

The Prayer of Jabez – Part III

“Oh that your would hand would be with me”

And Jabez was more honorable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bore him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying,

*Oh that you would bless me indeed,
and enlarge my territory,
and that your hand might be with me,*

and that you would keep me from evil,

(so) that it may not grieve me! (that I cause no pain/grief)

And God granted him that which he requested. – 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

Introduction/Review

This prayer is nothing less than one man’s cry for the Presence of God in his life.

Review: Jabez, name for pain, prayer for double blessing, calling on the Lord to reverse, turn upside down and inside out the fortunes of his life.

- ?? It is an exceptional prayer that made him more honorable than his brothers.
- ?? It is interpretation, the meaning cannot be found by cynical theologians, to whom everyone is as carnal and selfish as they are.
- ?? Flesh and blood cannot inherit the promises of God, so too, the carnal mind cannot comprehend the things of the Spirit of God, for they are strange to him. (1 Cor. 2:14)
- ?? So today there is a rash of outcries against Bruce Wilkerson’s spiritual interpretation of this obscure prayer. They prefer a neutered, powerless, self-centered interpretation.
- ?? They do not want to hear that God answers the heart-cry of his people.

We must grasp that it is an exceptional prayer, or God would not have seen fit to highlight it with honor in Scripture.

This morning, open your Bibles, as we look at the 3rd of his requests:

“Oh that YOUR HAND *might be with me*”

“That your hand would be with me.” (NIV)

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Matthew 6:7 But when you pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

I. The Misuse of This Prayer (Mantras)

There is nothing magical about this prayer. Hanging it on your wall or having it on your desk will not make you better. It is not a better prayer than a 1000 others like it. It is a prayer of the heart, which represents a pursuit of the heart.

Jabez's prayer was just one righteous man's prayer, as were many other wonderful prayers in God's Word! God answered it because it was in His will to do so.

1. The Lord's Prayer Warning – Matthew 6:8-13

battologeo bat-tol-og-eh'-o stammering repetitions

7. And when you pray, do not **keep on babbling** like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9. "This, then, is how you should pray: *Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen. (KJV)*

2. Babbling Prayers, Vain Repetitions

Buddists, Muslims, Jews, Catholics, Protestants

Hindu Mantras

Mantras are energy-based sounds. Saying any word produces an actual physical vibration. Another mantra celebrates various names and incarnations of the god Vishnu:

Hare Krishna

Hare Krishna

Krishna Krishna

Hare Hare

Hare Rama Hare Rama

Rama Rama Hare Hare

Buddhist

This presentation of prayer is not unlike the repetitious prayers and mantras of the world's largest religions. A small book given to thousands of people who attended a May 2001 "Medicine Buddha Empowerment" workshop led by the Dalai Lama stated:

"To recite the Medicine Buddha Mantra brings inconceivable merit. ... If you recite the mantra every day, the Buddhas and bodhisattvas will always pay attention to you, and they will guide you. All your negative karmas will be pacified and you will never be born in the three lower realms.... and all your wishes are fulfilled."

Muslim The Call to Prayer - or AZAN

Allah is defined as the ONE who ALONE, without partners or helpers created all that IS created in creation, either known or unknown.

- 1 -- Allah is Great, Allah is Great
- 2-- I bear witness that there is no divinity but Allah
- 3 -- I bear witness that Muhammad is Allah's Messenger
- 4 -- I bear witness that Muhammad is Allah's Messenger
- 5 -- Hasten to the prayer, Hasten to the prayer
- 6 -- Hasten to real success, Hasten to real success,
- 7 -- Allah is Great, Allah is Great
- 8 -- There is no divinity but Allah

Catholics

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.*

Jewish

SHER YATZAR - THANKING HASHEM FOR OUR HEALTH

The blessing of Asher Yatzar is recited every morning as part of Morning Blessings. It is also recited after one has gone to the bathroom. It expresses our recognition that our bodies are complex and sophisticated systems and if one part of the system goes bad then this effects the whole body. In this blessing we express our gratitude to HaShem for the fact that our bodies continue to function properly. The Asher Yatzar prayer is **over 2000 years old**. The following is a translation of Asher Yatzar: The term HaShem literally means "The Name".

Blessed are You, HaShem, our G-d, King of the Universe, Who formed man with intelligence, and created within him many openings and many hollow spaces; it is revealed and known before the Seat of Your Honor, that if one of these would be opened or if one of these would be sealed it would be impossible to survive and to stand before You (even for one hour). Blessed are You, HaShem, Who heals all flesh and does wonders.

Shemoneh Esrei

The next major development in Jewish prayer occurred during the Babylonian Exile, 6th century B.C.E. People were not able to sacrifice in the Temple at that time, so they used prayer as a substitute for sacrifice. "**The offerings of our lips instead of bulls,**" as Hosea said. People got together to pray three times a day, corresponding to the three daily sacrifices. There was an additional prayer service on Sabbaths and certain holidays, to correspond to the additional sacrifices of those days. *Some suggest that this may already have been a common practice among the pious before the Exile.*

After the Exile, **these daily prayer services continued. In the 5th century B.C.E.**, the Men of the Great Assembly composed a basic prayer, covering just about everything you could want to pray about. This is the **Shemoneh Esrei**, which means "18" and refers to the 18 blessings originally contained within the prayer. It is also referred to as the Amidah (standing, because we stand while we recite it), or Tefilah (prayer, as in The Prayer, because it is the essence of all Jewish prayer). This prayer is the cornerstone of every Jewish service.

