**Psalters**: 88:1,3 - 287:1,3 - 6:1,4,6 - 430:3,4,6. **Scripture**: 1 Chron. 4:1-19

**JABEZ’ PRAYER**

1. **The reason for Jabez’ prayer**

* Genealogies in the Bible tell the story of God’s faithfulness and care over His Church.
* Jabez’ name reveals his need (cf. Gen 3:16; Ps. 52:5).
* Is also our need (cf. Gen. 6:5-6; Ps. 90:8-10).
  + Has that ever become reality for you, and your sorrow?

1. **The content of Jabez’ prayer**

* Remarkable that Jabez laid his need before the Lord (cf. Prov. 12:15; 30:12; Jud. 2:12,17,19; 10:13).
* The content of his prayer:
  + “*Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed..*.”
    - Pleading upon God’s promise (Gen. 22:16-18; Heb. 11:17-19).
    - Is the blessing of the Lord for your *soul* your greatest need?
  + “… *that Thou would enlarge my coast..*.”
    - Because of disobedience unto the Lord Israel failed to conquer Canaan fully (Jdg. 2:1-3; 11-14).
    - Jabez’ desire was to be obedient unto the Lord.
    - Is it your earnest petition, that as individuals and as a church we may be blessed by the Lord (Acts 2:47; Eph. 3:6)?
  + “*… that Thine hand might be with me…*”
    - If it had to depend on Jabez strength and power, it would come to nothing.
    - If the hand of the Lord is with us, nothing can stop us (cf. Jos. 4:23-24; 1 Ki. 18:46; Ezr. 7:27-28).
    - If the curse is taken away from us in Christ, then our labour can be blessed and can be sweet.
  + “*… and that Thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me!*”
    - Jabez knew about the sin in the house of Judah (1 Chron. 2:3).
    - He has learned the lesson which Paul also learned (Rom. 7:18).
    - Is evil in your life your worry too as you look at the season ahead of you (cf. Ps. 37:16)?

1. **The answer upon Jabez’ prayer**

* Did you note that Jabez’ prayer is an OT version of the Lord’s prayer?
* What did the Lord Jesus say about prayer (Mat. 6:6)?
* God granted Jabez his request; only because of God’s mercy in Christ Jesus.