

# THE HONOUR OF A GOD GIVEN IDENTITY

## **1 Chron 4:9 & 10**

*Jabez was more honourable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, ‘I gave birth to him in pain’. 10 Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, ‘Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain’. And God granted his request.*

- **MORE HONOURABLE / MOST RESPECTED – WHY?**

Jabez was determined to do something about the negative name (identity) that he had been given.

- **HE CRIED OUT TO THE GOD OF ISRAEL**

But Jabez cried out to the **God of Israel**. His first choice was to turn to his God for help.

Jabez had the right, as a son of Israel, a descendant of Abraham – to call on God for change.

- **“OH, THAT YOU WOULD BLESS ME AND ENLARGE MY TERRITORY! LET YOUR HAND BE WITH ME, AND KEEP ME FROM HARM SO THAT I WILL BE FREE FROM PAIN.” NIV**

He cried out to be broken free of his old identity  
Jabez was specific in his request – it was the opposite of everything his name stood for.

- **AND GOD GRANTED HIS REQUEST**

## **Romans 12:2**

*Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. NLT*

This scripture is addressed to Christians.

Jabez was not an 'unbeliever', a heathen. He was one of God's covenant people of Israel.

**Another man who was given a negative name at birth.**

**1 Chronicles 7:23** *Then he (Ephraim) went in to his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to a son, and he named him Beriah (on misfortune), because tragedy had come on his house. AMP*

Beriah's name was associated with misfortune. His father Ephraim had lost two of his sons who had been killed. So Beriah was named as he was, to commemorate an unhappy event in the family.

**For us a believers today....**

**2 Cor 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come, the old has gone, the new is here.*

**Heb 10:14** *For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

Every other kind of identity we try to pursue for the purpose of acceptance, fulfillment or security will always crack in the end.

If we take hold, by faith, of our redeemed identity provided in Christ, we are also among these people who have gained divine approval and are honoured by God!