



**Gutenberg College Summer Institute 2015
REUNION: Tanakh and the Gospel of Matthew**

**Talk 3: Background to Matthew 1:23
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I. Book of Matthew

- A. Written by the apostle Matthew

II. Context of this passage

- A. This is the gospel of Jesus.
1. It is not a biography nor a history nor a compendium of teachings.
 2. It is a gospel.
 - a) The purpose of the book is to prove that Jesus was the long predicted Messiah.
- B. Matthew has given the genealogy.
- C. Now he describes the birth.
- D. Matthew 1:22: “Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying...”
1. Matthew sees this event as a fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14.

III. Untangling the textual issue

- A. What is the Masoretic Text (MT)?
1. Generally considered to be the best preserved version of the Tanakh in Hebrew
- B. What is the Septuagint (LXX)?
1. A translation of the Tanakh into Greek
 - a) Done in third century B.C.
 - b) LXX correlates well with the MT in many passages.
 - c) In some passages, there are significant differences.
 - d) It is generally thought that the LXX was a translation of Hebrew text that represents a textual tradition different from the MT.
- C. MT *alma*—young woman, of marriageable age, often connoting virginity
1. There is another Hebrew word that is more strongly associated with virginity: *bethulah*.
- D. LXX *parthenos*—more strongly associated with the idea of virginity
- E. Matthew uses the LXX wording.