

THE HAND OF GOD

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 KJV And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. (10) And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.

Jabez:

- Is introduced by mentioning his name and character
“Jabez was more honourable than his brethren”
- There is no identifying of his family name or genealogy in a chapter vs 1-23, that focuses on the family and genealogies of the tribe of Judah
- Then it mentions why he is named Jabez and what it means
“his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow.”
 - ‡ Evidently the circumstances of his birth were so extreme or unpleasant it overshadowed the joy of bringing a son into the world
 - ‡ His mother made a decision to memorialize the agony of his birth
 - ‡ She labeled Jabez as a problem child
 - ‡ In Hebrew tradition, the birth of a son is greatly celebrated, and the giving of a name is very important

“In essence, naming a Jewish child is a spiritual act that bestows an identity, honors the past, shapes the future, and connects the child to their people and their God.”

What are three reasons why names are important?

- Our names hold our personal identity,
- our family history,
- our culture.

Jabez mother demonstrated:

- no spiritual awareness,
- failure to honor his ancestors,
- no concern for his future,
- unsympathetic to his connection with family and GOD.

- ‡ If I may speculate, Jabez began life with rejection in his home and community
 - What happens to a child that is reminded they are illegitimate, an accident, a mistake, unwanted or the black sheep of the family
- Why was Jabez considered honorable:

“Jabez called on the God of Israel”

we find here that he was a praying man. His commitment to devotion made him truly honorable, and by prayer he obtained those blessings from God which added much to his honour. The way to be truly great is to be truly good and to pray much.

- ‡ He believed in GOD
- ‡ He prayed to GOD
- ‡ He committed his life and destiny to GOD

He prayed boldly:

“bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me”

- ‡ Bless me indeed – bountiful blessings
- ‡ Enlarge my coast – territory and influence
- ‡ Thine hand might be with me – The hand of GOD

He prayed wisely and humbly:

“thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me!”

- ‡ Keep me from evil – protect his character and relationship with GOD
- ‡ it may not grieve me – keep habits and lifestyle from corrupting his life

- What is meant by “The Hand of GOD”:

“that thine hand might be with me”

- ➊ **Divine Power & Action:** Refers to God's active, supernatural power in events, creating, judging, or delivering people.
- ➋ **Protection & Favor:** Symbolizes God's care, blessing, and shielding from harm, as in "the hand of the Lord was with them".
- ➌ **Guidance & Purpose:** Represents divine wisdom, teaching, and the fulfillment of God's plan.
- ➍ **Judgment:** Can also signify God's justice and condemnation of enemies.

It represents God's ability to create, protect, guide, and provide, as well as to exercise judgment and justice. The phrase is used to show God's sovereignty and control over both humans and events of life.

“God granted him that which he requested.”

What happens when the hand of God is upon you?

When God lays His hand on you for something, He will enable you to do it with His help.