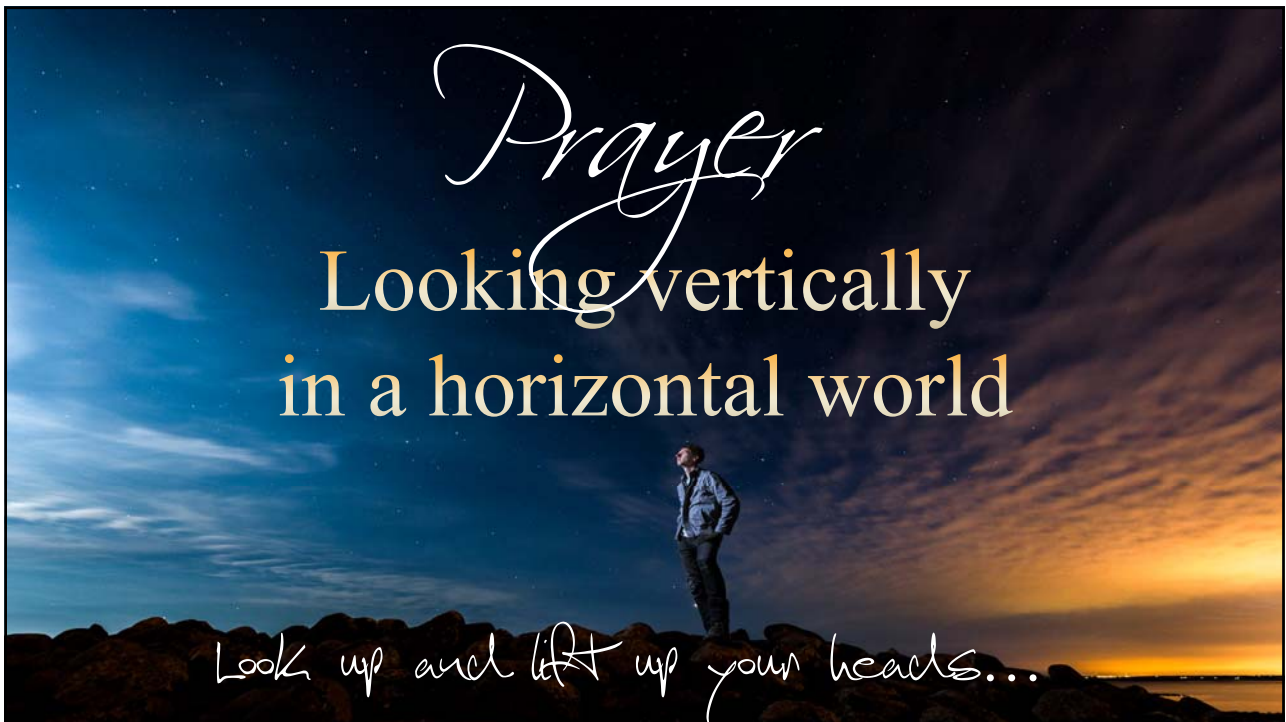
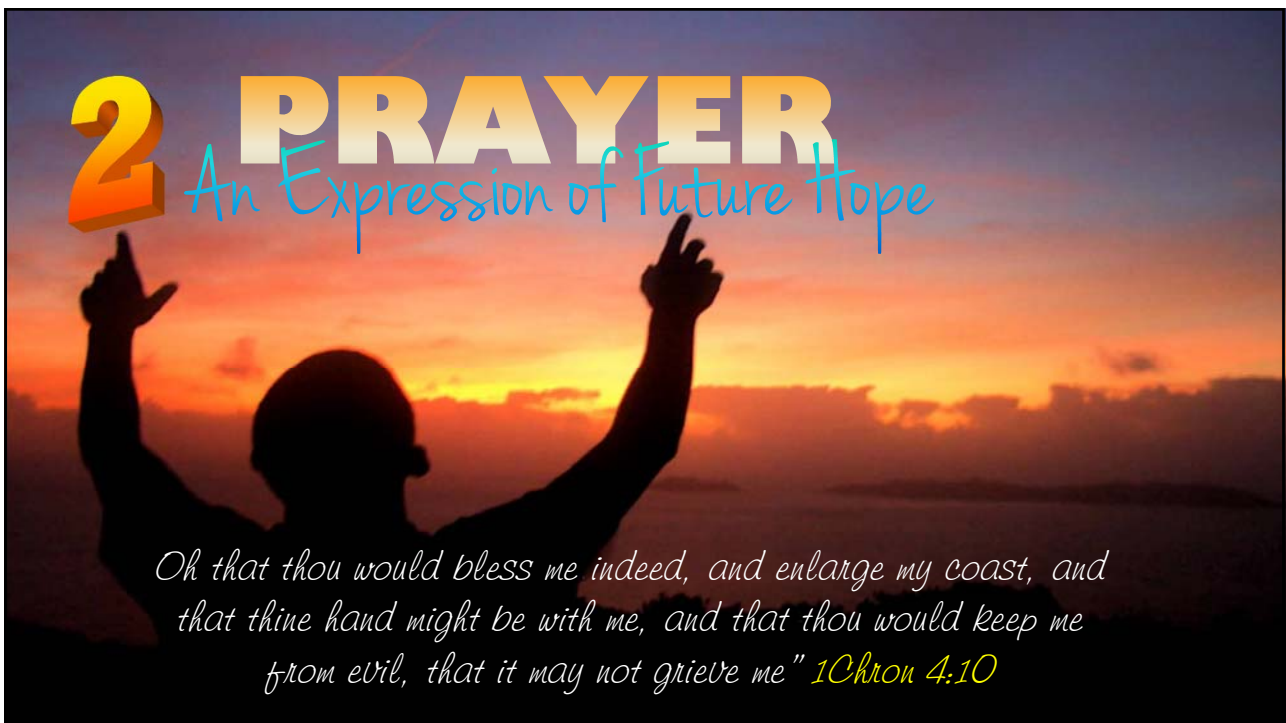
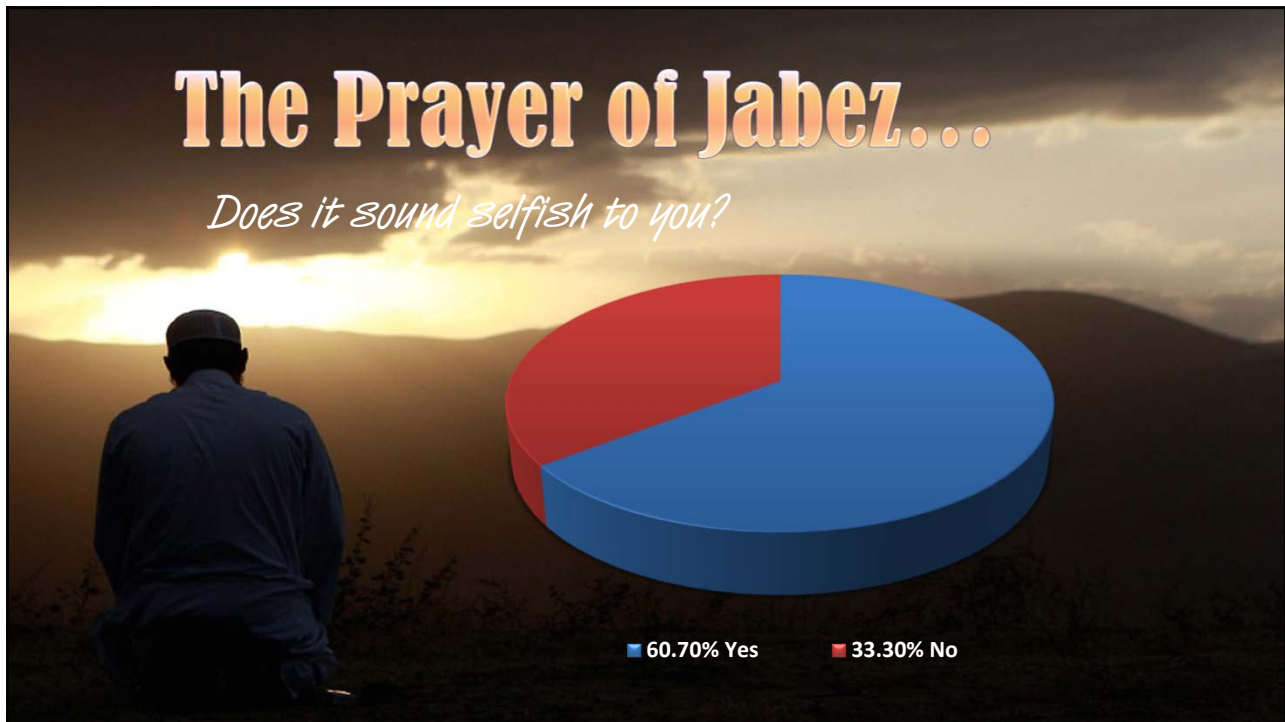




