

FASCINATING STORIES OF FORGOTTEN LIVES REDISCOVERING SOME OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS

JABEZ: THE UNKNOWN WHO BECAME WELL KNOWN

1 CHRONICLES 4:9–10



The Heart of the Matter

The old, familiar proverb “The best things come in the smallest packages” is often true, not only in life but also in Scripture. Tiny, one-line verses or simple, uncomplicated truths are frequently the most profound. The story we are considering in this study is a classic case in point. Like a falling meteor in the night sky, the main character of the story, Jabez, is ablaze for only a few moments, but the memory of his life leaves us with a marked impact. Jabez emerges in the midst of epitaphs on tombstones as the Spirit of God is pleased to hover over his life a bit longer than any other mentioned in this context. Because God singles out Jabez, we are wise to pause and learn the truth of the story. By doing so, many who feel their lives are marked by obscurity and insignificance can gain fresh courage to excel.



Discovering the Way

1. A Background of Darkness and Death

Learn about the fearful times in which Jabez lived, as well as why his unique prayer appears in the middle of a long genealogy.

2. A Story of Faith and Hope (1 Chronicles 4:9–10)

Examine the meaning of Jabez’s name, the circumstance of his birth, the content of his prayer, and God’s answer.



Starting Your Journey

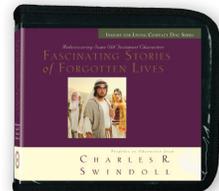
Three lessons and a question emerge from our study of Jabez. A struggling start doesn’t necessitate a limited life. No measure of success is safe without the presence of God’s hand on a life. When God blesses a life, there’s no room for shame. What large thing are you asking of God these days?



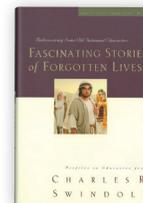
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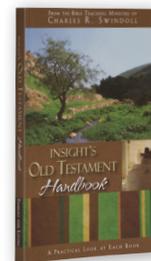
Tools for Digging Deeper



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