

Introduction to the Prayer of Jabez

A. "Jabez" means Pain.

B. "Honorable" means Respected.

C. "Called" means to cry out for HELP.

I. The Preview of the Jabez Blessing

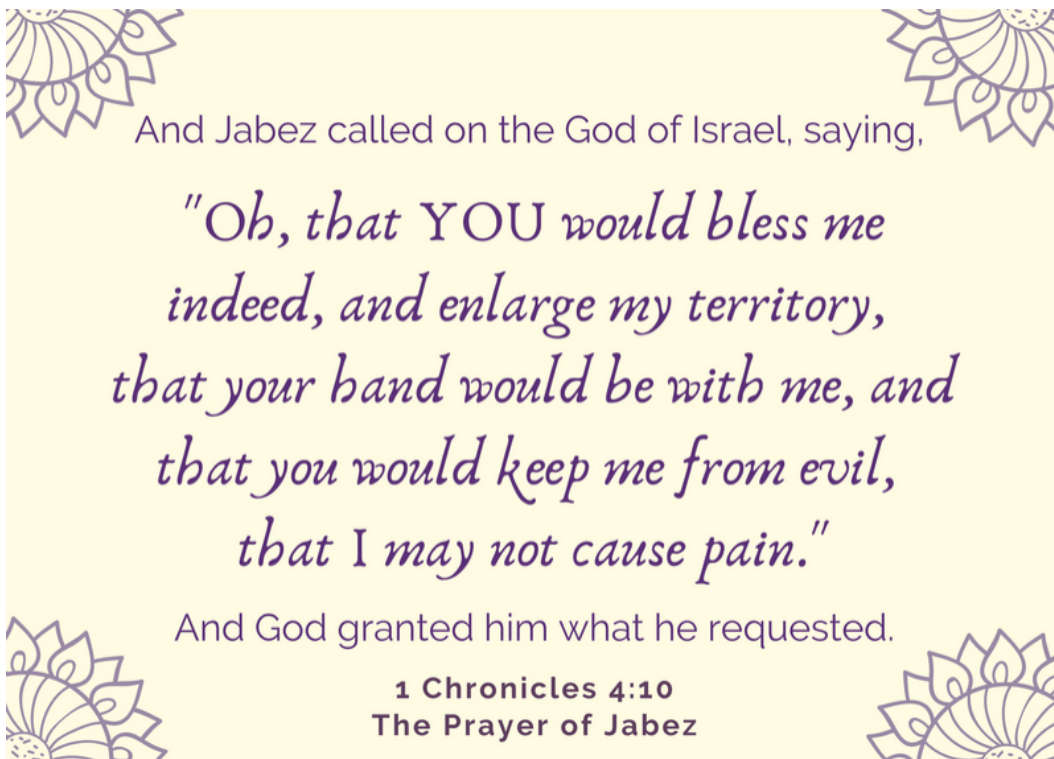
"And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that you would bless me indeed!"
So God granted him what he requested. 1 Chronicles 4:10

A. The Description of the Jabez Blessing

1. "Bless" means to bestow favor or KINDNESS.
2. "Indeed" carries the meaning of greatly or INTENSELY.

B. The Distinctives of the Jabez Blessing

1. The Blessing is not impersonal but it's personal.
2. The Blessing is not specific but it's general.
3. The Blessing is not directed by man but God.
4. The Blessing is not meager but abundant.
5. The Blessing is not a weak wish but a fervant desire.



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II. The Pitfalls of the Jabez Blessing

Misconception #1: It always works - just say the words!

The Prayer of Jabez is not **MAGIC**.

Misconception #2: I can't pray Jabez - it's not right to pray for myself!

The Prayer of Jabez is not **SELFISH**.

Misconception #3: If you want to get rich, pray Jabez!

The Prayer of Jabez is not **PROSPERITY GOSPEL**.

The kind of radical trust in God's good intentions toward us has nothing in common with the popular gospel that you should ask God for a Cadillac, a six-figure income, or some other material sign that you have found a way to cash in on your connection with him. The Prayer of Jabez, page 24.

III. The Principles of the Jabez Blessing

B. The Distinctives of the Jabez Blessing

A. The Jabez Blessings are all ultimately from **GOD**!

B. The Jabez Blessings are given because God loves to **GIVE**!

C. The Jabez Blessings are given to those who **ASK**!

Conclusion

And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" And He blessed him there. Genesis 32:26, 29

Interact with Jabez

- 1 When you were growing up, who gave you genuine affection and things that brought a sense of blessedness into your life? How many of these things were based upon your relationship with them, and how much upon fulfilling their expectations or requirements?
- 2 During your lifetime, have you asked God to bless you very often? What would have to happen for you to feel comfortable regularly asking the Lord to pour out His blessing on your life?
- 3 Did your impression of God match the reality of His mercy, grace, long-suffering, and abounding in goodness? Describe the person you know that is most like those four characteristics. What relationship do you think exists between how a person views God and his freedom to ask Him for blessings?
- 4 The words in Matthew 7:7-11 are remarkable and downright surprising to many. Read verse 11 and define in your own words these phrases from the passage: "how much more" and "good things" and "those who ask." If you fully embraced that this is the way the Lord works, what would happen in your life?
- 5 Imagine that you were ushered into the presence of God where He warmly welcome you and said, "I've been considering major blessings for you. Which one would you like the best?" What would those blessings be, and which one would you select?