

## THE PRAYER OF JABEZ

***“BREAKING THROUGH TO THE BLESSED LIFE”***

I Chronicles 4:9 – 10

### **Background**

Jabez means “pain” in Hebrew. It was very likely that Jabez’s birth brought much pain to his mother, and that he started out life poorly and bearing a disgraceful name. ***But it does not matter how you start out in life, it matters how you end and the journey that led you to the end!*** It is safe to say that Jabez ended life well.

The bible singled him out for special recognition. The first nine chapters of First Chronicles consist of genealogies, with a rapid fire listing of over 600 names. But right in the middle of all these names, God singles out one man for special recognition – Jabez. He is described as being “more honorable than his brothers”. Why did this man stand out from the rest? Jabez was extraordinary because of three things:

Here is the text (I Chronicles 4:9-10):

***Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. 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.***

### **Questions, Observations & Principles**

Question: Why was Jabez more honorable than other people?

Question: Whom did Jabez call upon?

Question: Is it acceptable to ask God for personal favors? What can we learn from Matthew 7:7-12 and James 4:2? Do you agree with the statement that “if we don’t ask for His blessings, we will forfeit those blessings that come only when we ask”?

*The prayer has four major parts:*

1)     **“Oh, that You would bless me indeed,**

- Jabez left it up to God to decide what the blessing would be!
- Not promoting greed and selfishness! Refer to I Tim 6:6-11; Luke 12:15; Phil 2:3-4
- Realize that sometimes trials/tough times occur BEFORE the good times come
- What can we learn from Psalms 37:4?

2)     **and enlarge my territory,**

- Asking God to enlarge your life so that you can make a great impact for Him – more influence, more responsibility, more opportunity to make a mark for God. Expand opportunities and impact to touch more lives for God’s glory.
- “Give me more ministry”.
- What can we learn from Zech 4:6 and Phil 4:13?

3)     **that Your hand would be with me,**

- Dependence upon God. “Hand of God” – refer to Acts 11:21.
- What can we learn from Gen 39:2; 2 Chron 16:9? Acts 1:8; Acts 4:13; 2 Cor 3:5-6?

4)     **and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain”.**

- What can we learn from Prov 14:16; Mat 6:13; 2 Cor 10:4-5?
- The importance of “guarding our hearts” (Prov 4:23-27):

## **APPENDIX A – ‘BLESSING’ SCRIPTURES**

Proverbs 28:20 “a faithful man”

Proverbs 10:6 “righteous”

From Psalms:

1:1 “delight in God’s word”

2:12 “take refuge in God”

32:1-2 “whose sins are forgiven and covered”

40:4 “makes the Lord his trust”

41:1 “has regard for the word”

84:5 “whose strength is in God”

89:15 “who acclaim God”

106:3 “maintain justice, consistently do what is right”

112:1 “fears the Lord; finds great delight in His coming”

118:26 “comes in the name of the Lord”

119:1 “whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord”

119:2 “keep his statutes; seek Him with all their hearts”

Acts 20:35 “it is more blessed to give than to receive”

Romans 10:12 “Lord richly blesses all who call on Him (for salvation)”

## **APPENDIX B – THE BEATITUDES**

Matthew 5:1-12

Blessed are ...

v.3 “the poor in spirit”

v.4 “those who mourn”

v.5 “the meek”

v.6 “those who hunger and thirst for righteousness”

v.7 “the merciful”

v.8 “the pure in heart”

v.9 “the peacemakers”

v. 10 “those who are persecuted because of righteousness”

v. 11-12 “you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me (Jesus)”