

## Honorable Man- Powerful God

### I Chronicles 4:1-10

The sons of Judah *were* Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hur and Shobal. <sup>2</sup> Reaiah the son of Shobal became the father of Jahath, and Jahath became the father of Ahumai and Lahad. These *were* the families of the Zorathites. <sup>3</sup> These *were* the sons of Etam: Jezreel, Ishma and Idbash; and the name of their sister *was* Hazzelelponi. <sup>4</sup> Penuel *was* the father of Gedor, and Ezer the father of Hushah. These *were* the sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah, the father of Bethlehem. <sup>5</sup> Ashhur, the father of Tekoa, had two wives, Helah and Naarah. <sup>6</sup> Naarah bore him Ahuzzam, Hepher, Temeni and Haahashtari. These were the sons of Naarah. <sup>7</sup> The sons of Helah *were* Zereth, Izhar and Ethnan. <sup>8</sup> Koz became the father of Anub and Zobebah, and the families of Aharhel the son of Harum. <sup>9</sup> Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother named him Jabez saying, "Because I bore *him* with pain." <sup>10</sup> Now Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep *me* from harm that *it* may not pain me!" And God granted him what he requested. **I Chronicles 4:1-10 NASB**

- Today we are going to look at the prayer of Jabez. Jabez, he is 'buried' under 42 other names here in I Chronicles chapter 4. There are 42 names listed with no details or insights listed in this chapter. Suddenly verses 9 and 10 jump up and give a brief but magnificent look at a man named Jabez. We will look at what God says about Jabez, about his name and what it means, his 'life-style' and his prayer.
  - The bible says Jabez was 'more honorable' than his brothers. AMPC says honorable above his brothers.
    - He was a man of substance and significance.
    - He was a man worthy of respect
    - He was an able minded man.
    - He was a man of good reputation.
    - He was a man 'prominent' in God.
    - The word for honorable means heavy or weighty, worthy. Jabez carried a lot of 'weight' in his sphere of influence. He was esteemed in the eyes of God.
    - If God pronounces you as 'honorable' then you deserve to be honored whether people discern that or not.

- Jabez is listed as a man more honorable than all the generations covered by the 42 names given in verse 1-8. Wow!
- Jabez's mother named him. His name literally means 'he will cause pain'!
- His name, what he is known as, is associated with pain. His presence is connected with pain.
- This is a great life lesson. We must learn to live above the pain associated with our name.
- Pain can be associated to us in many ways.
  - Family history-alcohol, drugs, crime, poverty, etc.
  - Geographical location. 'Wrong side of town'. 'The other side of the tracks'. 'Poor side of town', 'the boondocks', or 'NAZERETH'!
  - Ethnicity, culture or language.
  - Faith, religion or belief.
  - Physical body: size, shape or condition.
  - People can be very cruel; they can use anything about us to try to shame, provoke or criticize us.
  - Such actions are an attempt to wrongly define us to ourselves and to others.
  - People used 'pain' to try to name, shame and tame Jabez.
  - Jabez overcame it all by living honorably.
- Jacob's lifestyle: He was a man of prayer. He called on God. He prayed! We are often known by that which we do the most of.
  - If you think of Patrick Mahomes, you think of football.
  - If you think of Bobby Witt, Jr., you think of baseball.
  - If you think of Taylor Swift, you think of music.
  - Now, when you think of Jabez, you will think of prayer.
- Jabez's name means pain, He overcame the pain associated with his name by living an honorable life that was highlighted by a vibrant and persistent practice of prayer. We know he was a man of prayer, and we even get to know how he prayed.

Let's examine the prayer.

### The Prayer of Jabez- I Chronicles 4v10

- This is a passionate prayer, Oh!

- Oh, that you would bless me indeed.
- This was not obligatory it was urgent.
- This was not Passive, it was engaged with deep emotions.
- This is a prayer of desire and energy.
- This is a personal prayer.
  - Oh, that You would bless me.
  - This is a passionate prayerful pursuit of God for personal blessing.  
(Ephesians 6:18, instructs to pray with all prayer, with all manner of prayer.)
  - There are many other kinds of prayer, by all means use them but don't overlook this one!
- This is a provocative prayer.
  - Bless me indeed Lord, I don't want a little one-uncork a biggie!
  - This is a daring, unabashed, unashamed request for a release of God's biggest and best!
  - Most people are too "spiritual" to pray like this and can be deeply offended if they heard someone else pray this way.
  - BUT, this prayer is being prayed by a "most Honorable Man". We pray with our life and with our lips and apparently his life prayed in such a way before God and men that it was totally fitting for him to ask for a God sized blessing like we see here.
- This is a purposeful prayer.
  - Oh that you would bless me indeed and enlarge my border. The purpose was a personal enlargement.
  - Jabez is asking God to enlarge, expand and extend his sphere of influence.  
(See Isaiah 54:1-3)
- Let God define the boundaries of your life! An honorable man is a humble man and he knows that expanded borders means more responsibility, but responsibilities are really privileges when God reveals them to us as answered prayer! Jabez simply believed that God is really good!
  - Boundaries of:
    - Love
    - Intercession
    - Leadership
    - Compassion

- Generosity
- Gifting
- Ministry
- Hospitality
- Wisdom
- Calling
- Evangelism
- Comfort zone

- This is a prayer for God's presence.
  - Lord, I want all you have for me but beyond anything and everything- I WANT YOU!
  - Apart from you I can do nothing.
  - There is only emptiness apart from surrender to you.
  - I want all you have for me but above all I want you
- This is a prayer for God's provision and protection.
  - That you would keep me from harm that it might not pain me.
  - Lord, keep the evil one from my door and control my life by your spirit so that my own human carnality does not disqualify me and dishonor you.
  - We NEED God's provision and protection and we need personal purity in our walk.

<sup>10</sup> Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that You would indeed bless me and enlarge my border [property], and that Your hand would be with me, and You would keep me from evil so that it does not hurt me!" And God granted his request. |

**Chronicles 4:10 AMP**

- Just when you want to rebuke Jabez for being selfish, immature and unspiritual. Just when you want to write him off as a "hyper prosperity" preacher. God messes it all up by finishing.
  - Verse 10, "And God granted him what he requested".
  - God is a father and He delights in the blessing of His children. He withholds no good thing.
- Would you dare to pray this prayer? Would you pray for:
    - Your family
    - Our church
    - Your business or job
    - Over the boundary issues

<sup>3</sup>Trust in the Lord and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. <sup>4</sup>Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart. <sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it. <sup>6</sup>He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday. **Psalms 37:3-6 NASB**

- God does grant requests
- New borders mean 'new neighbors, new responsibilities and new opportunities.
- New blessing gives you increased capacity to experience His Lordship.
- New blessings bring new gratitude and testimonies.