

## Lost in Translation: Does Isaiah Really Prophecy a “ Virgin Birth”

Matthew 1:22: All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “*Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel*” (which means, God with us).

Isaiah 7:14: Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. King James Version

Isaiah 7:10: Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup> And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman* [Heb. *`almah*/אִלְמָהּ] *shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanu-el.* <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to *refuse the evil and choose the good.* <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to *refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.* Revised Standard Version 1952

Terms: young woman, maiden

Hebrew: *`almah*

Greek: *parthenos*

Context is everything (2 Kings 16)...Ahaz king of Judah (730s BCE) attacked by Pekah (king of Israel) and Rezin king of Syria...

Matthew uses idea of “fulfill” to mean—“This is like that...”