



water from rock

## Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – April 29, 2023

The Lord be with you.

It's been said that there was a little difference in people, but that little difference can make a very big difference. I'm going to talk for a few moments about a man who was a little different than those around him, but that little difference made a big difference for him for his people, and it can for you and me too.

I'm looking at the Old Testament book of 1 Chronicles. The name Chronicles tells us that is a book of history, it is a history of key people who stand out in the long story of the nation of Israel, and the first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles, well, we usually just skip over them because they are genealogies so and so beget so and so. And while reading genealogies might put us to sleep, I like the genealogies because they tell us that people are important to God, and then what people do is important to God and is a long remembered by God. So, I'm looking at 1 Chronicles Chapter 5, that is the genealogy of the tribe of Judah. It's another long list of names that might make my eyes glaze over, except for the fact that the Holy Spirit pauses at a name in Verses 9 and 10, the Holy Spirit pauses to take note of a man who stands out in his generation for making a difference.

1 Chronicles Chapter 4, Verse 9 and 10. I read Jabez was more honored than his brothers, and his mother named him Jabez saying, because I bore him in pain, Jabez called On the God of Israel saying, oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from hurt and harm. And God granted what he asked. The Holy Spirit pauses here in this long list of names. The Holy Spirit pauses to take note of a man named Jabez, his name means pain, it says that his mother named him Jabez, pain, because I bore him in pain. Now, I just have to wonder what took her self-concept as a boy grew up with having the name pain every time his mother calls him for dinner, he was reminded that He is a pain, but Jabez refuses to make himself a victim of pain, such that he grows up, and it says that he is more honored than the other members of his tribe. Now, we're not told that made Jabez more honorable than others, but it's what we are told, it is important. We are told that Jabez is a praying man, what stands out in this long genealogy and the tribe of Judah is Jabez, and that Jabez prays. That's what he's remembered for. And what does Jabez pray for? Well, it says that



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Jabez prays for God to bless him. At some point in life, Jabez has learned the importance of God's blessing. Oh. That you would bless me.

I think here of the patriarch Jacob back in Genesis 32:26, where Jacob is wrestling with God and he says to God, I will not let you go unless you bless me. And that's an attitude of prayer with which you and I need to go to God. I will not let you go unless you bless me. And Jabez stands out from everyone else in his tribe, he stands out for his prayer, Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me. Jabez knows that he needs God's hand with him, and that your hand might be with me and that you would keep me from hurt. The Hebrew word here translated hurt, well, it's the word Jabez that's translated earlier as pain. You see Jabez praying, Lord, keep me from the pain that my name implies and bless me, and we know that Jabez's prayer pleases God because our text says, And God granted Jabez what he asked.

God likes to be asked by his children to bless them.

And because I know that God wants to bless you, I'm going to go ahead and get started on this prayer for you. Oh, that the Lord would bless you. And enlarge your border, and that the Lord's hand might be with you, and that the Lord would keep you from hurt and harm. May the Lord grant what I asked for you.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening until next time.