

“What Are Your Expectations?”
I Chronicles 4:9-10, page 407

Introduction:

1. There is a very interesting man that is mentioned only a few times in the Old Testament.
2. In *I Chronicles 4:9-10*, page 407, Jabez is mentioned along with many other individuals.
3. Jabez is the only name that receives specific attention in this chapter.
4. Jabez did not have a copy of the Bible, and he had never read the book of *Romans* written by the apostle Paul, especially *Romans 10:8-9*: “*But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*”
5. Still Jabez realized who God was and what God could do for him.
6. Jabez asked God to do three things for him:

I. “Oh that you would bless me....”

- A. A blessing could be described as:
 1. “To invoke divine favor upon.”
 2. “To confer well-being on.”
 3. “To endow as with talent.”
- B. God’s blessing must be requested and received before it can be experienced.
- C. God’s blessing is always dependent upon our individual wise decisions in life.
 1. I cannot ask God to bless me and then live a reckless life.
 2. I cannot expect God to bless my life if I live a life of disobedience concerning the commands stated in the Bible.
- D. God really wants to bless you, but He cannot bless those people who are refusing to live a Christ-like life.
- E. God has a dynamic plan for your life, and He will bless you if only you allow Him to strongly influence your daily actions.

II. “Enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me.”

- A. Do not settle for second or third place in your life.
 1. Set your goals high.
 2. Strive to be the best you can be.
 3. Rise above every negative aspect of your life; refuse to surrender to the undesirable.
 4. Change our world!
- B. Cho-seung-Hui was a person who could not—no—did not rise above the negative and the undesirable aspects of his life.
 1. Cho felt the pain of some negative things and nursed that pain.
 2. His life ended in a tragedy.
 3. He contributed nothing positive to our world.
 4. His last actions caused pain, suffering, and death to perhaps thousands of people.

- C. I urge you to ask God to enlarge your life and give you some dynamic goals to accomplish:
 - 1. Allow Jesus Christ to have a positive impact on your life.
 - 2. Attend college or a vocational school.
 - 3. Be determined to have a Christian family.
 - 4. If you are blessed to have children, be the best parent you can be.
 - 5. Be honest and work hard.
 - 6. Make a positive impact on people and change our world to become a better place to live.
- D. Put your faith and trust in God.
- E. Expect Him to do the impossible in and through you.
- F. Claim the New Testament promise: *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

III. ***“Keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain.”***

- A. Our world is filled with suffering and pain.
 - 1. Children are abused.
 - 2. Marriages are coming apart.
 - 3. Drug addictions are destroying lives.
 - 4. Wars are causing starvation and death.
- B. All this suffering is realized because of the evil, greed, anger, etc.
- C. Jabez was asking God to keep him from the evil that he knew would cause pain.
- D. Young people, your lives lie before you.
 - 1. You can choose goodness or evil.
 - 2. You will have many opportunities to make these choices.
- E. Remember, if you choose evil, you will be the first to experience pain.
 - 1. Your close family members will be second.
 - 2. The results of evil and pain have a ripple affect and touch the lives of many people.
 - 3. It is impossible to fully realize the pain caused by Cho.
- F. Ask God to keep you from evil, and, in so doing, you will avoid a lot of pain.

Conclusion:

- 1. The last statement concerning Jabez: *“So God granted him what he requested.”*
- 2. God will also answer your prayers and grant your requests.
- 3. Listen, if you do not ask, you will not receive anything.
- 4. What are your expectations for your life?
- 5. Set your goals high and expect God to grant your requests. *I Chronicles 4:10: “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 pain!’ So God granted him what he requested.”*