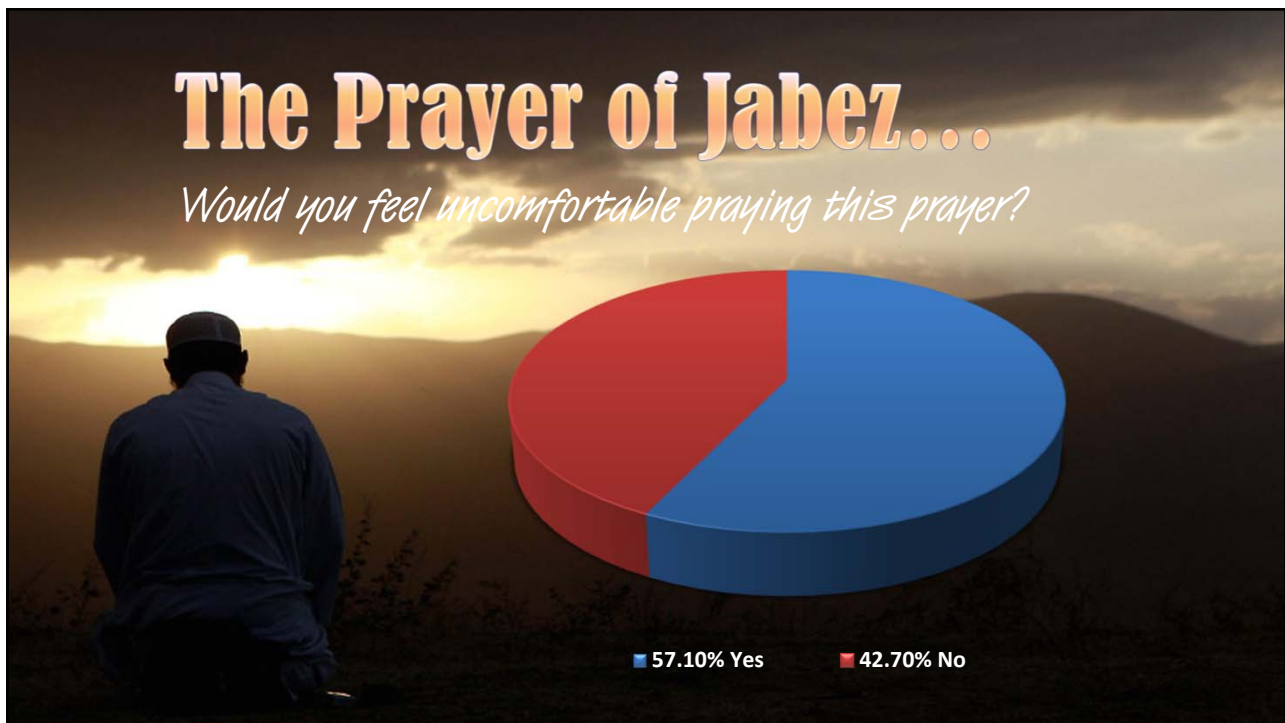
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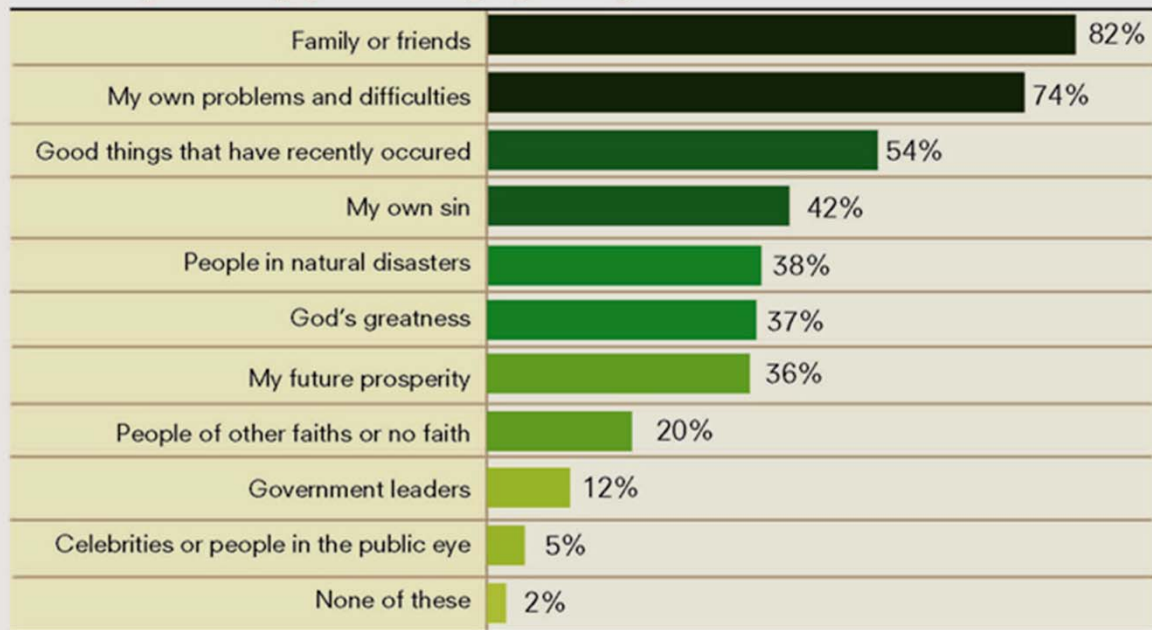


