

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."

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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

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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 - "maiden" - 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

the “almah”

^{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.

Jewish Claims

- 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.

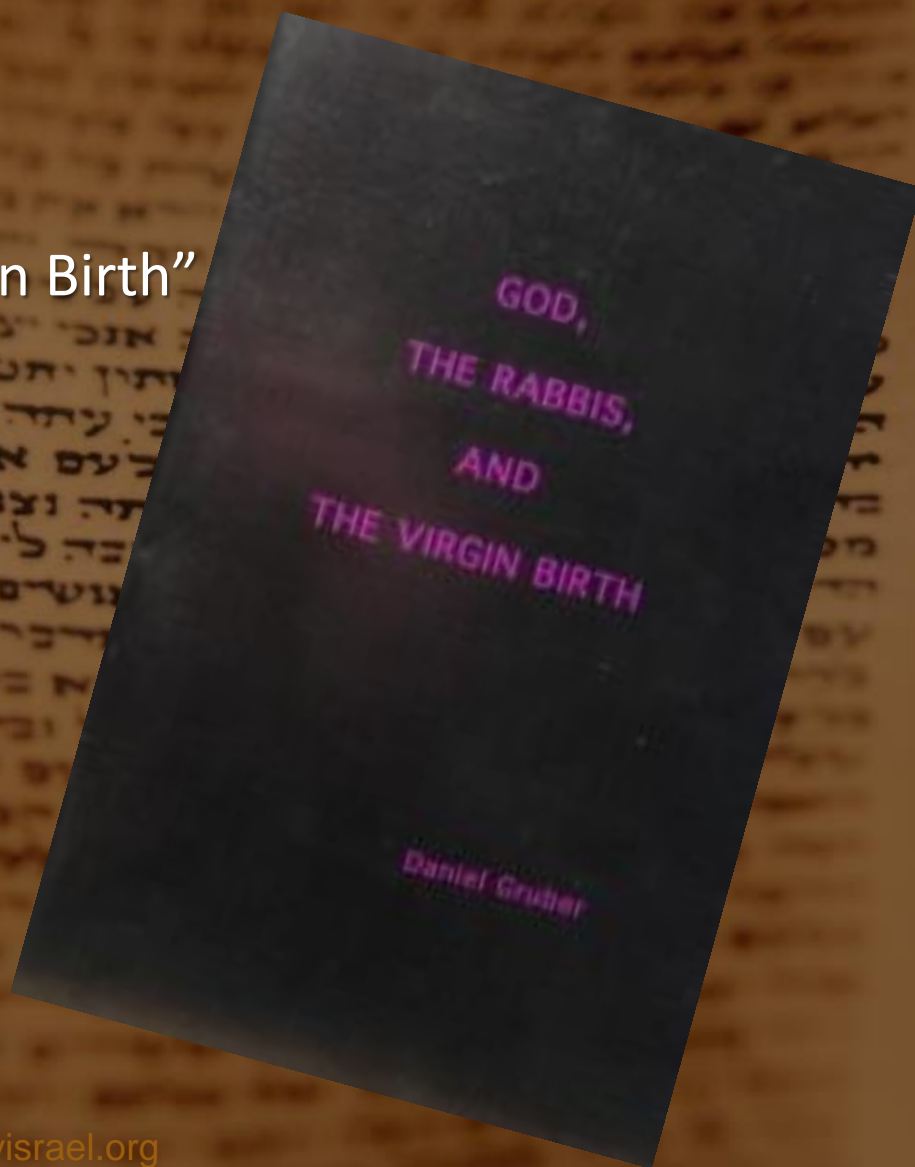
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Daniel Gruber

“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 “maiden”

Claim #1 – “Almah” does not mean “virgin”

-  *almah* - עַלְמָה – Strong’s 5959
- a girl who is at marriageable age
 - a virgin
-  root = *alam* - יָלַם – Strong’s 5956
- to conceal
 - be hidden

Claim #1 – “Almah” does not mean “virgin”

^{NKJ} 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 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.

Claim #1 – “Almah” does not mean “virgin”

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 . . ."



Claim #1 – “Almah” does not mean “virgin”

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} **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.



Fig. 3

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.



Claim #1 – “Almah” does not mean “virgin”

^{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.

Claim #1 – “Almah” does not mean “virgin”

Does “almah” means “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* - בְּתוּלָה – Strong’s 1330

- a virgin (BDB)

 root = *vatal* - בתל (Arabic)

- to separate
- not used in scripture

Claim #2 – “God would have used “betulah”

^{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.

Claim #2 – “God would have used “betulah”

JPS Tnakh (Jewish Publication Society) translates “betulah” as “maid” or “maiden” in the following verses:

Job 31:1

Jeremiah 2:32

Zech. 9:17

Jeremiah 51:22,

2 Chron. 37:17

Lamentations 5:11

Psalms 148:12

Ezekiel 9:6

Claim #2 – “God would have used “*betulah*”

“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.

Claim #3 – “has nothing to do with Messiah”

^{NKJ} **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**;
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“To haste spoil, enjoy prey.”

Claim #3 – “has nothing to do with Messiah”

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Immanuel – “God with us”

Claim #3 – “has nothing to do with Messiah”



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?

Claim #3 – “has nothing to do with Messiah”

🦁 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 (2 Samuel 24:13)
 - 🦁 YHVH (Psalm 82:1)
- 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?

Claim #3 – “has nothing to do with Messiah”

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

Conclusion



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

Conclusion

Isaiah 8:6-8 ⁶ "Because this people have refused the waters of Shiloah that flow gently, and rejoice over Rezin and the son of Remaliah, ⁷ therefore, behold, the Lord is bringing up against them the waters of the River, mighty and many, the king of Assyria and all his glory. And it will rise over all its channels and go over all its banks, ⁸ and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel."

Conclusion

^{ESV} **Isaiah 12:1** You¹ will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. ² "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD¹ is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." ³ With joy you¹ will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Picture Credits:

Fig. 1 - Eliazar and Rebecca by Jan van 't Hoff

Fig. 2 - the Birth of Moses by Jan van 't Hoff

Fig. 3 – Image by Frank Bernard Dicksee via Wikimedia.org - Public Domain

שְׁלוֹם לָכֶם

SHALOM ALECHEIM

Peace be Unto You