

## The Prayer of Jabez (part II)

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

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Introduction: Last week we considered 4 ramifications as we examined the book, *The Prayer of Jabez*, by Bruce Wilkinson. The book is an exposition of I Chronicles 4:9-10. There we looked at (1) the **fame** of Jabez; (2) the **name** of Jabez; (3) the **claim** of Jabez; & (4) the **acclaim** of Jabez. Tonight I want us to look at the concerns, considerations, & conclusion of this book (& compare *The Prayer of Jesus*, a book by Hank Hanegraaff).

I. The **concerns** of this book: *The Prayer of Jabez* [excerpts from the book...]

A. “God’s bounty is limited only by us, not by His resources, power, or willingness to give. Jabez was blessed simply because he refused to let any obstacle, person, or opinion loom larger than God’s nature. And God’s nature is to bless.” (p. 29)

B. When you or I “...plead with Him, *Lord, use me – give me more ministry for You!* – that you release miracles. At that moment, heaven sends angels, resources, strength, & the people you need. I’ve seen it happen hundreds of times.” (p. 44)

C. “You & I are always only one plea away from inexplicable, Spirit-enabled exploits. By His touch you can experience supernatural enthusiasm, boldness, & power. It’s up to you.” (pp. 60-61)

D. “Simply put, God favors those who ask. He holds back nothing from those who want & earnestly long for what He wants.” (p. 76)

E. Consider the 6 steps Wilkinson lists to practice *The Prayer of Jabez*. (pp. 86-87)

F. “Of course, what you *know about* this or any other prayer won’t get you anything. What you know about deliverance won’t deliver you from anything. You can hang the Jabez prayer on the wall of every room in your house & nothing will happen. It’s only what you believe will happen *and therefore do* next that will release God’s power for you & bring about a life change. But when you act, you will step up to God’s best for you. I’m living proof.” (p. 87)

G. “In January 1998 we began WorldTeach, birthed from the womb of the Jabez prayer. WorldTeach is an exciting 15-year vision to establish the largest Bible-teaching faculty in the world – 120,000 – a Bible teacher for every 50,000 people on earth... Just by looking at what is happening, I can assure you that God still answers those who have a loyal heart & pray the Jabez prayer. By its second year (2000?), WorldTeach had launched in 23 nations & enrolled 2,500 teachers... One national missions leader told me that WorldTeach has had the fastest launch of any Christian ministry in history. Humanly speaking, this kind of growth is unexplainable. We are only weak humans who seek to be clean & fully surrendered to our Lord, to want what He wants for His world, & to step forward in His power & protection to see it happen now. I don’t know what you call that, but I have always called it the miracle of Jabez.” (pp. 89-90)

H. See “Author’s update, February, 2001” (p. 93). [And see the website, [teacheverynation.org](http://teacheverynation.org)]

II. The **considerations** of this book & comparison with *The Prayer of Jesus*, by Hank Hanegraaff (2001).

A. Is *The Prayer of Jabez* intended as a “How-to” formula for prayer?

B. Luke 11:1, “*And it came to pass, that, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, one of His disciples said unto Him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught His disciples.*” [Lord’s Prayer follows?]

C. The Lord’s response is not: teach us the prayer of Jabez, or Joshua, or Jephthah...

D. “The Lord’s Prayer?” is not to teach us a rote prayer to continually recite. Rather we are taught the principles of prayer, with an emphasis upon devotion & dependence.

E. The goal of prayer? Is it not the approval of our Heavenly Father? Compare Matthew 6:4, 6, 18. “The secret to prayer is secret prayer” (Hanegraaff, by Ryken). Ryken writes: “The reward for secret prayer is the prayer itself, the blessing of resting in the presence of God”

F. Society is looking for instant gratification (see Hanegraaff, pp. 11-16).

G. Is the prayer of Jabez an example of a “supplication only” prayer? Compare it with the prayer of Nehemiah (1:4-11). Consider also “F-A-C-T-S” (Hanegraaff, pp. 19-29). See Heb. 11:6 & 4:16.

III. The **conclusion** from a look at these 2 books?

A. “Prayer, however is not merely a means of presenting our requests, it is a means of pursuing a relationship with our Heavenly Father” (Hanegraaff, p. 20).

B. “Secret prayer is always rewarded by a response from God. While the response we get is not always the response we want (yes, no, wait), it is the *best* response” (Hanegraaff). That which is ultimately for God’s glory & our good.

**Conclusion:** Hear & meditate again upon I Chronicles 4:9-10, “*And Jabez was more honorable than his brethren: and His mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying: Oh that Thou wouldest bless me indeed, & enlarge my coast, & that Thine hand might be with me, & that Thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.*” What is your understanding of this prayer?