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4

People typically pray for ...



5

What should we pray for?



6

The Thumb

God, The Word of Life

– Foundational, strong, firm, closest to the heart

- ✓ Praise God for his attributes, reflect on 2 things you love about His character and His fatherhood
- ✓ Praise God for the Word of life, reflect on a Bible verse you find encouraging or something you found helpful from the daily readings
- ✓ Praise God for his creative power and describe the beauty of nature you see about you

"Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name"

7

The Index Finger

Pointing forward – The Kingdom, the path of life

- ✓ Tell God why you want His kingdom to come
- ✓ Express a thankfulness for the work of Jesus Christ who has given direction to us on the pathway to life
- ✓ Express that although not always seen, you truly believe that His hand is working in your life and you appreciate that
- ✓ Ask God to help you understand the experiences of life and the circumstances that have occurred

"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

8

The Middle Finger

Governments, authorities, the environment

- ✓ *Express your thankfulness that our government allows us to read and study the Bible whenever we want and that there are measures of justice and morality*
- ✓ *We are thankful for the conditions of security, employment and the peace we enjoy*
- ✓ *That in the environment about us we have the provisions of fresh air, water, food and shelter*

"Give us this day our daily bread"

9

The Ring Finger

Others around me, personal relationships

- ✓ *Reflect on the ecclesia and the benefits of fellowship, the example and helpful advice of bro/sis*
- ✓ *The family connections of husband/wife/children etc*
- ✓ *Mention by name a couple of people that you know are physically unwell*
- ✓ *Pray for a person that is struggling spiritually and losing ground*
- ✓ *List a few of your best friends, ponder their good qualities and seek for God's blessing on them*
- ✓ *Pray for the young, the elderly, the lonely - by name and what you will do for them*

"Forgive us, as we forgive others"

10

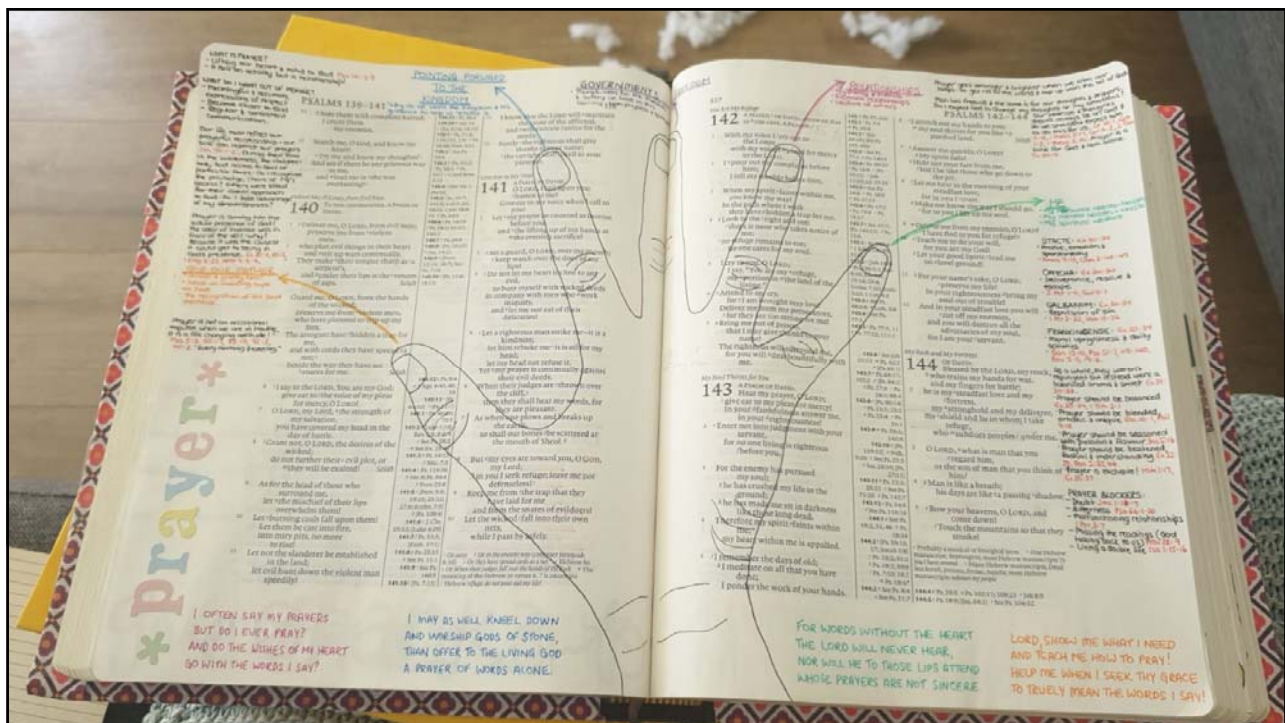
The Pinky

The smallest, not much strength; me, my needs

- ✓ Express an area you could improve in spiritually ie leadership, nurturing, service, parenting, involvement etc.
- ✓ Are there things in your life that you need forgiven, and indicate your determination to overcome in this area
- ✓ Is there something troubling you? Why? What can you do to reduce it? Ask for God to help.
- ✓ Commit to more regular prayer and drawing closer to God.

