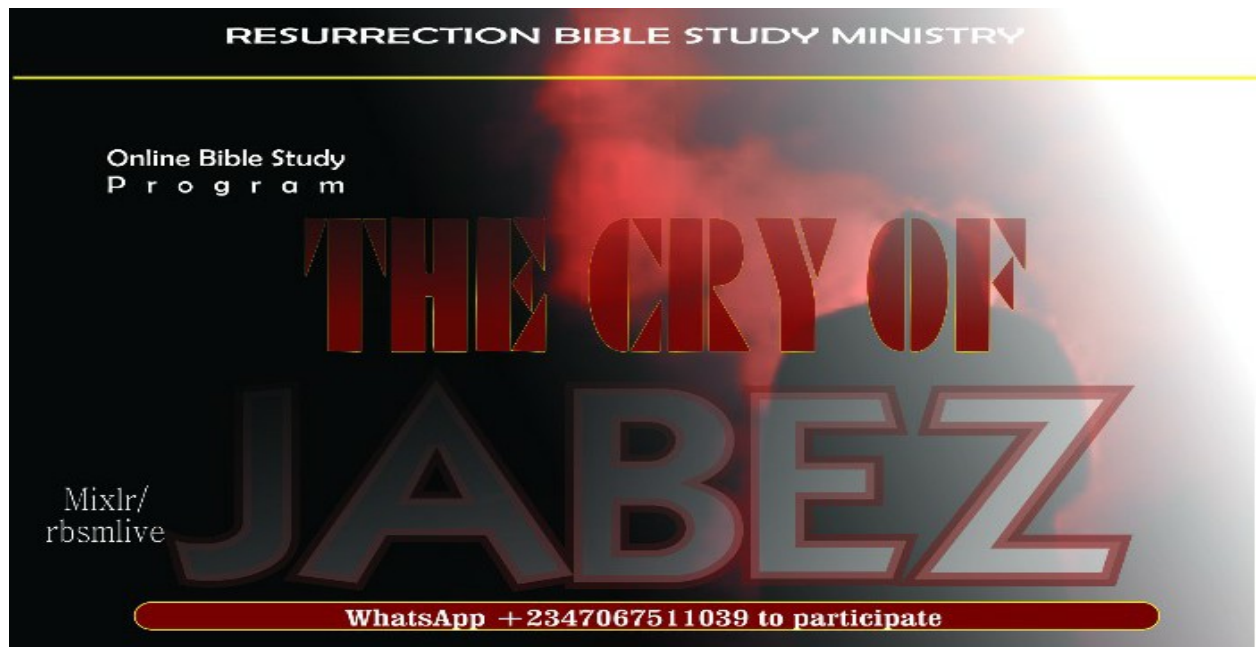




Topic:

THE CRY OF JABEZ

Bible Text: 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

Teacher: Adewuyi S. Oluwatobi

Prayer

In Jesus name, Our heavenly Father, thank You for a time like this, as we come before You today, give us the grace to understand Your word tonight, in Jesus name we've prayed, Amen.

Study

You are all welcome to the today's bible study in the name of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I'm pleased to have you all here, and I pray that the Lord grants us an in-depth understanding of His word. Tonight's study would be in form of a sermon and I would like everyone to concentrate even as the Lord speaks to everyone of us. We'd be looking at what I titled *The Cry of Jabez* please follow carefully. Please read the following verses carefully, three times.

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 KJV

And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. [10] And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, 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 him that which he requested.

This is the story of Jabez who was an Israelite that cried out to God because of the strange things that was occurring in his life. If we study that chapter closely, we would see that there was nothing that linked up to the story of Jabez, the sons of Judah were just being named genealogically and a diversion was made into the story of Jabez. Beloved, that story only contained two verses in the whole bible but it has just too many significance to our private lives. What was written concerning Jabez was written that we might learn to understand some deep things about humans and God. As it is written in Romans 15:4 that **"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."**

The name Jabez means grieve, sorrowful, pain, this strange name was given to him by his mother because she bore him in pains. Please do we have so many people whose mothers gave birth to without any pain? If there are, they must be very few. So Jabez was named after sorrow, grieve, and pains yet the scriptures says that he was the most honorable among his brethren, smiles, so how come, did this happen by chance? We all know the significance and importance of a name in the life of a child isn't it.

