the maidens (*alamot*) playing timbrels.
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**NKJ Psalm 68:25** The singers went before, the players on instruments *followed* after; Among *them were* the maidens (*alamot*) playing timbrels.

**NKJ Proverbs 30:19-20** The way of an eagle in the air, The way of a serpent on a rock, The way of a ship in the midst of the sea, And the way of a man with a virgin.  

20 This *is* the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, And says, "I have done no wickedness."
**Claim #1 – “Almah” does not mean “virgin”**

**NKJ Song of Solomon 1:3**
Because of the fragrance of your good ointments, Your name is ointment poured forth; Therefore the virgins (alamot) love you.
**Claim #1 – “Almah” does not mean “virgin”**

**NKJ Song of Solomon 1:3**
Because of the fragrance of your good ointments, Your name is ointment poured forth; Therefore the virgins (alamot) love you.

**NKJ Song of Solomon 6:8**
There are sixty queens And eighty concubines, And virgins (alamot) without number.
LXE Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin (parthenos) shall conceive in the womb, and shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Emmanuel.
Does “almah” mean “young woman” or “maiden”?

“Yes, it does, but in the Hebraic context of the scripture, the almah is also a virgin.”
Claim #2 – “God would have used “betulah”

1. If God wanted to say “virgin” in the passage, He would have used the word “betulah”
Claim #2 – “God would have used “betulah”

**betulah** - בְתוּלָה – Strong’s 1330
- a virgin (BDB)

**root = vatal** - בָּתָל (Arabic)
- to separate
- not used in scripture
NKJ Genesis 24:16 Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin (betulah); no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up.
Claim #2 – “God would have used “betulah”

NKJ Deuteronomy 22:13-15  13 " If any man takes a wife, and goes in to her, and detests her,  14 "and charges her with shameful conduct, and brings a bad name on her, and says, 'I took this woman, and when I came to her I found she was not a virgin (betulah),'  15 "then the father and mother of the young woman shall take and bring out the evidence of the young woman's virginity (betulim) to the elders of the city at the gate.
Claim #2 – “God would have used “betulah”"

**NKJ Exodus 22:16** "If a man entices a virgin (betulah) who is not betrothed, and lies with her, he shall surely pay the bride-price for her *to be* his wife."
JPS Tnakh (Jewish Publication Society) translates “betulah” as “maid” or “maiden” in the following verses:

- Job 31:1
- Zech. 9:17
- 2 Chron. 37:17
- Psalm 148:12
- Jeremiah 2:32
- Jeremiah 51:22,
- Lamentations 5:11
- Ezekiel 9:6
“The Talmud itself speaks of betulah in ambiguous terms, distinguishing between a betulah and a betulah shleymah, i.e. a perfect virgin. (cv. Yeb. 60b) In other words, betulah shleymah means one who is physically a virgin, but betulah does not, except by inference.”

D. Gruber
Claim #2 – “God would have used “betulah”

“In fact, there is an explicit statement in the Talmud that betulah only designates a young woman, nothing more. “R. Nahman b Isaac explained: It is the opinion of the following Tanna. For it was taught: A betulah; the only meaning of betulah is young woman (na’arah); and so it is said in Scripture, ‘and the young woman (na’arah) was fair to look upon, a betulah’ “

D. Gruber
Claim #2 – “God would have used “betulah”

**NKJ Judges 21:12** So they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead four hundred young virgins (betulah) who had not known a man intimately; and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.
Claim #2 – “God would have used “betulah”

2. Is it correct that if God wanted to say “virgin” in the passage, He would have used the word “betulah”

No! – “almah” is the correct word
“almah” never applies to a woman who is clearly NOT a virgin.
3. the prophecy has nothing to do with the Messiah and was fulfilled in Isaiah’s second son.
Claim #3 – “has nothing to do with Messiah”

NKJV Isaiah 7:7 'thus says the Lord GOD: "It shall not stand, Nor shall it come to pass.”
**Claim #3 – “has nothing to do with Messiah”**

**NKJ Isaiah 7:14-17**  
14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.  
15 "Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good.  
16 "For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings.  
17 "The LORD will bring the king of Assyria upon you and your people and your father's house -- days that have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah."
Claim #3 – “has nothing to do with Messiah”

NKJ Isaiah 8:3-4  "Call his name Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz;  
4 "for before the child shall have knowledge to cry 'My father' and 'My mother,' the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be taken away before the king of Assyria."
Claim #3 – “has nothing to do with Messiah”

NKJ Isaiah 8:3-4  "Call his name Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz;
4 "for before the child shall have knowledge to cry 'My father' and 'My mother,' the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be taken away before the king of Assyria."

Immanuel – “God with us”
Problems with the rabbis’ scenario –

• Would the prophetess having a baby be a sign?
• Would the prophetess being a “maiden” be a sign
• Did God ever call Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz - Immanuel?
If Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz is Immanuel, then –

• Is the land of Israel “His Land”? Isaiah 8:8
  ➢ Only two had ever been told that the land is theirs, they are:
    ➢ King David
    ➢ YHVH

• Will he inherit the throne of David? (Isaiah 9:7)
  ➢ Was Isaiah from the tribe of Judah
  ➢ Did Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz reign over a united kingdom?
3. Is it correct to say that the prophecy has nothing to do with the Messiah and was fulfilled in Isaiah’s second son.

No! – the prophecy could not be fulfilled in Isaiah’s son

- His birth was not a “sign”
- He lived at the wrong time in history
- He was not of the lineage of King David
The rabbis are wrong on all three claims!

- The *almah* of Isaiah 7:14 is indeed a virgin
- God was correct in using the word “almah” (that always implies a virgin) instead of “betulah” which only sometimes defines a virgin
- Isaiah’s second son did not fulfill the prophecy of Immanuel
Peace be Unto You