

## Prayer

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### What Did Jabez Really Mean?

1. I do believe this prayer is a truth that God is **reinstating** to Valley Community Church today.

You have asked God to bless you and increase you for the **kingdom's** sake.

Now the prayer of Jabez is found in 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

**1 Chronicles 4:1-2**

**1 Chronicles 4:3**

- I did not know her name was Hazelelponi

**1 Chronicles 4:4**

**1 Chronicles 4:5**

**1 Chronicles 4:6**

**1 Chronicles 4:7-8**

Wasn't that amazing?

But before we read 9-10 let's read verse 11

**1 Chronicles 4:11-12**

Let me give you the background of chapter 4:

- Chapter 4 is the genealogy of the Tribe of **Judah**, but chapter 1 verse 1 starts with **Adam** and goes through chapter 9.

This is the **longest** genealogy in the Bible.

- It starts with **Adam** and goes through **David's** grandchildren.
- It is **9** chapters and has **500** names.
- God changes Jacob's name to **Israel**.

Israel had **12** sons (**12** tribes of Israel)

When this genealogy gets to Israel, it then goes through each **son/man** and his **children**.

- Adam was created **4,000** B.C.
- Noah was **2,500** B.C.
- Moses was **1,500** B.C.
- David was about **1,000** B.C.

2. In 1 Chronicles, **9** chapters and a little over **3,000** years were all these names.

Let's now look at 1 Chronicles 4:9

### **1 Chronicles 4:9a**

<sup>9</sup>Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers...

**Ezra** wrote Chronicles: 3,000-year genealogy

He then stops in the middle and says, now **Jabez** is worth talking about.

Also, these 2 verses are the **only** verses that talk about **Jabez**.

3. There is one other verse, but it mentions the "**city** of Jabez" and most theologians believe this man was so **blessed** that they named a city after him (because God **blessed** him so much).

### 1 Chronicles 4:9

- She says, **pain**

The root of the word, Jabez – **sorrow**

Prayer of Jabez:

### 1 Chronicles 4:10a

<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!"

And Ezra said:

### 1 Chronicles 4:10b

<sup>10</sup> ...So God granted him what he requested.

Jabez' mother proclaimed his destiny – **pain** or **sorrow**

Jabez starts out with a destiny of **sorrow**.

Here is my point:

4. I am telling you what's amazing about the prayer of Jabez is that God can **change** your destiny.
5. God can **change** your destiny; He is just waiting for you to **ask**.

Let's look at what Jabez prayed:

A. Oh, that you would **bless** me indeed.

- Jabez is asking God to **bless** him.

## James 4:2

- Church, I encourage you to **ask** God to **bless** you.

6. Church, it is God's **will** and His **desire** to bless you.

God has chosen prayer as the **vehicle** of blessings to travel in and pride keeps us from **asking**.

Prayer means you have realized you cannot do it on your **own**.

Definition of blessed – to be **set apart** for success, happiness and prosperity, and it is a divine **enabling** by God.

Indeed – **more** than enough

Here is the second part of the prayer:

B. ...And **enlarge** my territory

What then is your territory?

Answer: It's **everywhere** you go and **everything** you do.

7. Where you **live**, **work**, **play**, **motherhood**, where you **serve**, etc.

- You're asking first for divine **enabling**
- Next, you ask God for divine **direction**.

This is your territory:

- My **willingness**, plus God's supernatural **power** equals my territory.

## Philippians 2:13

8. When God enlarges you and your territory, He is enlarging the **kingdom** of God.

The third thing He prays:

C. ...That Your **hand** would be with me.

- This is where you are **dependent** on God.

First – divine **enabling**

Second – divine **direction**

Third – divine **anointing**

- This is where we begin to ask for His **help** – His **power**

### **Acts 11:21**

Question you need to ask yourself:

- If you begin to receive more blessings and consequently more territory, are you going to need more power? **Yes**
9. You are worth **so much more** when God's hand is on you. How much is God's hand worth?

Here is the fourth part of the prayer:

D. ...And that you would **keep** me from **evil**.

- This is how you **maintain** blessing
10. You must realize blessing can become a **temptation** because now you have prosperity, influence, and power, you can **abuse** it and not use it for the kingdom of God.

Notice: keep me from evil

### **Matthew 6:13**

- I don't want to be anywhere **near** temptation.

Jabez said help not to be anywhere close to temptation or **traps**.

1 Corinthians 6:18 says, "flee sexual immorality"

It doesn't say **how** to overcome it – it says **run** from it – get as **far** away from it.

The book, "Prayer of Jabez" covers these **four** parts.

The fifth part of prayer:

- E. That I might not cause **pain**.

I want you to realize this:

- Evil causes **pain**.

Satan and sin causes **destruction**.

Jabez started by causing **pain**.

He has a heart not to cause pain with those **around** him.

Develop a culture with the truths of this prayer:

- **Obedience**
  - **Giving**
  - **Prayer**
- These 3 truths open up **Heaven** in your life.

**Luke 3:21** - Jesus was baptized

**Obey** – **give** and **pray**