



QA: Was Jesus Born of A Virgin? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

ANSWER: The only prophecy in Scripture of the “virgin” birth is:

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.
(**Isaiah 7:14**)

1. **“The virgin”** (Hebrew *ha almah*) means one, specific virgin. All females begin life as “virgins,” but lose “virginity” by copulation and/or receiving male seed.
 - a. *Almah*, a feminine form, occurs six other times in the Old Testament: **Genesis 24:43; Exodus 2:8; Psalm 68:25; Proverbs 30:19; Song of Solomon 1:3; Song of Solomon 6:8**. According to these other passages, *it never refers to a married woman*.
 - b. **Matthew (1:22-23)** quotes **Isaiah 7:14** as fulfilled in Jesus’ birth. Matthew’s Greek *he parthenos* (“the virgin”) is used for *ha almah*. **Parthenos** always means “chaste, virginal, unviolated” in New Testament use: **Matthew 25:1, 7, 11; Luke 1:27; Acts 21:9; I Corinthians 7:25, 28, 34-36; 2 Corinthians 11:2**.
2. **Mary was “virgin” (Luke 1:27)** because:
 - a. she conceived “before they came together” (**Matthew 1:18**);
 - b. Mary confessed, “I do not know a man” (**Luke 1:34**);
 - c. Joseph “did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son” (**Matthew 1:25**);
 - d. “betrothed” (**Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:27; 2:5**) in Greek is *mnasteuo*.
Interestingly the word for “fasting, abstinence” is *nasteuo*. The subtle word similarity is not lost. Betrothal (today called “engagement”) was the period from a couple’s commitment to each other till their wedding ceremony, and was (and still should be!) a time of sexual abstinence.
3. **Mary was “the virgin” because never before had:**
 - a. the angel Gabriel designated who it would be (**Luke 1:26-38**);
 - b. **Isaiah 7:14** been announced as “fulfilled” (**Matthew 1:22-23**); and
 - c. a “virgin” been “with child” (**Matthew 1:18, 20**), nor since!
4. **It took the virgin birth, virgin life, and virgin death of Jesus for salvation to be possible!**

— jtpII, December 18, 2022