"Lead us not into temptation, deliver us from evil"

11



12

The Prayer of Jabez....

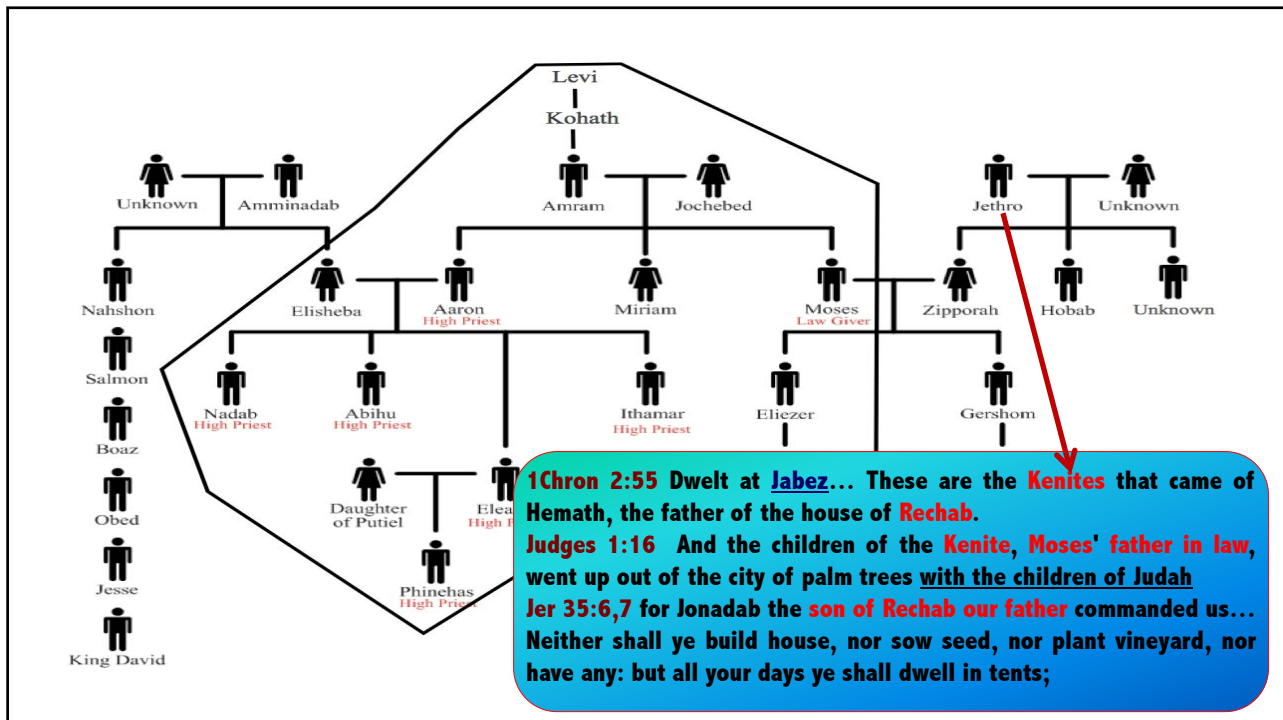
*Concealed among all the lengthy lists
of names and genealogies...*

is a standout prayer

13

If you were
mentioned in
Scripture would
this be the Divine
comment about the
whole of your life?

14



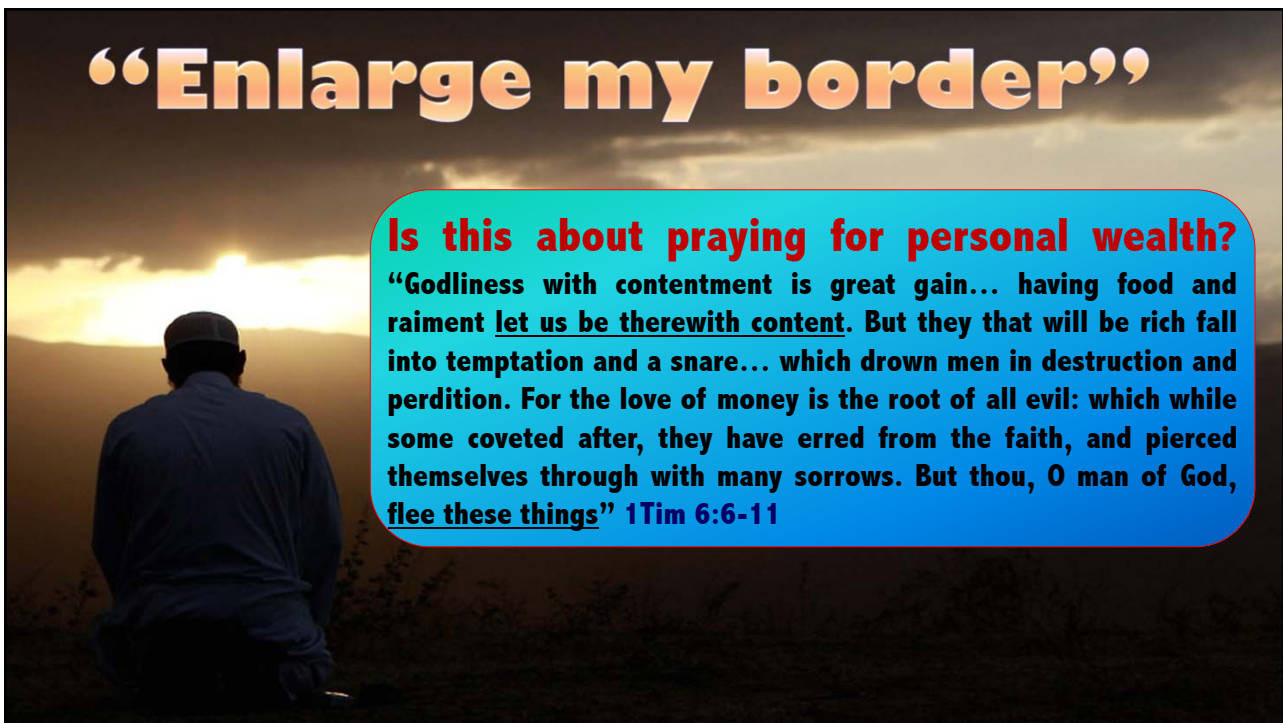
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16



