

Prayer of Jabez (1 Chronicles 4:9-10)

"Being More Than Ordinary"

David Rountree

Introduction

1. In 1Chron. 4:1-13 what stands out as significant?
2. A focus on Jabez — a better "cookie."

A More Than Ordinary Person (v.9)

1. Contrast an "ordinary person" vs. a more than ordinary person. Is their more involved than prayer for prosperity, wealth, and health for ministry (cf. p. 76 *The Prayer of Jabez*)?
2. Jabez, "more honorable than his brothers."

Honor is a position of high status that comes from God (1 Chron. 29:12) upon those who are servants of Christ (John 12:26) who act with wisdom (Prov. 3:35), graciousness (Prov. 11:16), humility (Prov. 15:33), faithfulness (2 Chronicles 26:18), peace (Prov. 20:3), righteousness and loyalty (Prov. 21:21), for the purpose of doing well in all that God has called us to do (1 Tim. 5:17; 2 Chron. 1:10-12).

3. Consider the example of Solomon (2 Chron. 1:10-12)
4. The name Jabez means "pain."

A More Than Ordinary Prayer (v.10)

1. "Indeed" is a word of earnestness. What does this mean?
2. In what ways can we pray for an "enlargement of our border?" Consider Exod. 34:21-28.
3. Jabez also prays that God would "be with him and keep him," and that what took place in his life would "not pain him."

4. In what extraordinary ways can we be a blessing?

A More Than Ordinary Position (vs.10b)

1. "God granted him what he requested."

2. Jabez's position: Close enough to pray God's will.

Rise Above Mediocrity

Determine to give your spouse a more than ordinary companion. Determine to give your children a more than ordinary parent. Determine to give your church a more than ordinary member/minister. Determine to give your God a more than ordinary sinner.