

“Selected Studies in the Gospels”

The “Virgin Birth”

Matthew 1:18-24

Matthew 1:18

This is how the birth of Yeshua **HaMashiach** came about ...

1. Gk. *christos*, Heb. *mashiach*, “the anointed.”
2. “The title for the king of the house of David who will arise and save his people from the hands of their enemies and oppressors”—Ps. 2:2; Ps. 18:50; 1Sam. 2:10
3. Also called *meshi’ach adonai*, “the Anointed of the Lord” (or the Lord Messiah,” the “Anointed Lord”) —PssSol 17:32; Lk. 2:25-26
4. Or simply, “*mashi’ach*”—4Ezra 7:27-30; 2Bar. 29:3

Matthew 1:18b

^{18b}His mother Miriam was **pledged to be married** to Yoseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:18b-19

¹⁹Because Joseph her husband **was a righteous man** and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

Matthew 1:20-21

²¹But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Yoseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Miriam home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and **you are to give him the name Yeshua, because he will save his people from their sins.**”

וְקָרָאתָ אֶת־שְׁמוֹ יֵשׁוּעַ כִּי הוּא יִשְׁעֵנו אֶת־עַמּוֹ מֵעֲוֹנוֹתֵינוּ

—v'ka-ra-tah et sh'mo yeshua ki hu yo-shi-ah et amo mê-avono-tey-hem.

Matthew 1:23

The **virgin** (παρθένης) will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”

⚡ MT/Isaiah 7:14

Behold, a **young woman** (הַעַלְמָה) shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

📖 LXX/Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The **virgin** (παρθένης) will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

1. "Isaiah is sent to Ahaz to admonish him to place his trust in (the Lord), and to ask for a sign of God's protecting care ... " ¹
2. "The *almah* spoken of in verse 14 ..."
 - a. Exodus Rabba 18:5
 3. "The ... view that 'virgin' is Christian (and) 'young woman' is Jewish is not ... true." ²
 4. In *The Holy Scriptures* ³ ... the word *almah* is rendered "virgin" three of the seven times that it is used— Gen. 24:43-45; Ex. 2:7-8; Isa. 7:14; Ps. 68:25; Prov. 30:18-19; Song 1:3; Song 6:8
 5. "Rashi (1040-1105 CE) ... in the Song of Solomon 1:3 and 6:8 ... makes *almah* to mean 'virgin!' " ⁴
 6. "There is no instance where ... '*almâ* designates a young woman who is not a virgin." ⁵
 - a. The Hebrew word *betûlâ* ... (some scholars) ... prefer 'a young [marriageable] maiden.' " ⁶
 - b. "A study of the word in the cognate language sustains ... the (view) that *betûlâ* ... by itself does not mean *virgo intacta*" ⁷
 - c. "The writers of the OT use the word (*betûlâ*) in a variety of situations. From significant passages, one sees that the word's meaning is not that of the modern English word, one who has not experienced sexual intercourse." ⁸
 - d. "Primarily *parthenos* ... came to refer specifically to a young girl who had not had sexual relations." ⁹
 - e. In Joel 1:8 ... the "Septuagint translators did not use *parthenos*, 'virgin,' as the equivalent (of *bethûlâ*) ... the Septuagint translates the Hebrew *almâh* into *parthenos*, 'virgin,' in the prophecy of Immanuel's coming in Isaiah 7:14." ¹⁰

¹ William Hendriksen, *New Testament Commentary: Exposition of the Gospel According to Matthew* (Baker Book House, 1984), p. 134.

² Cyrus H. Gordon, "Almah in Isaiah 7:14," *The Journal of Bible and Religion*, XXI, 2, April, 1953, p. 106.

³ Alexander Harkavy, *The Holy Scriptures* (Hebrew Publishing Company, 1951).

⁴ Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *Jesus was a Jew* (Ariel Ministries, 1981), p. 52.

⁵ R. Laird Harris, Gleason J. Archer, Jr., Bruce K Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, Vol. 2 (Moody Press, 1980), entry on *alma*, p. 672.

⁶ *Ibid.*, Vol. 1 (Moody Press, 1980), entry on *betûlâ*, pp. 137-139.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ David Noel Freedman, (Editor-In-Chief), *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, Vol. 6, Si-Z (Doubleday, 1992), p. 853.

⁹ Thoralf Gilbrant, (International Editor), *The Complete Biblical Library, The New Testament Greek-English Dictionary, Pi-Rho* (The Complete Biblical Library, 1991), p. 91.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*