

1 Chronicles 4:10 – Jabez’ Prayer! "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!"

12/29/18 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

THE LORD’S PRAYER! – Let’s sing it together!

1 Chronicles 4v9-10 Jabez, the Undaunted

In Hebrew, the name “Jabez” means “to grieve; he will cause pain.” It certainly wasn’t the fault of Jabez that his mother had such a difficult delivery, but she gave him a name that would remind him and others of her pain. See Gen 35:18-19. It would seem from the text that his brethren rejected him and were not “noble” men of character. Jabez overcame his name and his family problems by turning to God in prayer and asking for His blessing.

1Ch 4:9 Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain."

- **Now Jabez was more honorable** (*kabad* – heavy; a spiritual heavyweight) **than his brothers**: This man Jabez is one of the more interesting briefly-mentioned people of the Old Testament. We only know of him from this text, and from the town of scribes that may have been named after him or associated with him (*1Ch. 2:55*).
- "On these accounts he was more honorable than his brethren. He was of the same stock and the same lineage; he had neither nobility of birth, nor was distinguished by earthly titles; in all these respects he was on a level with his brethren: but God tells us that he was **more honorable than them all; and why? because he prayed, because he served his Maker, and because he lived to do good among men;** therefore he received the honor that comes from God."
- **His mother called his name Jabez**: This name is associated with pain or sorrow. For some reason, probably surrounding the circumstances of his birth, his mother named him this. Because of the strong importance of the idea of a name in ancient Hebrew culture, this idea of pain was heavy with and upon Jabez - perhaps especially in his growing up.

1Ch 4:10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.

- **And Jabez called on the God of Israel**: Jabez was honored, and we know little more of him than that he was a **man of prayer** and that his **prayer was answered**. One way to gain honor in the Kingdom of God is through prayer, instead of through ambition and achievement. Jabez had four basic requests in his prayer.
- **First, Jabez prayed to be blessed indeed**. There are many who are blessed, but they are not **blessed indeed**. That is, they have something that is in one sense, blessings (such as family, salvation, wealth, fame, health, security), but yet because of fundamental dissatisfaction in their life, they are not **blessed indeed**. Sometimes blessings turn out to be a curse to us in that we make an idol of the blessing. In this, we see the great wisdom of Jabez’s prayer. In the same way, many things that are outwardly curses end up being blessings **indeed** to us.

- **Jabez prayed for enlarged territory.** Most commentators think that Jabez *called on the God of Israel* when he was undertaking some great and dangerous service in the conquest of the land of Canaan. Therefore, when he prayed "**enlarge my territory**," it was to drive out these wicked and cursed Canaanites, that the LORD had commanded us to root out, and therefore I ask and expect Your blessing the in the execution of Your command.
- **Jabez asked that the *hand of God would be with him*.** "The 'hand of the Lord' is a biblical term for God's power and presence in the lives of His people (see *Jos 4:24 that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.*"
- and *Isa 59:1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.*"
- **Jabez asked to be kept from evil and that he would not cause pain.** In this Jabez recognized: the evil in this world, no doubt because he had lived through much pain in his life; that he needed God to keep him from evil; that the hand of God to bless us can transform the evil and pain of life.
- **So, God granted him what he requested:** This is the measure of effective prayer - that it is answered from heaven, understanding that "No" or "Wait" can also be an answer. Yet when we are close to the heart of God and pray for the things important to Him and His kingdom, we expect that our prayers will be **granted** (*1Jo. 5:14*).
- We should imitate the conduct of this Jabez that we might also be a partaker of His blessings.

SUMMARY: Jabez had four basic requests in his prayer.

- First, Jabez prayed **to be blessed indeed**. Is there anything in our life presently that would prevent the Lord from blessing us?
- Jabez prayed **for enlarged territory**. Do you really want your ministry to be enlarged?
- Jabez asked that the **hand of God would be with him**. Is there anything would keep the hand of God from being with you?
- Jabez asked **to be kept from evil and that he would not cause pain**. "*Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*" How often do we pray **that you would not cause pain?**
- **So, God granted him what he requested: (1Jo. 5:14). Another glorious confirmation from the Lord that God responds to our prayers!!**

BLESSED ASSURANCE – Fanny Crosby -Billy Graham Choir

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*

*Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. Refrain*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. Refrain*

Pray Today For: Our Church, Internationally/Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Court. Our government leaders, especially now following the election.

Please Note: You may see/download past notes/audio of the Bible Prayer Devotionals by going to: www.ptwente.com