And Finally

Not exactly an official prayer, but if from the heart, it's probably just as good.

Dear G-d ... so far today I've done all right. I haven't gossiped and I haven't lost my temper. I haven't been grumpy, nasty or selfish, haven't had a sinful thought, and I'm really glad of that. But in a few minutes, G-d, I'm going to be getting out of bed and from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot of help. Amen.

Protestants Prayers

Lord's Prayer, 23rd Psalm

Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep	God is Great, God is Good
Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep; And if I die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.	God is Great, God is Good Let us thank Him for our food We're gonna thank Him morning, noon and night. We're gonna thank Him 'cause he's outta site! Amen Clap Clap

*God is great! God is good! Let us thank Him For our food. Amen.
Rub-a-dub-dub, Thanks for the grub. Amen

II. The Motivation of This Prayer

Keep Your Hand On Me

The Urgent Need of “God’s Touch”

God’s Anointing - God’s Wisdom - God’s Provision - God’s Strength - God’s Ability

David,

Psalms 139:5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine [hand upon me](#).

Ezra

Ezra 7:6 This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he *was* a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the [hand of the LORD](#) his God upon him.

Ezra 7:28 And hath extended mercy unto me before the king, and his counsellors, and before all the king's mighty princes. And I was strengthened as the [hand of the LORD](#) my God *was* upon me, and I gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me.

Elijah

1 Kings 18:46 And the [hand of the LORD](#) was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Ezekiel

Ezekiel 1:3 The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the [hand of the LORD](#) was there upon him.

Ezekiel 3:14 So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the [hand of the LORD](#) was strong upon me.

Mary

Luke 1:28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art* highly favoured, [the Lord is](#) with you: blessed *art* thou among women.

Jesus

Luke 1:66 And all they that heard *them* laid *them* up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the [hand of the Lord](#) was with him.

Disciples

Acts 4:30 By stretching forth thine [hand to heal](#); and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

Believers

Acts 11:21 And the [hand of the Lord](#) was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

III. The Meaning of This Phrase

"That your hand would be with me."

- 1.His Presence With Me – Ex.33:14-16, Heb 13:5b
- 2.His Assurance of Success – Josh 1:8, Eph 3:20
- 3.He Is With Me In Trouble – Isaiah 43:2, Rom 8:31
- 4.He Holds My Hand – Isaiah 40:27-31, (41:10,13)

1. His Presence With Me – Ex.33:14-16, Heb 13:5b

Exodus 33:14-16 Your Presence Go With Me

14. The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." 15. Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. 16. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

2. His Assurance of Success – Josh 1:8, Eph 3:20

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. –

3. He Holds My Hand – Isaiah 40:27-31, (41:10,13)

Isaiah 40:27

Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? 28. Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. 29. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31. but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 41:10

Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Isaiah 41:13 For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

Isaiah 42:6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee,

4. He Is With Me In Trouble – Isaiah 43:2, Rom 8:31

Isaiah 43:2 When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. 3 For I *am* the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:

Isaiah 54:11 O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, *and* not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires.

Isaiah 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

It Lays Hold of The Promises of God Better Prayers and Better Promises

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. 16. **Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

Hebrews 8:6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

There are **Conditions** of the Covenant the Jabez was aware of...

- ☞ Deuteronomy 28 – Blessings and Curses
- ☞ Numbers 6:24-27 – Commanded of the Levites (the priests) to invoke upon the people.
- ☞ Joshua 1:8 – whatever you do will prosper
- ☞ Psalm 1 – whatever he does will prosper
- ☞ Psalm 20:1-9 – Invoke a blessing
- ☞ Malachi 3:10-11 – I will open, rebuke devourer, pour out, so not room enough

What's Your Heart-Cry?

What Is Your Simple Urgent Prayer?

Great Prayers of the Bible

Bible Men	Simple Prayers	My Simple Prayers
Moses	God show me your glory.	God be merciful to me a sinner. Come into my life. Change my life O God. Make me a blessing.
Jacob	I will not let you go unless you bless me.	Here am I, send me. Romans 12:1-2
Samson	Give me your strength O God.	Teach me to pray as I ought to pray.
David	Give me a pure heart.	Break my heart with the things that break the heart of God.
Solomon	Give me your wisdom	Show me the glory of your Presence.
Paul	To know him in the power of his resurrection	

(ie) Bill Hazlett

Psalms 71:18 Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have showed your strength unto this generation, and your power to every one that is to come.

Conclusion:

“Oh that your Hand would be with me.”

Is not a covetous, self-centered, greedy prayer.

✍️ 2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him.

✍️ Psalms 34:15 The eyes of the LORD *are* upon the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their cry.

✍️ 1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

✍️ Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

I carried you on eagles wings

Exodus 19:4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and *how* I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

Closing Music:

Oh To Be His Hand Extended
Reaching out to the oppressed,
Let me touch Him, Let me touch Jesus,
So that others will know and be blessed.