Someone is not with me here

There is no man who is on earth who does not have a name, because it's a symbol of identification. Even animals and plants were given names in the garden of Eden, how much more man who was created in God's likeness. God Almighty has many names not even one, Jesus Christ who came as God in flesh has different names, even the Holy Spirit has different names. Therefore, a name is very important. There are different attributes of a name. In order to understand the position Jabez was in a better way, let's see these attributes

Attributes Of A Name

1. It gives identity - Just like how Adam named all the animals in Eden.
2. It can reveal the mind of God and that of man - Just like in the case of Israel which means "having power with God" (Gen. 32:28)
3. It can point at destiny - in the case of samson which means "bright sun" Samson was indeed bright.
4. It reveals mission - in the case of Jesus which means "deliverer", he delivered us from sin.
5. It affirms covenants - in the case of Abram and Sarai that was changed by God to Abraham (father of multitudes) and Sarah (Mother of nations) they are the father and mother of many nations till date.

And many more, with this we can see that a child's name can really affect his destiny, that was the case of Jabez, what did he do that brought that curse like name upon him, that affected his life so much to an unbearable point, was he at fault, why the curse? His

mother named him that unfortunate name "*Jabez*" when he was young (a baby) and since no baby can talk to reject a name or choose the one he wants, Jabez had to continue bearing that name. So he was bearing pains, sorrow, troubles, grieve etc. Brethren, the name got so symbolical in his life to the point that it affected him, but at a point he became the most honorable and respected in his home. Before then, I'm sure that he must have been the most despised, rejected, sorrowful, dejected, suppressed, subjected, repressed and forsaken in his family because it's sure that he was operating under a curse, it was not his fault to have been given birth to in pains, he knew nothing about the matter, yet he was made to suffer for its consequences which made him cry out to God in frustration. This we know through the prayers he prayed in verse 10 of this chapter.

1 Chronicles 4:10 **And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.**

There are times people suffer for the sins committed by others most especially parents, this was also the case with Phineas son whom was named Ichabod which means the "glory has departed" but come to think of it, if such a child is later having issues in fulfilling his destiny, would that be his fault? Generational problems are mostly common in Africa due to the different evil covenants in our backgrounds. Jabez was an Israelite operating under a system that he knew nothing about, just the way many people are suffering these days for what they know nothing about. Names can be delicate, as such proper thoughts and prayers should be done before a child is named. I heard of a man who named his daughter Jezebel, please what kind of behavior does he expect the child to exhibit when she grows up?

Looking carefully into the prayer Jabez prayed, we would see that before he called on the name of the God of Israel, the God of Israel was watching him hands fold. Because He felt Jabez was contented with his situation, He kept quiet and was observing him not until he cried out for help and his prayer was answered. The scriptures did not tell us that Jabez sinned that was why he was facing terrible situations. In fact we are made to understand that he knew his God because he recognized God to be the God of Israel, which tells us that a man can know God and still be operating under a curse, generational curses are real, it is sheer ignorance that would make a person deny this truth. The prayer Jabez prayed can be referred to as the prayers of deliverance because all what he prayed for was against the forces working against his life. He recognized that he was in pain and sorrow, and how much trouble he had been facing. Then he prayed violently to God!

The first thing he requested for was to be blessed, this means that he wanted God to care and provide for him and also turn his situation around. The fact of the matter is that, assuming Jabez was already blessed, he wouldn't have requested for blessings anymore, or he might have told the Lord to bless him the more if the blessings were

little, he wanted God to care and provide for him because he was operating under constant lack. The curse operating in his life had made God helpless over him which had made him to be living in penury, he requested that his border be enlarged too, he was operating under closed heavens, money became his enemy, who knows if he could not afford a single room even as a full grown man, indeed it must have really been a tough situation that would have made a grown man like him cry out to God in prayers. He also requested that God's hands should be with him, this tells us that God was far from him just because a curse was operating in his life, if God was with him, the curse would not have gotten so much effect on him but it did because there was an empty space where God's hands should have covered but did not, so all he could get were pains and sorrows but he later recognized that it is the mighty hand of God that can keep a man from sorrow, which means that for a change to occur in his life, God's hands must be brought into the equation. So he cried out!

