

The Prayer of Jabez

A Big Prayer For A Big God!

What's in a Genealogy?

There are chapters in the Bible with long lists of places (e.g., Nm.33), of people (e.g., Mt.1), or of numbers (e.g., 1 Chr.12). And even though these passages give us important context for the history contained in the Bible, reading it can be very dry.

Yet, even here we can also find gems of inspiration like... the Prayer of Jabez!



Jabez and his Prayer

1 Chronicles 4:9-10

⁹ Jabez was more honorable than his brothers; and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." ¹⁰ Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain!" And God granted what he asked.



What do we know about Jabez?

1 Chronicles 4 is a list of the descendants of the tribe Judah, and Jabez is among them. He is only mentioned here (vv.9-10) though there was also a town of scribes by the same name (1 Chr.2:55), possibly named after him.

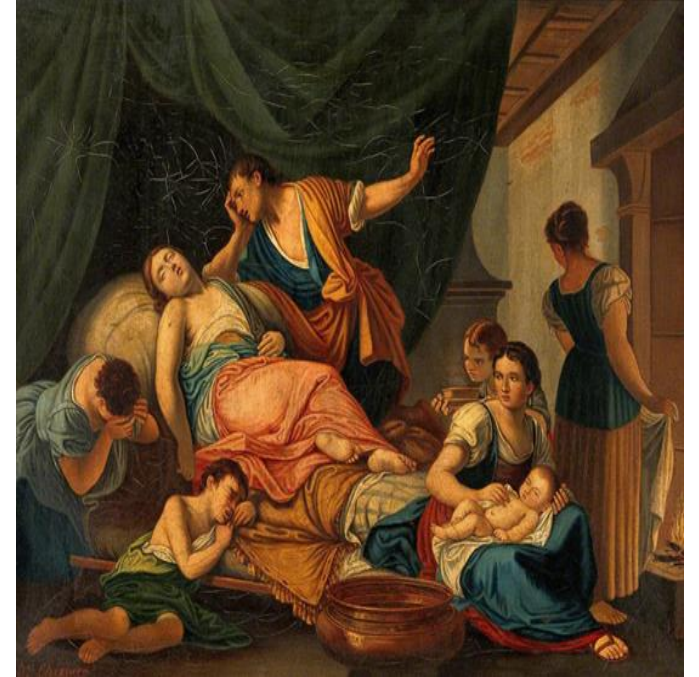
His name in Hebrew means “**sorrow**” and rhymes with “**pain**”. In fact, that is why his mother gave him the name, “**because of the pain he caused his mother during birth**” (v.9, CEV).



**It was a
rough
start...**

Life didn't start easy or well for Jabez and he had his name to remind him of it!

Yet, in a remarkable turn of events, the Bible does say that "...he was still the most respected son in his family" (v.9, CEV). An important town in Israel may even have been named after him!



How did things turn around?

**Jabez
prayed!**

1 Chronicles 4:10^a

¹⁰ Jabez called upon the God of Israel...

Jabez could have accepted his *lot in life*. He could have griped and complained. He could have gotten angry and bitter.

He could have gotten mad at God.

Instead, he prayed!



And how
did he
pray?

1 Chronicles 4:10

¹⁰ Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, “Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain!”



And God granted what he asked.