17



18

“Enlarge my border”

Is this about praying for personal wealth?

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?” Heb 13:5-6

19

“Enlarge my border”

“Enlarge” Rabah “*to become numerous to multiply, make great*” = “In blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies” Gen 22:17.

Thus combining the promise of Gen 3:16 “multiply sorrow” with the promise to Abram “multiply seed”

It's not about instant wealth - it's about being connected to the future promises to Abraham

20

“Enlarge my border”

A reference to Gen 28:14 (Jacob) “Thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Deut 19:8 Yahweh thy God will enlarge thy territory, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, and give thee all the land which he promised to give unto thy fathers

It's not about instant wealth - it's about being connected to the future promises to Abraham

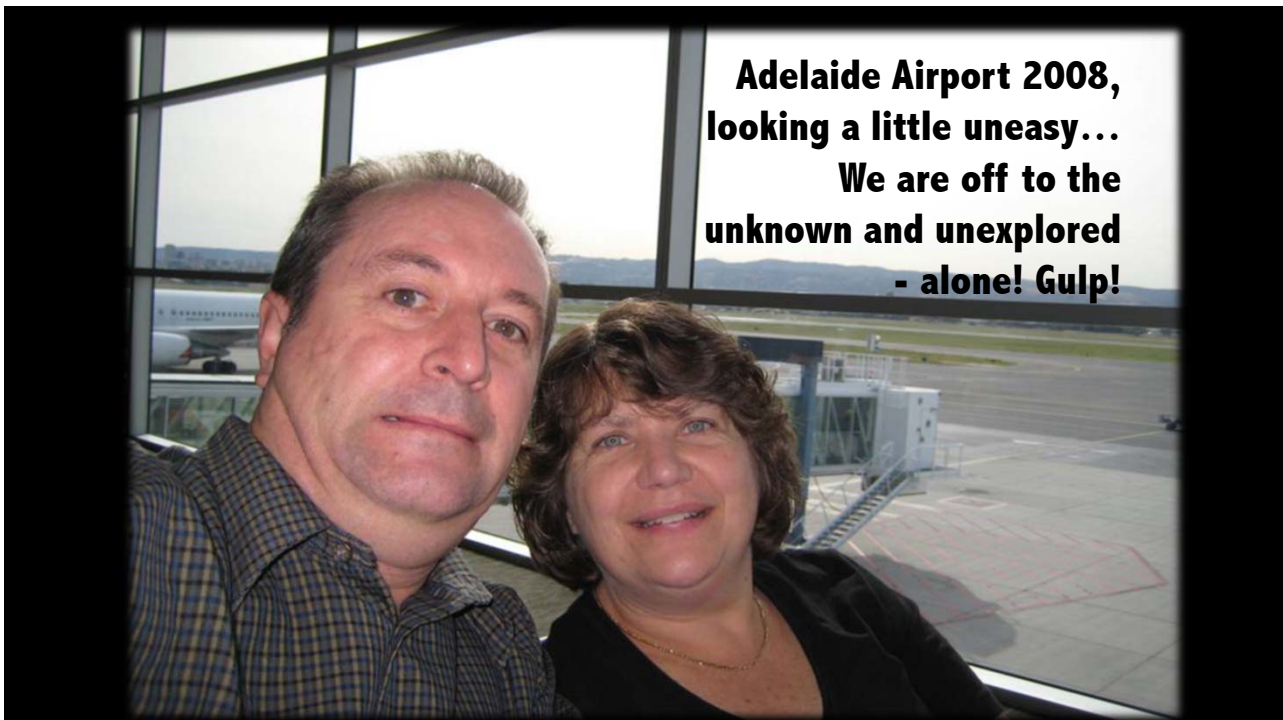
21

“Enlarge my border”

A reference to Ex 34:24 “Thrice in the year shall all your men children appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel. For I will cast out the nations before thee, and enlarge thy borders: neither shall any man desire thy land, when thou shalt go up to appear before the LORD thy God thrice in the year”

It's not about instant wealth - it's about being connected to the future promises to Abraham

22



23

“Enlarge my border”

This is about God's promises.
When applied to Jabez' day
 - It was not about personal riches, but enlargement and involvement in God's promise of inheritance

When applied to our day
 - Not personal enrichment, but seeking further involvement in service
 - A prayer to become part of and help expand the Kingdom of Christ

Eph 1:11,18 In whom also we have obtained **an inheritance**... That ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of **his inheritance** in the saints
Eph 5:5 No covetous man, who is an idolater, hath **any inheritance** in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of **the inheritance** of the saints in light
1Pet 1:4 To **an inheritance incorruptible**, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you,

24

“Let Thy hand be with me”

A constant sense of God's presence.

“Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts”

Ps 119:173

“If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me” **Ps139:9, 10**

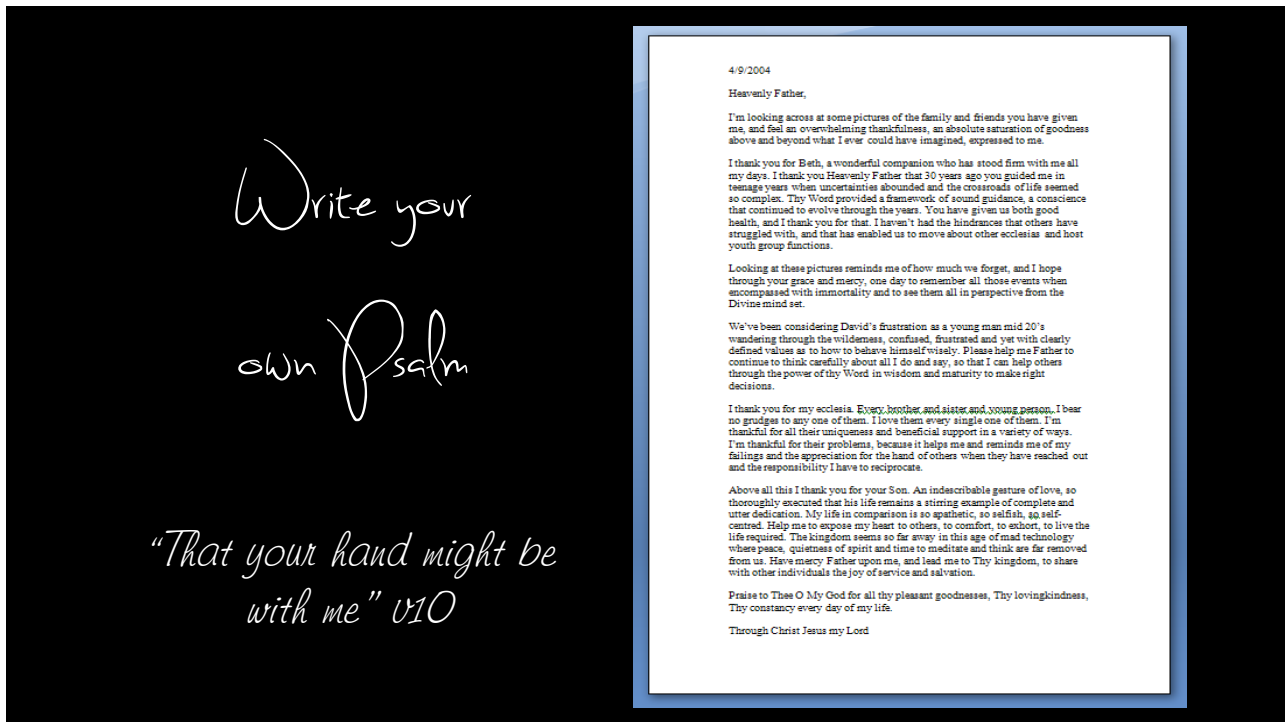
“And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord” **Acts 11:20-21**

25

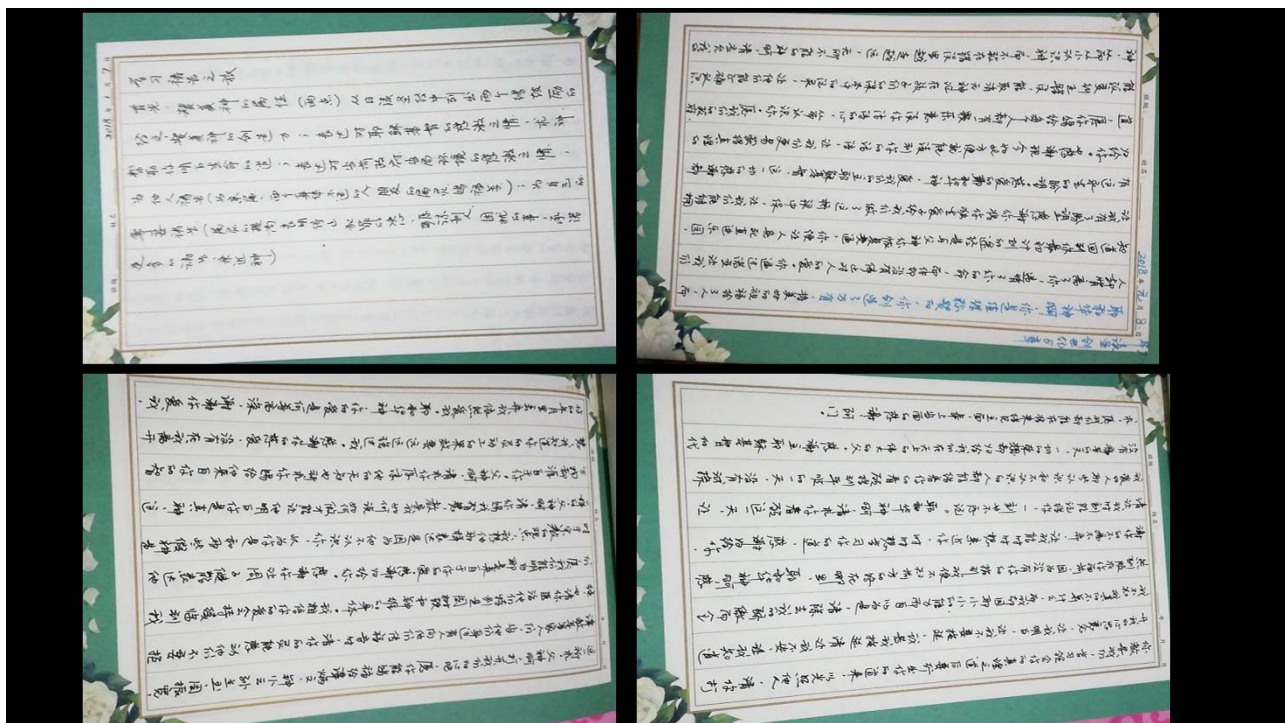
**Prayer is not an activity
it's a relationship**

