

If the woman in Isaiah 7:14 was unmarried but not a virgin, then God would be promising a sign involving fornication and an illegitimate birth. It is unthinkable that God would sanction sin. Furthermore, what would be so unusual about an illegitimate baby that could possibly constitute a unique sign from God? Illegitimate babies are born every day.

Is there any other biblical evidence that it is correct to interpret *almah* as referring to a virgin—an unmarried, chaste, young woman? There is. The Septuagint is a Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures. It is the work of Jewish scholars and was finished about 200 B.C. The Jews who made this translation, living much closer to the time of Isaiah, translated Isaiah 7:14 using the Greek word *parthenos*, which very clearly and exclusively means a virgin.

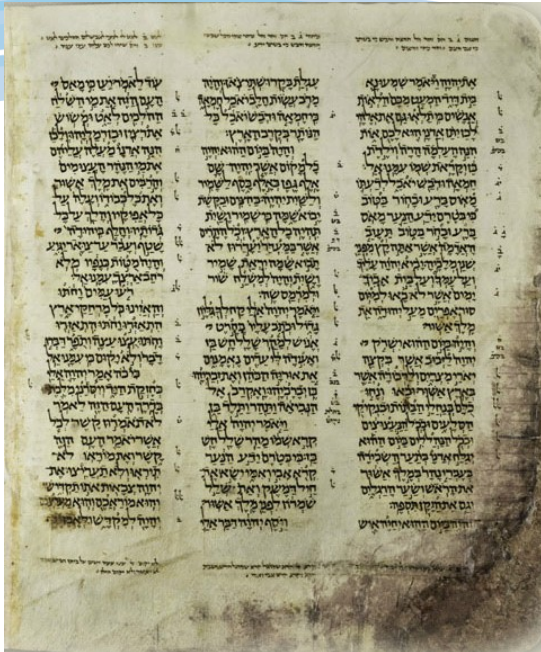
So, 200 years before the birth of Jesus, there was no dispute as to what Isaiah meant by the word *almah*.

There can therefore be no doubt that the unique event that God is promising as a sign in Isaiah 7:14 is the miraculous conception of a young, unmarried girl who is still a virgin.

*Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:
Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and
she will call His name Immanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14 (NASB)

Aleppo Codex, circa 930 A.D. Masoretic text containing Isaiah 7:14



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THE SIGN OF THE VIRGIN

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