

## NUGGETS AMONG THE NAMES

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### 1 Chronicles 1:8-10

1. Paul wrote, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17
2. Some might wonder why God included the genealogies in the Bible, and how do they profit us?
3. One important aspect of the genealogies is that they establish God's interest in us as individuals.
4. They also demonstrate God's control over human history.
5. A third lesson we learn is that God keeps a record of our behavior and its impact on others.
6. This morning I want to focus on four instructive passages that are found among the many names listed.
7. Three of the passages highlight individuals and one focuses on the two and one half tribes that settled on the east side of the Jordan River.

#### I. Nimrod, a mighty one in the earth.

- A. We first encounter Nimrod in Genesis 10:6-10.

The sons of Ham were Cush and Mizraim and Put and Canaan. 7 The sons of Cush were Seba and Havilah and Sabtah and Raamah and Sabteca; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan. 8 Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord." 10 **The beginning of his kingdom was Babel** and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

- B. At first glance we might draw the conclusion that Nimrod was a positive example of manhood, but that is not the case.

- C. Nimrod was a powerful and influential leader who led an organized rebellion against God.

NOTE: Some commentators feel that verse 9 would be better translated, "a mighty rebel against the Lord."

- D. We see the results of his influence and leadership in Genesis 11:1-9.

Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. 2 It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. 4 They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." 5 The Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 The Lord said, "Behold,

they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. 7 "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech." 8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. 9 **Therefore its name was called Babel**, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

NOTE: Babel or Babylon is identified with organized rebellion against God.

E. To coin a word, Babylonianism represents all of the organized rebellion against God that exists in the world.

F. God will eventually judge every religion, government, and financial system that exists in opposition to Him.

G. Woe to the person or persons who use their power and influence to oppose God.

## II. Achar (Achan), the troubler of Israel. 2:7

"The son of Carmi was Achar, the **troubler of Israel**, who violated the ban."

A. To understand this verse we need to go back to Joshua 7.

1. Israel had entered the Promised Land and conquered the fortress city of Jericho.

2. God had given specific commands related to what was to happen to the people and property in Jericho. Josh 6:15-19

Then on the seventh day they rose early at the dawning of the day and marched around the city in the same manner seven times; only on that day they marched around the city seven times. 16 At the seventh time, when the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city. 17 "The city shall be under the ban, it and all that is in it belongs to the Lord; only Rahab the harlot and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. 18 **"But as for you, only keep yourselves from the things under the ban, so that you do not covet them and take some of the things under the ban, and make the camp of Israel accursed and bring trouble on it.** 19 "But all the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron are holy to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord."

3. The next objective was a small city named Ai where Israel's army suffered a humiliating defeat.

4. Joshua and the leaders of Israel fell on the faces in despair before God, and God responded with these words to Joshua. Josh 7:10-13

So the Lord said to Joshua, "Rise up! Why is it that you have fallen on your face? "Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things under the ban and have both stolen and deceived. Moreover, they have also put them among their own things. 12 "Therefore the sons of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies, for they have become accursed. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst."

B. In response to God's command Joshua called the people to assemble and Achan was identified as the problem, and his confession is found in Joshua 7:19-21.

Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I implore you, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and give praise to Him; and tell me now what you have done. Do not hide it from me." 20 So Achan answered Joshua and said, "Truly, I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel, and this is what I did: 21 when I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it."

C. Achan's sin led to his death, the destruction of his family because they were party to his sin, and the destruction of all he owned along with that which he had taken.

D. Many trouble the church by their disobedience to God and their example before men, and such God holds accountable.

### **III. Jabez, an honorable man. 1 Chron 4:9-10**

Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother named him Jabez saying, "Because I bore him with pain." 10 Now Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep me from harm that it may not pain me!" And God granted him what he requested.

A. Jabez stood out as a man of God; he was an honorable man.

B. Jabez was a man who called on the God of Israel.

C. Jabez prayed:

1. That God would bless him and enlarge his border (influence, property, possessions).
2. That God's hand would be with him.
3. That God would keep him from harm or evil so that evil would not harm or hurt him, and by extension, others.

D. Blessed is the person who prays about their personal needs, their ability to serve God, and the impact of evil on them and others.

### **IV. The sons of Reuben, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. I Chron 5:18-22.**

The sons of Reuben and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, consisting of valiant men, men who bore shield and sword and shot with bow and were skillful in battle, were 44,760, who went to war. 19 They made war against the Hagarites, Jetur, Naphish and Nodab. 20 They were helped against them, and the Hagarites and all who were with them were given into their hand; for they cried out to God in the battle, and He answered their prayers because they trusted in Him. 21 They took away their cattle: their 50,000 camels, 250,000 sheep, 2,000 donkeys; and 100,000 men. 22 For many fell slain, because the war was of God. And they settled in their place until the exile.

A. They were valiant men who were skillful in battle.

B. They were helped because they cried out to God in the battle.

C. God answered their prayers because they trusted in Him.

D. Their battle was of God, and not of their own making.

NOTE: Let's be sure that the battles we fight are of God and not of our own making.

**APPLICATION**

1. Let us use whatever influence we have over others to advance the purposes of God in their lives.
2. Rather than being a troubler of the church let us be a blessing and encouragement to our brothers and sister in Christ and an example to those who are lost.
3. If God were to publish a summary of our life would it resemble what He wrote about Jabez?
4. And lastly are we a person God can use to confront what He wants confronted in our world and the world?
5. There are many unsung heroes among the children of God; let's be one of them.