

# ILLUSTRATED Weekly Bible Notes

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## FREE SAMPLER

*Digging deeper into the inspired Word of the Bible*

For study the week of **April 29 – May 5, 2024**

### **This is a free sample of the Weekly Bible Notes study aid for this week.**

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### **Suggested uses and notes for the *Illustrated Weekly Bible Notes*:**

The **complete chapters and/or stories** are provided in canonical order for your weekly Bible study. The format is designed so you can **print and arrange the complete stories / chapters in 3-ring binders in canonical order for future, easy reference**. New chapters/stories are published each week, so that you can **build a cumulative Bible study reference tool**.

The text of each featured chapter / story is presented in the **Common English Version (CEB)**, and just below the block of text are links to the text in nine other translations or paraphrases. An **alternate, modern Bible translation for each verse** is provided with the commentary on each verse, and a list of the Bible version abbreviations with full titles and copyright information can be found at the end of this document.



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# 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

## Prayer of Jabez

**(CEB)\*** <sup>9</sup> Jabez was more honored than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, “I bore him in pain.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>10</sup> Jabez called on Israel’s God: “If only you would greatly bless me and increase my territory. May your power go with me to keep me from trouble, so as not to cause me pain.” And God granted his request.

\*(Common English Bible) View text in: [AMP](#) | [GNT](#) | [KJV](#) | [MSG](#) | [NET](#) | [NIV](#) | [NLT](#) | [NRSVUE](#) | [VOICE](#)

## COMMENTARY/RESOURCES:

**OVERVIEW:** This chapter is a further account of the tribe of Judah, and of some principal families in it, including the mention of Jabez (vss. 9-10).

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

**(EXB)** There was a man named Jabez, who was more respected [honorable; honored; known] than his brothers. His mother named him Jabez [<sup>c</sup>sounds like the word for “pain”] because she said, “I was in much pain when I gave birth to him.”

**(NLT)** There was a man named Jabez who was more honorable than any of his brothers. His mother named him Jabez because his birth had been so painful.

**Jabez:** See the [Bible Character Notes](#)

**PRONUNCIATION:** “Jabez, (jay’biz) [Audio](#) 1. A name introduced abruptly into a list of descendants of Judah,” (*Harper Collins Bible Pronunciation Guide (HCBP)*).

**YOUTUBE:** “The Prayer of Jabez” by Bruce Wilkinson, audio book, [Listen](#)

**COMMENTARY:** “The name ‘Jabez’ was given to the child because his mother bore him ‘in pain’ (*yabes*) But following an ancient belief that the name represents the character, there was a fear that evil consequences might follow for the boy. Jabez called on the God of Israel to turn any possible disaster into blessing.” (*The New American Commentary (NAC)*) “Jabez, a character who is otherwise unknown, though [1 Chronicles] 2:55 mentions a place named Jabez. Once more, the etiology is unrelated to both what precedes and what follows. Its content is unique and intriguing. Jabez’s name is related to the word for ‘pain’, although the last two consonants are reversed as if to avoid any consequences of the bad name. As a further measure, Jabez prays to God to keep him from pain. It is perhaps through God’s answer to his prayer that Jabez is honored above his brothers. The excerpt would have appealed to the Chronicler’s emphasis on the effectiveness of prayer.” (*Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries (AOTC)*, p79-80) “And his mother called him Yabetz saying, ‘For I have borne in pain’ (verse 9). Pain is *otseb* in Hebrew, and the name *ya’betz* [Yabetz or Jabez] contains the same letters albeit in different order (ayin, beth, tzaddi instead of beth, ayin, tzaddi). The Sages think the change was intentional. By reversing the letters the mother wanted to imply the sorrows of his birth should be changed into happiness. Taken at its simplest Yabetz’s prayer was a supplication to God that the pain implicit in his name should not be realized in his own life. Yabetz prayed that God should help him to fulfill His purposes energetically, for when a person is sad his actions tend toward lethargy. God answered his prayer and he led a happy life.” (Rabbi Moshe Eisemann supplies an answer in *Divrei Hayamim*— I Chronicles (Brooklyn: Mesorah, 1987))

**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. (KJV)**

**(GNT)** But Jabez prayed to the God of Israel, "Bless me, God, and give me much land. Be with me and keep me from anything evil that might cause me pain." And God gave him what he prayed for.

COMMENTARY: "Jabez asks for divine blessing in three forms. First, he wanted the expansion of his territory, a particularly appropriate petition within a genealogy so focused on geography and also appropriate for the relatively confined space of postexilic Yehud. Second, he requested the presence of God's hand, which would be the opposite of having God's hand against him.... Third, Jabez asked for liberation from the dire consequences of his birth and name, so that he would not suffer pain, as his mother had at his birth and as his name threatened him every moment of his life. He desired that his name could not be his fate....the author is stressing that God brought to pass that which Jabez had requested: in reporting God's answer to the prayer of Jabez, the Chronicler explains the high honor and apparent prosperity Jabez enjoyed in spite of his name and because of his piety and prayer." (***Hermeneia—A Critical and Historical Commentary (HERM)***, p132-3) "If Jabez were around today, I think he would be in shock. People all over the world have discovered his prayer. Upon recovery, I think Jabez would smile and remind you that there's nothing magic about his little prayer." Each phrase in this verse is the subject of several chapters in Wilkinson's book, illustrated by anecdotes, different ones for different age or gender groups. Jabez's last petition is "That you would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain" (NKJV). "When you're raging inside, God's Spirit will help and comfort you. He says, 'Come on. My friend, you don't want to do that, do you? You know it will cause pain for you and other people. Be strong this time. I'll help you.' So why not call upon Him for help?" (**Wilkinson, Bruce, *The Prayer of Jabez: Breaking Through to the Blessed Life*, Multnomah Pub., 2000)**)

**METACOMMENT:** "It is quite possible that no man has ever had his history written so tersely and yet so fully as Jabez. The very brevity and sweet simplicity of the story as told in those two verses fixes it in one's memory, where a longer narration would have defeated the purpose desired by the narrator....To those who have shared in the belief of Jabez; namely, the curse of mortal mind which declares that in sorrow all children shall be born, this history of how one of our brethren escaped from its seeming dominion will help to show us how to do the same.... It has been said that "to have faith in God one must have some conception of what He is capable of doing for us." Does not the interesting story of Jabez illustrate this?... The Christ knowledge has existed from all eternity, and every one of the ancient seers and prophets who saw that poverty, sickness, and sin were not God-made, and could by spiritual understanding be destroyed, caught a glimpse of the Christ." (**Pogson, Reuben, "The Prayer of Jabez", *Sentinel* Vol. 7 (25 February 1905), p. 404.**)

JSH-Online: <https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1905/2/7-26/the-prayer-of-jabez>

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