

1 Chronicles 4:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.

Analysis

Jabez's prayer demonstrates bold faith: 'And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.' This prayer contains four petitions: blessing, enlargement (territory/influence), divine presence ('thine hand with me'), and protection from evil. The name Jabez means 'pain' (4:9), yet he transcended difficult origins through prayer. God's granting the request demonstrates that bold, specific prayers aligned with God's purposes receive answers. This anticipates Jesus's teaching to ask and receive (John 16:24) and points to believers' privilege of approaching God's throne with confidence.

Historical Context

Jabez appears in Judah's genealogy (c. unknown date) with unusual detail - most genealogies list names without narrative. His prayer's inclusion suggests it became proverbial in Israel, teaching that covenant prayer overcomes disadvantageous circumstances.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What bold, specific requests do you need to bring before God, trusting Him to grant what aligns with His purposes?
2. How does Jabez's prayer challenge you to move beyond vague generalities to concrete petitions?

Interlinear Text

תְּבַרַּכְךָ נִי	אִם	לֵאמֹר	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֱלֹהֵי יָם	וְעַבְדְּךָ	וְקָרָא
me indeed	Oh that	saying	of Israel	me! And God	And Jabez	called
H1288	H518	H559	H3478	H430	H3258	H7121
עִמִּי יָדְךָ	וְהִיטֵהָ	גְּבוּלִי	אֶת	וְהַרְבֵּה יֵת	תְּבַרַּכְךָ נִי	
and that thine hand	and that	my coast		and enlarge	me indeed	
H5973	H3027	H1366		H7235	H1288	
לְבִלְתִּי מִרָעָה	וְעִשֵּׂה יֵת					
me from evil	might be with me and that thou wouldst keep					
H1115	H6213					
אֲשֶׁר יֵת	אֱלֹהֵי יָם	וְיָבִיא	עַבְדְּךָ יָ			
H834	me! And God	granted	that it may not grieve			
H853	H430	H935	H6087			
			שָׁאֵל:			
			him that which he requested			
			H7592			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 10:22 (Blessing): The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Jeremiah 33:3 (Parallel theme): Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Isaiah 41:10 (References God): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Psalms 119:173 (Parallel theme): Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts.

Ephesians 3:20 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

2 Timothy 4:18 (Evil): And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

John 10:28 (Parallel theme): And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Ephesians 1:3 (Blessing): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Psalms 21:4 (Parallel theme): He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him, even length of days for ever and ever.

Psalms 55:16 (References God): As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me.