

July 8, 2001

## The Prayer of Jabez II

2) Jabez was **more honourable** in his knowledge of the Word of God. 1 Chronicles 2:55, lists a city named Jabez, and it is a city of scribes, or experts in the law of God. Jewish tradition holds that Jabez was a famous doctor of the law who left many disciples behind.

I must say that from what I have gathered, those caught up in these various winds of strange and sometimes false doctrines, *e.g.*, this hope in a prayer, as a rule, do not know the scripture, or they would understand that God will be obligated to absolutely no man.

3) he was **more honourable** in his godliness. He was a man of prayer, for he prayed for God's blessings upon himself. Notice the tone of sincere desire, ***Oh, that thou would bless me.***

His prayer here was not a ritual he was going through to pray every day, but it was the expression of a sincere heart and desire. We have no reason to think that Jabez had to pray this prayer every day for many years before God enlarged his borders.

How many of us go through the motions of prayer because it is expected of us, but our heart is not really in it? Our praying becomes more like the prayer we say before a meal — simply a ritual with our minds a million miles away.

Jabez sincerely prayed from his innermost being. But he did not pray this prayer without putting feet to his prayer.

4) he was **more honourable** in overcoming his past. His name meant affliction or sorrow. We are not told what kind of sorrow he brought to his mother, but we do know that he turned that sorrow into joy. We do know that his life was not controlled by sorrow and grief, but by godliness and joy in the Lord.

Whatever the sorrow was, he overcame it, and lived a victorious life. And eventually he brought joy to his mother as he got older.

5) he was **more honourable** in desiring to stay away from evil — he prayed that the Lord ***wouldst keep me from evil***, which reminds us of the Lord's prayer, ***DELIVER US FROM EVIL.***

Jabez knew that the Lord would have to keep him from evil. It is the Lord who must work in our lives, or our sinful nature will drag us down into evil. If the Lord takes His hand off us for a moment, we will perish in our sins.

It does not matter what prayer a person prays, if one has a sincere desire to avoid evil, and he works at avoiding evil, he will prosper.

### **Psalms 1**

The promise of Psalms 1 have nothing to do with praying a magic prayer. Every preacher I know of has preached Psalms 1 at least once. The message there is clear — the prosperity promised by Psalms 1 has to do with avoiding evil and evil people; it has to do with delighting in and meditating on the law of the Lord day and night, which will lead to doing the law of God. There is nothing about praying *The Prayer of Jabez*.

What in the world are people thinking of when they get caught up in false teachings like *The Prayer of Jabez*? Do people place their brains in a net, and let the most gentle breeze blow them about?

6) he was **more honourable** in realizing the damage evil can do, ***that it may not grieve me.***

If we fully realized the grief sin causes, we also would pray that the Lord would ***keep us from evil.*** Human nature looks at evil and sin as fun. Jabez saw evil as a source of much grief. Evil is fun for awhile, but in the end it bites like a snake. (Pro. 23:29.)

7) he was **more honourable** in that he realized who the true God is, and that God will hear and answer prayer:

<<To the chief Musician, A Psalm and Song of David.>> Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed. 2 O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. (Ps. 65:1.)

Let me quickly give you some closing points about Jabez s prayer:

**First,**

*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. (Luke 11:1.)*

The disciples asked the Master to teach them to pray: *Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.* They did not say, *Lord, teach us to pray as Jabez prayed.* Christ s response to His disciples request had no hint of Jabez s prayer. If Jabez found the magic words to compel God to come running to man s aid, why did not Christ use Jabez s prayer?

How many feel that God will bless them if they every day or at every church service pray the Lord s Prayer, or say their Hale Marys?

**Second,**

*And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. (Jn. 16:23.)*

Jabez did not pray through Christ because he was before Christ. Christ made it very clear that no one will come to the Father since He came except through Him.

**Third,**

*22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. 23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. 24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us. (1 Jn. 3.)*

God s promise for His people is clear, and it has nothing to do with saying any set formula of magic words.

See Micah 2:7, and my notes there.