

The Prayer of Jabez: who was Jabez?

PRAYER OF JABEZ

I Chron 4:9–10

Jabez was honored more than his brothers; and his mother named him Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain."

WHAT WE CAN LEARN

HONOUR

- Jabez was honourable.
- Jabez was a good steward with what he had.
- God giving Jabez more, would expand his will as well. He was placing resources in the hands of an honourable man!

TERRITORY INCREASE



His prayer was that of increase. God answered Jabez's prayer!

THE LATTER DAYS

God caused Jabez's end to be better than his beginning.

Haggai 2:9

The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.



YOUR BACKGROUND



The name Jabez "Because I bore him in pain" didn't deter him from achieving that which God had in store for him.

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There is very little information provided about Jabez in the scripture. We know that he was viewed or regarded in higher esteem than his brothers. We also know that Jabez was a descendent of Judah.[\[Study Light\]](#)

I Chron 4:9–10

Jabez was honored more than his brothers; and his mother named him Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain."

His name comes from his mother's experience of child birth. We don't know whether he was the first child or not, just to gauge the relativity of his mother's pain in child birth. If he was the first child, there was no comparison at the time. If he was the last child, she would have had his siblings' child birth to compare to.

We could deduce that his brothers had some honour, as Jabez was said to have had "more" honour than them. God is known to honour those that honour him. The bible would have been referring to what Jabez did in the eyes of the Lord, as opposed to the eyes of the world. That would have been the source of his honour, how he conducted himself in view of the law of the Lord.

The Hebrew yabetz or יַבֵּץ which can be translated to "he makes sorrowful" is the closest that one can come to a meaning for the name Jabez. This of course would mirror his mother's sentiments due to the pain of delivering him.[\[BST\]](#)

What can we learn from Jabez

You can rise above your name

We can tell from the way that he is later described, that Jabez would not have continued to live up to the way that he had begun his life. He had held on to God and been lifted from one that caused pain, to one that was blessed. As an honourable man, he would have undoubtedly have been a blessing to his mother. The cause of pain had become a constant joy, and source of pride.

Your begin should not be your end! You can rise above where you started. What other people have called you should not create boundaries for you.



PRAYER OF JABEZ

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Praying the prayer of Jabez

1 Chronicles 4:10 :

“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.”

1. Enlarge my territory: When the righteous prosper.
2. Let your hand be with me: Go with me, Take not your spirit.
3. Keep me from harm, and pain (causer of pain). (Cain and Abel).

PRAYING THE PRAYER OF JABEZ

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Enlarge my territory:

The very first thing that Jabez asks for in his prayer is that his territory would be enlarged. Territory speaks of sphere of influence. The word “enlarge” gives the impression that Jabez already had some territory. You cannot enlarge something that is non-existent. Proverbs 11:10 When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting. This is a principle of God. He delights in giving good things to his children. When Jabez asks for his territory to be enlarged, we know that as an honourable man, he would have been a steward of the little that he had. It is God’s promise to give more to those who use what they have for his kingdom.

Matthew 25:21

21 “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!

Our prayer should start from, Lord grant us grace to make the most of whatever you put into our hands. Father, make me a great steward!

Let you hand be with me:

We know from this that, Jabez valued the presence of God. He knew that with a large territory, greater responsibility would require him to lean more on God! He placed value on the presence of God, as King David did.

Psalm 51:11

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Even if I am to have a greater territory, greater influence, without your presence, oh God, it is but vanity!

He understood as Moses had understood, **Exodus 33:15**

And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.

If it would cost me your presence, I don’t want it oh Lord!

That I’d be free of pain

Jabez had been a source of pain at birth for his mother. His prayer was that of redemption.

That which was at the beginning does not have to be with you to the end, that is what

Jabez’s prayer stood against. God is famous for rewriting stories! Let that be your testimony!

Jabez’s prayer was that, his latter days would be greater than his former days!

Haggai 2:9

The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and

in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.

[embedyt] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDmxwVVsqEk>[/embedyt]

In conclusion:

- Jabez was honourable.
- Jabez was a good steward with what he had.
- His prayer was that of increase. God answered Jabez’s prayer!
- God giving Jabez more, would expand his will as well. He was placing resources in the hands of an honourable man!
- God caused Jabez’s end to be better than his beginning.
- The name Jabez “Because I bore him in pain” didn’t deter him from achieving that which God had in store for him.

There are a lot of things that we can emulate from Jabez, if we are to walk in the same fruits that his prayer bore. We know that God granted his request. Let that be your testimony as well. As you are faithful with the small things, may God grant you more. May the one that gives seed to the sower, and causes it to rain grant you a bounty harvest, as you sow! Amen.

What impact would God giving you more have on your sphere? What impact would God enlarging your territory have on your family? On your friends? On the church? Your city and country?

FAQs about Jabez

What is Jabez bible meaning?

The name Jabez in the bible is derived from the Hebrew yabetz or יַבֵּץ, meaning, "he makes me sorrowful." His mother named him because "she bore him in pain". **I Chron 4:9–10.**

Where can I find the story of Jabez in the Bible?

The story of Jabez can be found in **1 Chronicles 4:9-10** in the bible. It is only two verses, which is very short for a man that uttered words that have become incredibly famous and significant.

What is the origin of the name Jabez?

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What is the correct Jabez name pronunciation?

No one could say for certain, seeing as it is derived from Hebrew **yabetz** or יַבֵּץ. Common English pronunciations are:

- Jay-Bea-Z
- Jah-Bea-Z

Where did Jabez come from?

Jabez was from the tribe of Judah, which is one of the 12 tribes of Israel.

How was Jabez more honourable?

No one could say for certain. Honour in the bible refers to stature, which was tied to how community and the Lord perceived you. Jabez would have been honourable by following the Lord's ways, and caring for others in his community. He would have done this to a greater degree than his brothers.

How was Jabez blessed?

Jabez was blessed through increase. His prayer was for God to enlarge his territory. The Lord did this.

Who was Jabez father/mother?

No one could say for certain. All we know is that they were from one of the 12 tribes of Israel, Judah.

Why/How Jabez was born in pain?

This would have been in reference to a difficult delivery in labour. The reason why this occurred is not given in scripture. One can say that this is something that happens in childbirth at times.

Why was Jabez prayer answered?

Here are some reasons and principles to explain why Jabez's prayer was answered:

- He was honourable.
- He was a good steward of what he already had, so when he asked for more, God obliged.

What does Jabez mean in Hebrew?

The name Jabez in the bible is derived from the Hebrew yabetz or יַבֵּץ, meaning, "he makes me sorrowful."

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