

BECAUSE I BARE HIM WITH SORROW

1 CHRONICLES 4:9-10

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⁹ And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. ¹⁰ 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.

Introduction:

We have in this long list of names which begins in chapter 1 a man whose name is Jabez. Only two verses in the Bible speak of him.

But in these verses we see the distinctions that made this man and his prayer so talked and written about today.

Notice:

1. DISTINCTION OF NAME

1 Chronicles 4:9

⁹ And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow.

In biblical times the name given to a person often meant the character or the plight in life he or she might walk. For instance ...:

Jacob – supplanter or one who tricks – he tricked his brother out of his birthright

Jeremiah – God exalted or thrown – he was thrown as a prophet into a nation of self-righteous people

Moses – Brought forth – was brought forth out of the water

Jabez has the distinction of what his name means ... to grieve, be sorrowful. His mother for whatever reason chose to memorialize his birth experience by naming her son Jabez ... because I bare him with sorrow.

Was it because the delivery was hard?

Was it because times were hard?

He had to carry this “tag” throughout his life.

Other child may have teased him when he was young

His name would be a constant reminder that he caused pain.

2. DISTINCTION OF HONOR

1 Chronicles 4:9

⁹ And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow.

Something happened in this man's life ... something that took him from painful to profitable.

It is said that the difference between the ordinary and extraordinary is the willingness to do the "extra."
"Jabez wanted to be more and do more for God

Jabez owned the distinction of being more honorable than those around him.

Being honorable speaks to the character, responsibility and respect of the person. Jabez went from being painful to being more honorable.

Too frequently do the instances of our past lives affect the course of the future.

Notice the things that make one honorable:

A. Desire – He Called on the God of Israel

The person who honors God seeks to rise above shortcomings. Remember his name meant “pain” but he was determined not to be intimidated by his past. Honorable people rise above their past.

Illustration:

Fanny Crosby was blind most of her life yet she rose to be one of the greatest hymn writers of all time.

The person who honors God desires that his life count for God. That is the essence of Jabez’s prayer in verse 10.

1 Chronicles 4:10

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B. Decision – He made a decision to live for God

We sing occasionally “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.”

One line in that song says, “Though none go with me sill I will follow.”

Jabez’s decision was reflected in the prayer he prayed.

He made a decision to ask God for His blessing.

C. Destiny – God granted his request

What made the difference in this man's life ... who was at one point characterized by causing pain ... to become a man remembered as more honorable than his brothers?

It's the third distinction of the life of Jabez ... his prayer life.

3. DISTINCTION OF PRAYER

1 Chronicles 4:10

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Jabez is distinctly remembered, not for what he did, but for what he prayed.

His prayer became the distinction in his life to remove him from causing pain to being blessed by the hand of God.

Jabez prayed for . . . God to bless him ... enlarge his territory ... keep His hand on him ... keep him from evil so as not to cause pain.

Jabez believed that God heard and that God would answer.

Jabez called on the One who could, would and wanted to make the difference in his life. His prayer let loose God's will, power and blessing in his life. And it can be the distinction in your life also.

Close:

Are you willing to be like Jabez and do the "extra" to bring about the extraordinary work of God in your life?