

Isa 5-6
reference here to the virgin birth. Most important of all, Matthew 1:22-23 quotes this verse in connection with the birth of Christ, and declares that that is its fulfillment. In answer, those who consider it all as referring to the time of Ahaz say that the word here translated "virgin" does not really mean virgin, but ~~is~~ simply a young woman, and might refer to the king's wife or to the wife of Isaiah.

Examination of this word gives us the following facts. The word is not the regular technical word for virgin. The common Hebrew word which expresses the latter technical concept occurs many times in the Scriptures. This is a different word, This word is one which refers to a young woman and seems to include the idea that the particular young woman is a virgin. It is occasionally translated as "virgin" in our English Bible, though sometimes as "young woman." It occurs only seven times in the Old Testament. A typical occurrence is that in Genesis 24:43, where it speaks of ²the young woman coming out to draw water. This is when the servant of Abraham is looking for a wife for ~~Abraham's son~~, Isaac. Naturally the young woman for whom he is looking is a virgin.

It is important to note that the Septuagint translators, writing possibly two centuries before the time of Christ, translated the word in Isaiah 7:14 ~~as~~ "virgin." They considered that the passage spoke of something remarkable and mysterious, something which had not ^{yet} been fulfilled, ~~previous to their time.~~

For the Christian, Matthew's statement settles the matter. This verse is a prediction of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is wonderfully and literally fulfilled in Him. He was born actually of a virgin, and He is ^{certainly} ~~actually~~ Immanuel, God incarnate in human flesh.