Just like Jabez, there are many people who know the God of Israel, they attend church programs, engage in fastings and prayers but things are getting so difficult for them, it's now looking as if they are operating under a curse. They have been in these terrible situations for years just like Jabez, only God knows how many years Jabez had been operating under bondage. Nothing was working out for him, in fact everything around him were causing him pains, it was until he prayed the right prayer points. The prayer points were direct arrows against the curse that was placed upon him and his prayer was answered. What has been your pains?

Haven't you been praying amiss?, James 4:3 **Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.** What name are you bearing that is giving way for affliction in your life, what name of sorrow has people named you because of your troubles? Because of just one curse operating in the life of Jabez, doors to other names his mother did not even name him were opened, these names were what they started using to describe him, he was named after poverty, sickness, diseases, shame, reproach, he must have been a debtor too. They would have been saying something like, don't you know that man that is living in that one room without a toilet?, that man who has never prospered in anything he lays his hands on, that man in whose house there has never been a shout of joy and praise God! Among others.

Beloved, I don't know what curse is operating in your life that has made people give you names your God has not called you, saying, are you talking about that woman who is always broke and sad, do you mean that jobless man, is it that barren woman? Failure and reproach has been your nickname, bad character and spiritual weakness has taken over and there are no better things you are experiencing in your life. A times you'd wake up in the middle of the night and all you'd do is to weep and weep until your eyes swells up, all what is written over you is shame and regrets, you are now called a debtor wherever you go to, you are getting more frustrated day by day because demons are also attacking you, bad dreams have taken sleep away from you, in fact, you have attempted suicide severally because you feel there is no more solution to your problems and you are still considering it currently. I have a word for you, remember Jabez did not

hang himself yet his challenges were more than yours, all he did was to call on the God of Israel and his voice was heard. Your prayers will be answered too only if you'd also call on the God of Israel desperately praying the right prayer. Your situation can change over night only if you'd do like Jabez and change your destiny by yourself in prayers. What evil generational pattern and covenant is operating in your life, that has been causing you pains like Jabez, I put an end to it right now in Jesus name!

Conclusion

This is the time for these long time battles to end in your life, remember that Jabez did not get delivered until the spirit of enough is enough took over him which made him pray in pains and he was delivered, you have to do like Jabez now and pray violently. I would send some prayer points now. Jabez became the most respected in his house when his prayers got answered, God blessed him exceedingly, your story is set to change too. Regrets are leaving, pains, reproach, fear, stagnancy, lack, sicknesses, sorrow, wants, impossibilities, immoralities, shame, difficulties are all leaving your life today, the Lord is speaking to you now that He is ready to change your situation in as much as you call unto Him at this time.

I pray for someone whose case is like that of Jabez here, the Lord will step into your battle today in Jesus Christ name. Amen

Pray these prayer points vigorously as the Lord comes into your matter.

Prayer Points

1. O God of Israel, arise and turn my battle around to favour me in Jesus name.
2. Generational curses and swears that are having their grip over me, I break you now in Jesus name.
3. Long time battles promoting sorrow and tears in my life, be swallowed up by the earth in Jesus name.
4. Ancestral evil pattern that is speaking hardship into my life, I shut you now in Jesus Christ name.
5. Every mountain of fear, reproach, shame, lack, want and stagnancy in my life, become a plain right now in Jesus name.
6. Inherited battles sponsoring pains and afflictions in my life, God of Israel defeats you now in Jesus name.
7. O God that enlarged the coast of Jabez, arise and turn my mourning to laughter in Jesus name.

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