

**JEREMIAH 33:3 "CALL TO ME" GROUP BIBLE STUDIES – LEARNER'S STUDY -  
LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

**LESSON #7 – A CHRISTIAN CALLS TO GOD LIKE JABEZ**

**A CHRISTIAN'S CALL** – In the last verses, of the last chapter, of the last book of the Bible, (Rev. 22: 18-19) the Lord tells us two things: don't add anything to His book and don't take anything away from it. Today we look at the famous, and often misinterpreted, prayer of Jabez, a man who called to God.

**THE PRAYER** – Dear Lord, this day we ask that You would bless us and enlarge our territories! Let Your hand be with us, and keep us from harm so that we will be free from pain. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

**ILLUSTRATION** – Before the Savior was born, Alexander the Great had a man in his kingdom who asked for financial assistance. The Emperor told him to go to the Treasury and get whatever he needed. The man took Alexander at his word. That, I think is the way the Lord would like us to feel about Him.

**SATAN'S SUMMONS** – On the other hand, Satan summons us to thinking of the Lord as a Divine Servant, always at our beck and call. He encourages us to believe God is ready to deliver on our demands.

**THOUGHT:** Millions of people feel that the prayer of Jabez (1 Chronicles 4:9-10) is such a magical formula that puts God at our beck and call. Here's some information about Jabez you might want to know. He lived during a relatively \_\_\_\_\_ time in Israel's history. He offered up a simple prayer and found \_\_\_\_\_ with God. Today, because of a \_\_\_\_\_, the prayer of Jabez has been elevated into a mystical key which, if prayed regularly, will harness the miraculous power of God for their own personal use.

**SCRIPTURE SEARCH 1** - Let's take a look at that prayer and answer some questions:

<b>TEXT</b>	<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
1 Chronicles 4: 9	What kind of person was Jabez?	_____
Matthew 11:11	Was he the greatest man who ever lived?	_____
1 Chronicles 4: 9-10	What four things does Jabez ask for?	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
1 Chronicles 4: 10	What did God do?	_____
1 Chronicles 4: 11	What happened then? (Jabez is not mentioned again--- disappears from history)	_____

**FIRST APPLICATION:** Reading this prayer most of us wouldn't think the honorable Jabez did, or said, anything special. Nevertheless, in our country there is a movement that says Christians can, if they can come up with the right formula, control the Lord. The 'name it-claim it' formula says if:

You have enough faith	FAITH
And you add the right words	+ RIGHT WORDS
And do the right thing	+ CERTAIN ACTIONS=
Equals	_____

Repeating the prayer of Jabez is only the most \_\_\_\_\_ of spiritual good luck charms that have been trotted out over the centuries.

Not so many years ago TV evangelists touted '\_\_\_\_\_ ' to manipulate God into a quick answer.

Before that, there were \_\_\_\_\_ or handkerchiefs which could manipulate a blessing from God - for a small 'love offering'.

In Luther's day, it was thought that a visit to Elector Frederick's \_\_\_\_\_ could make God a little less mad at you, and shorten your time in purgatory.

Five hundred years earlier, the crusaders felt they had God in their pocket as they went into battle following the \_\_\_\_\_ that had pierced Jesus' side.

**SCRIPTURE SEARCH 2 - CHRIST'S CALL** - Scripture records a time when God's people tried to bend God to

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their purposes. Please, read these verses and remember the story:

<b>TEXT</b>	<b>What happened?</b>
Joshua 3: 6, 14-16	_____
Joshua 6: 12-16	_____
1 Samuel 4: 3	_____
Why did they do that?	_____
1 Samuel 4: 10-11	_____
1 Samuel 6: 1-2	_____
1 Samuel 6: 19-20 What happened when the ark returned?	_____

These passages remind us that God isn't controlled by humankind. Neither the Ark of the Covenant, the prayer of Jabez, or anything else, can blackmail Him. This truth is further borne out by other passages. Look and answer:

<b>TEXT</b>	<b>WHAT IS GOD TO DO</b>	<b>WHAT IS HUMANKIND TO DO</b>	<b>WHO IS IN CONTROL</b>
Exodus 19:5	_____	_____	_____
Deut. 4: 1	_____	_____	_____
1 Kings 2: 2-3	_____	_____	_____
Hebrews 10: 36	_____	_____	_____

Our vision is too nearsighted; our hearts too selfish to be in control. That is why we thank God that He, and not we, is in control. Listen to the Leader's story and answer the questions:

Did you ever want something that you shouldn't have? YES / NO  
 How long ago was that? 1 day 1 week 1 month 1 year ago.  
 Have you learned your lesson? YES / NO  
 What lesson was that? Lutheran Hour rejoices that God remains in control.

We, and the rest of Christianity rejoice that He doesn't always give us what we want.

**THE WAY OF PRAYER** – Dear Lord, we give thanks that You can't be bribed by the prophets of Baal who cut themselves; nor by magic spells, or prayers that are endlessly repeated. We give thanks that you are the Father, and we are the children. We give thanks that Your will has been, is, and will be done. In Jesus' Name. Amen.