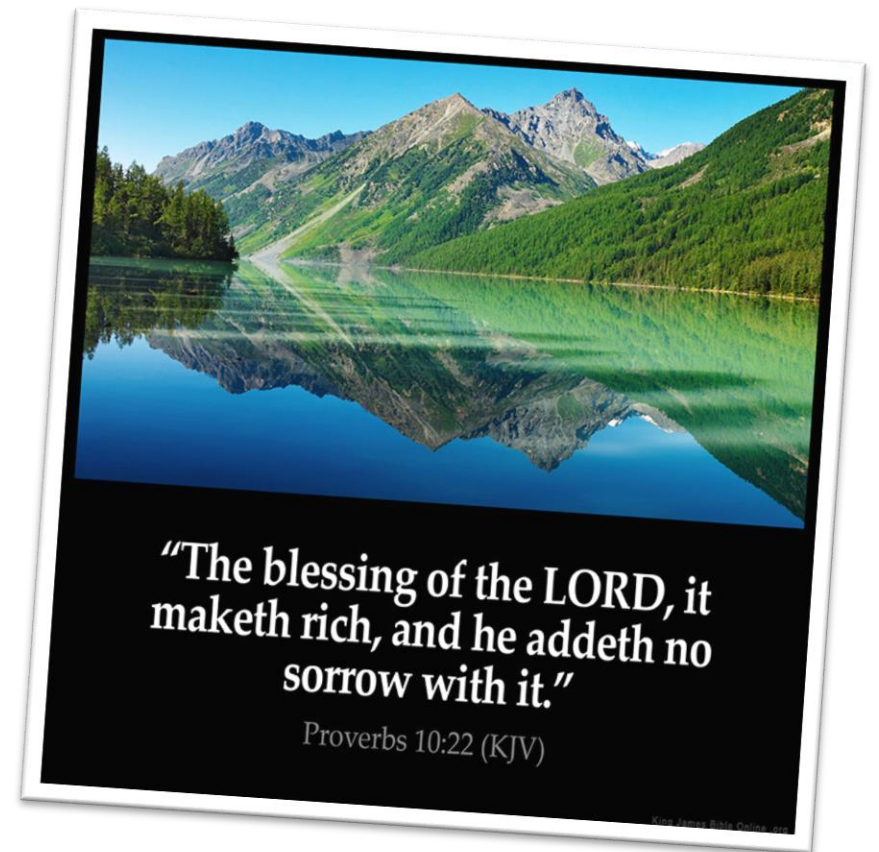
**Bless me,
God of
Israel!**

1 Chronicles 4:10^b

10 Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying,
“Oh that you would bless me...”

Jabez knew that God could change the trajectory of his life and he was not ashamed or afraid to ask for it!

Bless me, Lord!



**Enlarge
me, God of
Israel!**

1 Chronicles 4:10^c

¹⁰ Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, "...
and **enlarge my border...**"



Jabez prayed for increased influence and affluence! He prayed for more land and more resources. He asked for growth.

Enlarge me, Lord!

God is
invested in
growing
you!

God told Abraham that He would “make his name great, so that you will be a blessing” (Gen.12:2^b).



Before God could bless others through Abraham, He had to grow him in to a great person.

Jabez knew he needed to become a bigger person with bigger resources and he asked for it!

**Let Your
hand be
upon me,
God of
Israel!**

1 Chronicles 4:10^d

“...and that your hand might be with me...”

Jabez knew he needed a hand but not just any hand. He wanted a hand from God himself!

And God was ready, willing, and able to give him a hand.



God
helps when
we call!

Psalm 72:12

For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper.

Jabez did not want a hand out. He was looking for a hand up!

Psalm 118:16

The right hand of the LORD exalts, the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!"



Jabez and his Prayer

1 Chronicles 4:10^e

¹⁰ Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, "...and that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain!"



Jabez prayed for protection from evil or harm. From birth he had lived with a dark cloud of sorrow over his head but he was ready for a new chapter for his life!

Healing
is
available!

Hurting people hurt people.

Jabez was tired of being hurt and of hurting others. He asked God to put an end to it!

Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds **we are healed.**



What happened?

1 Chronicles 4:9-10^f

⁹ Jabez was more honorable than his brothers; and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." ¹⁰ Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain!" **And God granted what he asked.**



God granted what Jabez asked!

Ephesians 3:20-21

²⁰ Now to him who is able

do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever.

Amen!

God
answers
bold
prayers!



God is good all the time!
All the time, God is good!