

that when he married this woman he found that she was no maid. The word "maid" while not meaning virgin, had the idea of virgin. in those days. I would incline to think that that was the case with almah. At any rate the LXX well before the time of the NT translated almah as virgin, and they were much nearer the time than we are. The RSV and all the modern interpreters today say, Matt. specifically misinterpreted the OT. I think they are wrong in that. I think it is a very definite quotation, and I believe that both from the viewpoint of wording and from context that it exactly fits.

But in the quotation in Matt. I believe the ASV gave a much better translation of it than any recent version I have seen. The ASV rendered the perfect tense as "has taken place". All this has taken place. The recent translations nearly all say this took place. There is quite a difference. Prof. Zahan, one of the greatest German scholars of the last century, felt very positively as did Alfred Plummer the noted English NT interpreter, that this quotation here is not Matthew's statement, but is the statement of the angel.

I believe personally that that is very definitely the case. Just imagine Joseph's situation. An angel appears to him in a dream and says, Joseph son of David, Do not fear to take Mary your wife for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son and you will call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins. And Joseph unable to believe what he'd so like to believe did not want to believe the worst about Mary, but to think of such a tremendous thing, such an unimaginable thing as a virgin birth. He just couldn't believe in it. I have found perhaps the Lord gives some people dreams today that teach them something important. I think it's rare, if ever -- I think personally if I have a dream like that it's either the result of something I ate yesterday, or some idea in my head or perhaps even the devil, demons can give us dreams and ideas.

Joseph wonders, Can this be possibly true and the angel says, This has taken place to fulfill what the Lord has spoken by the prophet, Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Immanuel which means God With Us. So Joseph is given his certainty by the quotation from the OT. I don't think it was because the angel spoke but because the angel gave him an OT evidence. The ASV of 1901 and the ERV of 1881 render the Greek more literally, "this has taken place to fulfill." But all the recent ones have "this took place", and the recent ones put in quotes and leave this out of the quotes. I feel that is a mistake.

Now if I can get through in the time I have and still have time to do it I would like to turn back to the OT basis for this, and look at a few other points in the same environment. Not merely for the reference to this one, but to question in general of NT use of the OT. Some of you have seen my book on Is. 40-55, in which I have endeavored to show how Isa. spoke to the problems of his own day and dealt with those problems but also on many occasions God enabled him to look far beyond his own day, and see the coming of the suffering Saviour, the One who would redeem His people from their sin. I believe there is no such thing as double fulfillment. I believe everything, if it is a specific prediction, is fulfilled once.