The aim of our study

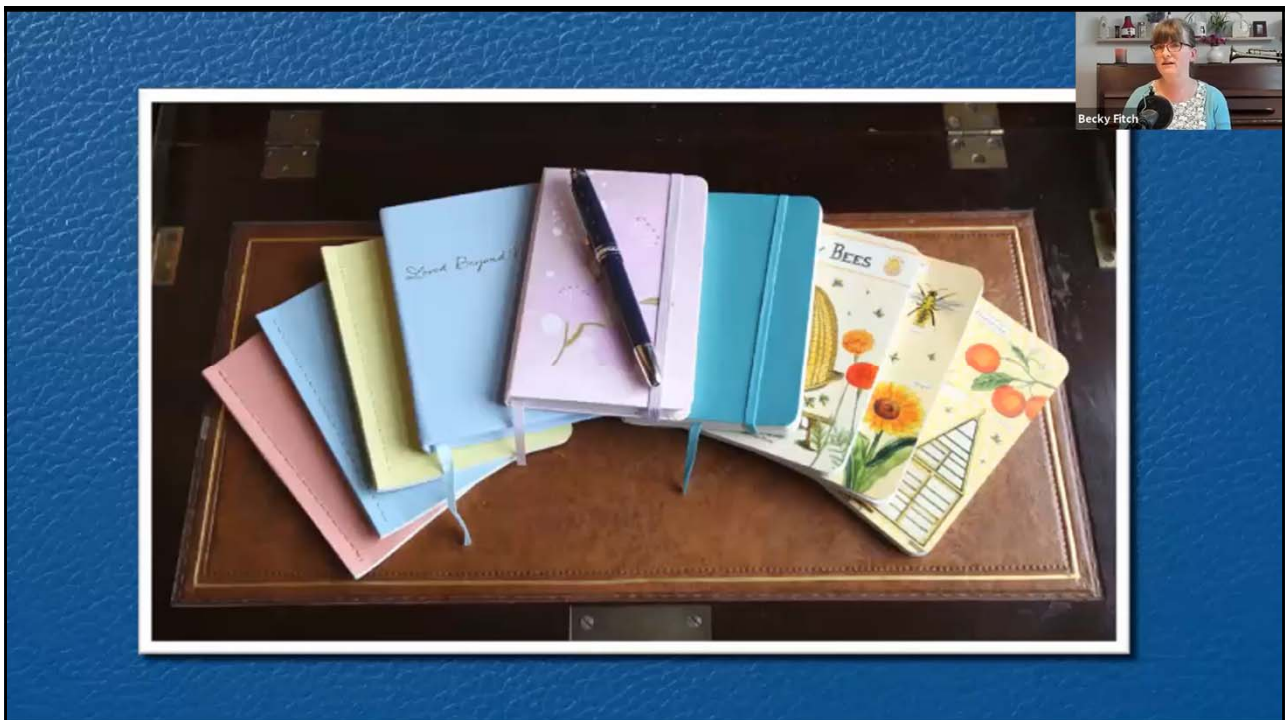
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27



28



29

From my notebooks...

Acknowledgement & adoration

'Help me to sit in your presence feeling your grace, to sit in your presence feeling your love. Nothing else matters, nothing at all. Fill me with love, fill me with peace.'

A photograph of a large tree with vibrant orange and red autumn foliage, standing in a grassy field. The tree's branches are spread out, and the leaves are in full autumn color. The background shows a line of similar trees and a clear sky.

30

From my notebooks...

Self Examination

'Dear Father I am struggling today. I am finding it difficult to talk to you. I am exhausted, spent and anxious, my head is full of worrying thoughts pushing me away from you. Please God come and settle me down - help me to renew and build my relationship with you, empty me of my unhelpful thoughts and fill me with your love and gratitude...'



31

From my notebooks...

Thanksgiving

"...thank you for all the wonderful blessings you give me, for life, love, faith, family, friends, clothes, food and all the many things I don't need. Help me to not become too attached to the things I have and to realise you are all I need...'



32

Jabez's & Christ's Prayers

Jabez called on the God of Israel saying

**Oh that thou wouldest bless me
and enlarge my border**

**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 his request

**Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be
done in earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, for ever.
Amen. (Mat 6:9-13)**

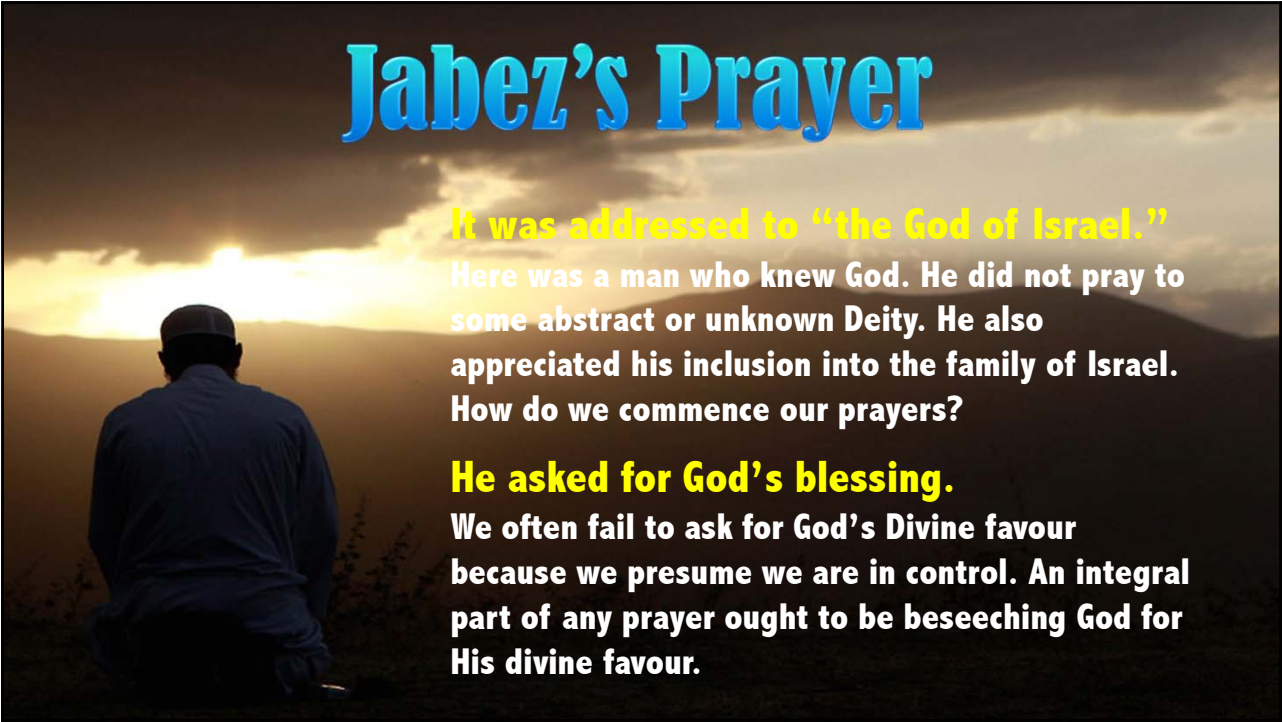
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"Keep me from evil" is a wonderful
reflective expression because it
recognizes and highlights a personal
awareness of weaknesses and
fragility... and it also points to our
only reliable source of strength.

