



Week 11 Chronicles

Every Sunday evening at [Bible Explorer](#) we will explore the question

'What does this book from the Bible mean for us today?'

Introduction

Chronicles – the events of days or annals! Things left out from Kings!

The Chronicler is writing history for the post exilic community normally following Samuel and Kings and presupposing the reader to have read both!

The guiding principle of the 'Chronicler' is the presentation of Israel as God's Community via the Davidic Line and the importance of the Temple.

God's people needed to know where they had come from and the role of the Temple and its services. Saul, David's sin, Absalom's rebellion and the history of the Northern Kingdom - which was largely in rebellion against God - do not serve this purpose and hardly get a look in!

Chronicles represents the priestly standpoint - what God has ordained and how he is 'working his purpose out.'

1 Chronicles: Genealogies 1-9:44. David's reign 10 – 29:30

2 Chronicles: Solomon's Reign 1 – 9:31. The Kings of Judah - Rehoboam to Josiah. 10:1 – 35:27. Downfall and Resurrection: 36:1-23

PRAYER OF JABEZ - 1 CHRONICLES 4:9-10

"Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, 'Because I bore him in pain.' 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 (or feel) pain." So God granted him what he requested." **1 Chronicles 4:10 NKJV**

Some of what follows is from the internet – much from [Bruce Wilkerson's](#) book, *The prayer of Jabez – breaking through to the Blessed life*. The breakthrough series publ by Multnomah publishers inc – US.



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All we know about the birth of Jabez is that he is from the tribe of Judah and that his mother named him because she "*bore him in pain.*" The Hebrew word here translated "pain" is not the usual word for this concept. In fact it is only used three times in the Old Testament (here and in Psa. 139:24 and Isa. 14:3). Professor James Strong gives as the definition: "an idol (as fashioned); also pain (bodily or mental.)" This word pain therefore seems to be possibly about wickedness, especially connected with an idol, and *then* the pain or guilt that comes from such an experience. Since the pain or guilt in our verses is associated with Jabez' mother's birthing experience it's possible that the pain was caused by the circumstances associated with his birth; perhaps he was illegitimate.

The Jabez prayer is composed of four parts. First, Jabez asks God to bless him. Secondly, he asks God to enlarge his territory or increase his responsibility. Thirdly, he prays that God will be with him and stay close. And lastly, Jabez asks that God keep him from harm so that he will be free from pain – either feeling it or causing it – the phrase could mean either or both of these things.

1. ***Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez...***

LET's take a few moments now to reflect on our individual situation. How we feel about our name, our family, our life circumstances, the hand we have been dealt.....

2. ***And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed..."***

LET's take a few moments now to reflect on our individual situation and about what God's blessing might look like for us – what do we really, really want?



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3. ***and enlarge my territory...***

LET's take a few moments now to reflect on our individual situation and about where God's calling us to be, what our sphere of influence is, where we would like our boundaries expanded.

4. ***that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause (or feel) pain.***

LET's take a few moments now to reflect on any areas where we might need God's help with evil or where we are aware that He wants to fill us afresh with His Holy Spirit.

5. The final phrase says *And God granted Jabez' request.* So we can also have confidence in God.

LET's take a few moments now to pray in 2's and 3's (or alone) n.b. confidentially. Accountability where action is needed?