

Reading the Old Testament:

A Baby Changes Everything

Signs that a Baby is Anticipated

- *The ceremonial laws*
- *The kinsman redeemer*
- *The sense of longing*

Announcements Concerning the Baby's Arrival

- *Prophetic pronouncements (Isa. 7:14; Mic. 5:2 ; Zech. 9:9)*
- *Liturgical expressions (Psalms 2, 22, 24, 35, 45, 47, 50, 68, 72, 103, 107, 109, etc.)*

Changes Resulting from the Baby's Appearance

- *Understanding of Property and Material Blessing*
- *Understanding of Warfare and Mission*

Three Basic Guidelines for Reading Old Testament Texts

- Examine the text within its own historical and cultural context
- Evaluate the text in the light of Jesus' life and teachings
- Avoid forcing the text into our own contemporary categories and interpretive schemes

Deuteronomy 11:13-17

¹³ If you will only heed his every commandment that I am commanding you today—loving the LORD your God, and serving him with all your heart and with all your soul—
¹⁴ then he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, and you will gather in your grain, your wine, and your oil; ¹⁵ and he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you will eat your fill.

¹⁶Take care, or you will be seduced into turning away, serving other gods and worshiping them, ¹⁷for then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain and the land will yield no fruit; then you will perish quickly off the good land that the LORD is giving you.

Deuteronomy 7:1-6

When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are about to enter and occupy, and he clears away many nations before you—the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations mightier and more numerous than you— ²and when the LORD your God gives them over to you and you defeat them, then you must utterly destroy them. Make no covenant with them and show them no mercy. ³Do not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons,

⁴ for that would turn away your children from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly. ⁵ But this is how you must deal with them: break down their altars, smash their pillars, hew down their sacred poles, and burn their idols with fire. ⁶ For you are a people holy to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on earth to be his people, his treasured possession.