

❖ **The PRAYER OF JABEZ (I Chron. 4:10)**

New International Version

10 Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request.

New Living Translation

He was the one who prayed to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and expand my territory! Please be with me in all that I do, and keep me from all trouble and pain!" And God granted him his request.

Contemporary English Version

One day he prayed to Israel's God, "Please bless me and give me a lot of land. Be with me so I will be safe from harm." And God did just what Jabez had asked.

Good News Translation

But Jabez prayed to the God of Israel, "Bless me, God, and give me much land. Be with me and keep me from anything evil that might cause me pain." And God gave him what he prayed for.

The Message (MSG)

9-10 Jabez was a better man than his brothers, a man of honor. His mother had named him Jabez (Oh, the pain!), saying, "A painful birth! I bore him in great pain!" Jabez prayed to the God of Israel: "Bless me, O bless me! Give me land, large tracts of land. And provide your personal protection—don't let evil hurt me." God gave him what he asked.

The PRAYER OF JABEZ (I Chron. 4:10)

1. Background

- a. Period of the Judges: everyone did his own thing
- b. Era of moral depravity & religious syncretism (DIY religion)
- c. Famous Judges: Deborah, Samson, Gideon
- d. Samuel: last judge, first prophet
- e. Jabez of the tribe of Judah; means “pain”
- f. Jabez “more honorable;” looked to GOD. Had faith



2. Jabez' prayer

a. Bless me indeed

- To BLESS mean to ask for or impart supernatural favors.

It is *not* asking for more of what we could get ourselves.

- Is this right? Selfish? *TRUST in God's character, intentions & generosity.*
- See Gen. 32:26; Ex.12:32; Psalm 5:12; Ps. 90:17; Ps. 84:11; Ps. 89:11; Jn. 16:23-24; Eph. 1:3; II Cor. 9:8; James 4:2-3;

b. Enlarge my territory (borders/homestead/frontier) ...business, family, network... other?

- Asking God to expand your life/influence to have an impact on others for Him & His glory.
- “God always intervenes when you put His agenda before yours.” (Bruce Wilkinson)

c. That Your hand would be with me. The hand of God = “touch of greatness” (BHW)

- See Josh.4:24; Isaiah 59:1; Mt. 28:20; Acts 4:34; Acts 11:21

d. Keep me from evil. Plan for success by avoiding evil.

- “Evil” = immoral places, people, purposes, plans of temptation. In Prov. “folly.” Immorality has terrible consequences.
- Personal Temptation: you know your own weaknesses. Don't go there.

3. PRAYER FOR WVPC

- a. Bless us indeed
- b. Enlarge our territory
- c. Your hand with us
- d. Keep us from evil (“Deliver us from the evil one”)