"Prayer is the antidote
for the disease of
self-confidence"



34



Jabez's Prayer

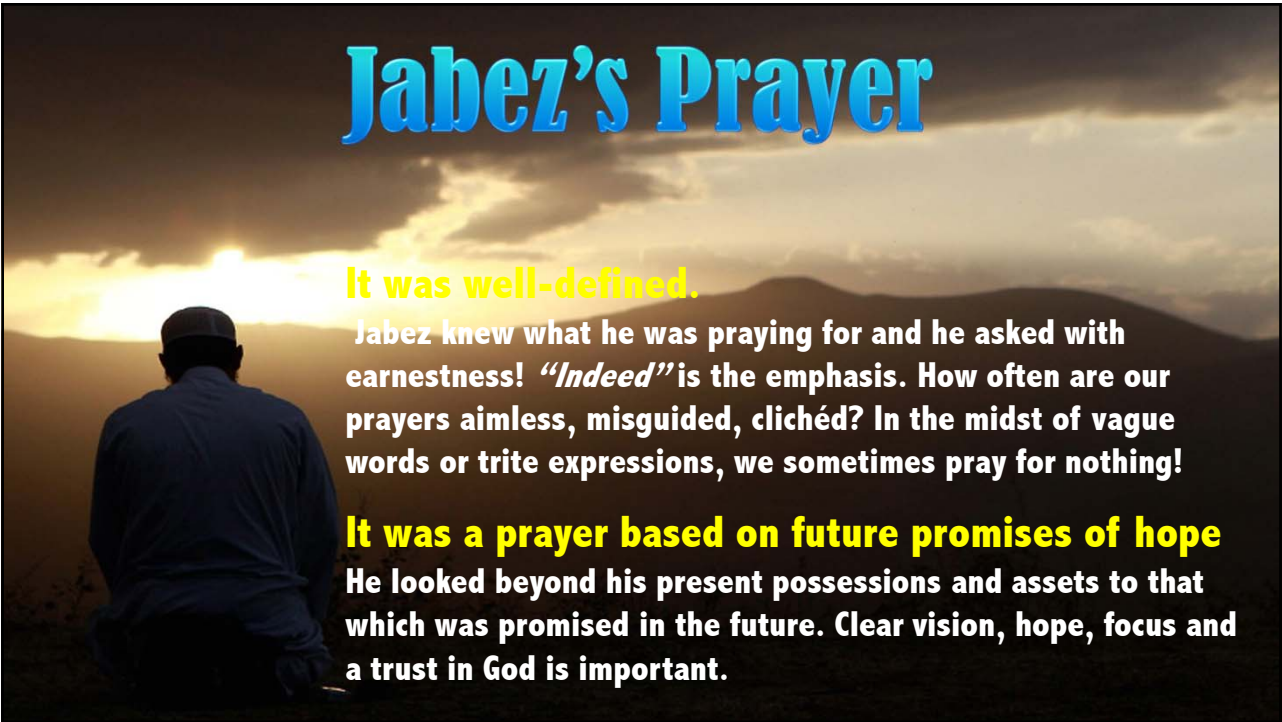
It was addressed to "the God of Israel."

Here was a man who knew God. He did not pray to some abstract or unknown Deity. He also appreciated his inclusion into the family of Israel. How do we commence our prayers?

He asked for God's blessing.

We often fail to ask for God's Divine favour because we presume we are in control. An integral part of any prayer ought to be beseeching God for His divine favour.

35



Jabez's Prayer

It was well-defined.

Jabez knew what he was praying for and he asked with earnestness! *"Indeed"* is the emphasis. How often are our prayers aimless, misguided, clichéd? In the midst of vague words or trite expressions, we sometimes pray for nothing!

It was a prayer based on future promises of hope

He looked beyond his present possessions and assets to that which was promised in the future. Clear vision, hope, focus and a trust in God is important.

36

Jabez's Prayer

It was a prayer for God's protection.

How often have we not bothered to ask for God's protection when travelling? On the journey of life we need to recognise the constant importance of leaning upon God and not our own personal skills and resources!

It was a prayer for safety and purity.

Jabez did not ask to be kept from all sorrows in life. He did request that God would keep him from the effects of evil because he did not want to cause sorrow to himself or others – have we ever thought about that in our prayers?

37

What prayer does...

Prayer is not just an exercise where God answers our requests, but a relationship that actually changes us and brings us to be more in line with God's viewpoint!



38

8 Prayer blockers

Active Sin

2Chron 7:14 If my people... shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin.

Prov15:29 Yahweh is far from the wicked: but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

Is 59:2 Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

The request is not God honouring

Jam 4:3 When you ask, you do not receive it, because your motives are bad; you ask for things to use for your own pleasures

39

8 Prayer blockers

Doubt

James 1:6,7 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.

For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Bitterness

Ps 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

An unforgiving attitude

Mark 11:25,26 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

40

8 Prayer blockers

Malfunctioning relationships

1Pet 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Missing the Bible readings

Prov 28:9 He that turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be an abomination.

Living a double life

Isa 1:15-16 When ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear... Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil

41

So what will you do? Points to ponder

- ✓ Am I a standout person when it comes to prayer?
- ✓ Do I pray for involvement and “enlargement” in ecclesial work and have a deep yearning to be part of the promises?
- ✓ Am I constantly sensitive to the presence of God, that “his hand is with me” during the day – or do I just pray at night?
- ✓ Do I pray for the Father to “keep me from evil” but I’m happy to continue dabbling in the lusts of this world?
- ✓ Do I believe and understand how “God grants my requests” even if nothing seems to happen, or if something bad occurs in my life?

Prayer is NOT an activity - it's a relationship

42