

## THE PRAYER OF JABEZ

### **I Chronicles 4:9-10**

Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez,<sup>[a]</sup> saying, "Because I bore *him* in pain." <sup>10</sup> 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.

#### I. **Honorable**: v.9

- A good reputation
- Respectable
- Honesty
- Integrity
- A keen sense of right and wrong

Why was Jabez honorable? V.10  
He was a praying man

### **Acts 10: 1,2**

1. There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment,
2. a devout *man* and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.

#### II. **Jabez** V. 9

He will cause pain  
Born with a curse

#### III. **His Heritage**

Uncle Achan

### **Joshua 7:24-26**

<sup>24</sup> Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor. <sup>25</sup> And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.

<sup>26</sup> Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor<sup>[a]</sup> to this day.

Valley of Achor means Valley of trouble

No mention of a father

- Illegitimate?
- Abandoned?
- Deceased?

#### IV. **His Prayer Content** v10

Bless Me!

- Arrogant?
- Self Serving?

### **Ephesians 3:20**

<sup>20</sup> Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

### **James 1: 5-6**

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

### **James 4:2**

<sup>2</sup> You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet<sup>[a]</sup> you do not have because you do not ask.

### **Matthew 21:22**

<sup>22</sup> And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

### **Luke 11:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup> If a son asks for bread<sup>[a]</sup> from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he* asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

### **Focused**

- Enlarge my territory
- Expand my horizons
- I'm ready for more
- Do you live in too small a world?
- Is your focus inward or outward?
- Blessed to be a blessing

Jabez believed with God's blessing he could do more and he could have more.

### **Question:**

Am I living in too small of a world?

- Mackinaw Island
- Niagara Falls
- West of the Mississippi River

## **V. God's Hand**

I Samuel 5:11b

For there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there.

### **Psalms 18:35**

You have also given me the shield of Your salvation;  
Your right hand has held me up,  
Your gentleness has made me great.

### **Psalms 31:15**

My times *are* in Your hand;  
Deliver me from the hand of my enemies,  
And from those who persecute me.

**Isaiah 48:13**

Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth,  
And My right hand has stretched out the heavens;  
*When* I call to them,  
They stand up together.

**Isaiah 59:1**

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened,  
That it cannot save;  
Nor His ear heavy,  
That it cannot hear.

**Isaiah 64:8**

But now, O LORD,  
You *are* our Father;  
We *are* the clay, and You our potter;  
And all we *are* the work of Your hand.

Protection From the evil one

**Matthew 6:13**

And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the  
power and the glory forever. Amen.<sup>†</sup>

Your Adversary

**I Peter 5:8**

Be sober, be vigilant; because<sup>[a]</sup> your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

**Ephesians 6:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Hurting people hurt people

- I do not want to be a pain
- I do not want to cause pain
- I do not want to be a part of the problem.
- I want to be a part of the answer

#### **IV. Prayer Answered**

##### **Hebrews 4: 14-16**

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

##### **Psalms 130:1**

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD

##### **Isaiah 38:5**

"Go and tell Hezekiah, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years.

##### **James 1:5-8**

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

#### **Conclusion:**

It Pays to Pray