

A New Covenant Look at the Prayer of Jabez

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 (NKJV)

{9} Now Jabez¹ was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." {10} And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.

The Complete Word Study Dictionary:

H3258

יַעֲבֵז

ya' bēṣ: A proper noun designating Jabez, a descendant of the line of Judah, a family head (1 Chronicles 4:9-10). He is called an "honorable" man. His name means "he means or causes sorrow/pain," thus the expression of his mother. Jabez prays a prayer that, playing on the meaning of Jabez ("sorrow, pain"), asks that the Lord would grant him freedom from pain by blessing him. God did so!

Oh, that You would bless me indeed

Deuteronomy 6:1-12 (NIV) These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, {2} so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. {3} Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you. {4} Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

¹ Literally *He Will Cause Pain*

{5} Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. {6} These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. {7} Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. {8} Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. {9} Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. {10} When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you--a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, {11} houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant--then when you eat and are satisfied, {12} be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Oh, that You would bless me indeed

1. and enlarge my territory = (evangelistic territory)

Matthew 4:19 (NIV) "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

2. that Your hand would be with me = (directing our witness)

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. {19} Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} and teaching them to obey

everything I have commanded you. **And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**"

3. and that You would keep me from evil = (loss of witness)

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) "This, then, is how you should pray:
"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, {10} your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
{11} Give us today our daily bread. {12} Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. {13} And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

4. that I may not cause pain = (witnessing by the flesh)