

HONORABLE EXAMPLE

I CHRONICLES 4:9-10

I Chronicles 4:9 And Jabez was more honorable 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.

1. 9 chaps. of genealogies. Dry as dust!
 - a. Genealogies of the descendants of Noah through his 3 sons.
 - b. In the 9 chaps., I have underlined only 4-5 passages.

2. I Chronicles 4:9-10 speaks of Jabez, of whom we know nothing certain except what we read in v. 9-10; yet, Jabez was such a significant individual and example of righteousness and godliness for all time as reflected in these verses that the Holy Spirit guided the writer of the book to suddenly interrupt the genealogies and insert v. 9-10.

Gen. 5:21 And Enoch lived sixty and five years,
and begat Methuselah:

22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat
Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons
and daughters:

23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred
sixty and five years:

24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not;
for God took him.

3. Do you ever ponder the significance of your own life in the eyes of God? I do.

II Cor. 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Now listen to the great apostle Paul:

I Cor. 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. 4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

4. How did Jabez get his name? He was born in a difficult time.

“his mother called his name Jabez, saying,
Because I bare him with sorrow,”
I Chronicles 4:9.

5. What was it about Jabez that merited such an honorable mention? What can we learn from his life to motivate us to emulate him in our own lives? Let's look at his life and see.

CHALLENGE: Be a Jabez type of person

A. By living an exceptionally honorable life.

I Chronicles 4:9, Jabez was more honorable than his brothers.

B. By calling on the God of Israel.

I Chronicles 4:10a And Jabez called on the God of Israel, . . .

1. Jabez realized that God is real, that God is interested in those who trust and believe in Him, that God hears and listened to us, and that God can and does make a difference in our lives when we call on Him.
2. This was so dramatically true of Jabez that when the genealogies reached the time of Jabez the H.S. would not just pass over his name without making this comment for all who would wade through these lists to read it and be challenged by it.
3. As in our day, calling on God was true of no where near all of Israel. It certainly is not true of all Americans, nor of all American Christians. It is not even true of all Bible believing Christians.

C. By seeking the blessing of God, I Chronicles 4:10

I Chronicles 4:10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed,

1. Who doesn't want the blessing of God?
2. Is this selfish? Not at all. It could be.
3. Note "indeed." That is significant too. Jabez earnestly sought genuine, true blessing from God, not just selfish desires.

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Jabez wanted true blessing, and so should we.
Pray for it.

D. By seeking enlargement from God.

I Chronicles 4:10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, . . . and enlarge my coast,

1. Pray that God will bless you by enabling you to become the person spiritually God saved you to become.

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

2. Pray that God will enable you to be the best father, mother, child in the family, neighbor, employee. Call on God to help you enlarge your understanding of the Bible, effectiveness in prayer, fruit in witnessing, trust in God.

E. By seeking the power of God.

1 Chronicles 4:10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, . . . and that thine hand might be with me . . .

Thus, Jabez called for the power of God to assist him in the task before him.

So ought we to plead for the power of God also, that "God's hand might be with us" to achieve His will and blessing in our lives.

F. By seeking God's protection from evil.

I Chronicles 4:10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, . . . and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me!

What kind of evil?

G. By enjoying the blessing of trusting and living for God.

I Chronicles 4:10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel, . . . And God granted him that which he requested.

CONCLUSION:

Obtain a great standing before God by being a Jabez type person like Jabez

1. Living an exceptionally honorable life.
2. Calling on the God of Israel (our God).
3. Seeking the blessing of God.
4. Seeking enlargement from God.
5. Seeking the power of God.
6. Seeking God's protection from evil.
7. Then you will enjoy the blessing of trusting and living for God like Jabez.