

### Preaching Dates

**6 May 2018**

**Andrew Swanson** (am) at  
Cambuslang Baptist Church  
**Aubrey Jamieson** (am) at  
Lerwick Congregational Church.  
**Jonathan Groves** (am) at Lighthouse Baptist  
Church, Forres, with Kerasso Trust  
**Nigel Johns** (am) at  
Coatbridge Baptist Church  
**Chris and Jenny Townsend** (am) at all-age  
service at Strathendrick Baptist Church  
**Riaz Mohammed** (am) at  
Viewfield Baptist Church, Dunfermline  
**Charles Sommerville** (am) at  
Kelty Evangelical Church, Fife  
**David Bebbington** (am) at Stirling Baptist  
Church (two morning services)  
**Tony Walters** (am) at  
Lighthouse Christian Fellowship  
**Richard MacPhee** (am) at  
Westwood Baptist, East Kilbride  
**David Mitchell** (am) at  
Abbeyhill Baptist Church, Edinburgh  
**Jonathan Groves** (pm) at Turning Point,  
Findhorn with Kerasso Trust presentation.  
**Charles Sommerville** (pm) at  
Dykehead Mission  
**Gordon Dickey** (pm) at  
Sunday Night Live, Moffat  
**Stanley Bonthron** (pm) at  
Dalkeith Baptist Church



**“Jabez”**

**By Bill Duffy**

Just lately I have been going through the prayer of Jabez. With this devotion, I pray that I can pass on to you some of the blessings I have received during my studies.

*And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!” So God granted him what he requested.*

1 Chronicles 4:10 NKJV

His prayer was in four parts: 1) He prayed that God would bless him. 2) He prayed that God would enlarge his territory, or his borders. 3) He prayed that God’s hand would be upon him. 4) He prayed that God would keep him from evil.

Jabez prayed for God to bless him. He sought God’s blessing on his life. He wanted God’s best and believed that God wanted to give it to him. Jabez sought the blessing of God that he might be a blessing to the world. The Bible tells us that our whole reason for existence is to be a blessing to God and a blessing to the world.

If we want to be blessed by God so that we can be a blessing then we must pray for God to enlarge our lives and our spheres of influence. Ask Him for something so big that we cannot possibly do it by ourselves. Ask Him to enlarge our territory. God wants us to see beyond the circumstances. He wants to enlarge our lives and join Him by praying and believing for His blessing.

The third thing to consider is: Jabez prayed for God’s hand to be upon him. Jabez knew that what he was praying for was bigger than what he could accomplish himself. He was praying for something so big that only the hand of God on his life could accomplish it.

We too should pray for the hand of God to be upon our lives so that we can accomplish something great for Him. Hopefully, it will be something so great that when it happens, everyone will know that it was by God’s hand alone and give Him the glory.

But the final part of Jabez’s prayer is the most important. We need to consider the fourth part of his prayer: Jabez prayed that God would keep him from evil. The New King James puts it like this: “Keep me from evil that I might not cause pain.

Just remember

Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

*Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.*