

## A Study of Prayer

### Lesson 7: A Study of Some Bible Prayers

- I. Introduction
  - A. God has commanded us to pray – Lk. 21:36; Mt. 26:41; I Thes. 5:17; Jas. 5:13; Rom. 12:12
  - B. Prayer is essential in our lives (forgiveness, suffering, anxiety) – Acts 8:22; Jas. 5:16; Phil. 4:6
  - C. In this lesson, we observe some prayers in the lives of God’s people
- II. Prayer of Jabez – I Chron. 4:9,10
  - A. Humble in tone
  - B. Earnest and sincere – “Oh, that you would bless me . . . “
  - C. According to God’s will
    - i. Directed to right person – “the God of Israel” (see Mt. 6:9)
    - ii. Asked for blessings – “bless me indeed”
    - iii. Asked for prosperity – “enlarge my border”
    - iv. Asked for strength – “that your hand might be with me”
    - v. Asked to be kept from harm / evil
    - vi. Asked to be delivered from sorrow, pain
  - D. God granted him what he requested
- III. Intercession of Moses for Israel (Ex. 32:9-14, note events leading up to Moses intercession- vs. 1-8)
  - A. Moses’ plea was earnest and impassioned (vs. 11)
  - B. Moses’ plea was unselfish (vs. 12)
  - C. Moses argues that Israel is God’s people and He must bring them to the blessings that he promised (vs. 13)
  - D. Moses argues if God destroys His people it will give His enemies an occasion to gloat over God’s inability to deliver them (vs. 12)
  - E. Moses argues that God had promised to deliver His people (vs. 13)
  - F. Moses’ prayer prevails with God, He changed His mind about the intended purpose and punished them in another way – Ex. 32:33-35
- IV. Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians (Eph. 3:14-21), he prayed:
  - A. That they might be strengthened (I Cor. 16:13; Col. 1:11)
  - B. “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith” (Jn. 14:23; II Cor. 13:5)
  - C. That they might be able to know or comprehend the love of Christ (Rom. 8:35,39)
  - D. “That ye might be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph. 1:22,23; Col. 2:9,10)
- V. Paul’s prayer for the Philippians (Phil. 1:9-11), he prayed:
  - A. That their love may abound more and more in knowledge and judgment or discernment (I Thes. 3:12; Col. 1:9)
  - B. That they might be able to approve (discover) the things that are excellent
  - C. That they might be sincere and without offense (I Cor. 1:8)
  - D. That they be filled with the fruits of righteousness (Gal. 5:22,23; Jas. 3:18)
- VI. Prayer of Lord on the night of His betrayal (John 17:1-26):
  - A. Prayed for Himself (vs. 1-5)
  - B. Prayed for the apostles (vs. 6-19)

- C. Prayed for all that would believe on Him through the word spoken by the apostles
  - i. Prayer that all may be one
  - ii. Manner of oneness—as he and the Father are one
  - iii. Ultimate aim or goal of this unity is that the world may believe that God sent him

Questions for thought:

1. Why is prayer important in the life of a Christian?
2. What indicates that Jabez was humble (I Chron. 4:8,9)?
3. Why was God about to destroy Israel (Ex. 32:1-9)?
4. What effect did Moses' intercession have on God's actions?
5. What did Paul pray for the brethren at Ephesus?
6. What did Paul ask for the Philippians to be filled with?
7. Who did the Lord pray for in His prayer on the night of His betrayal?