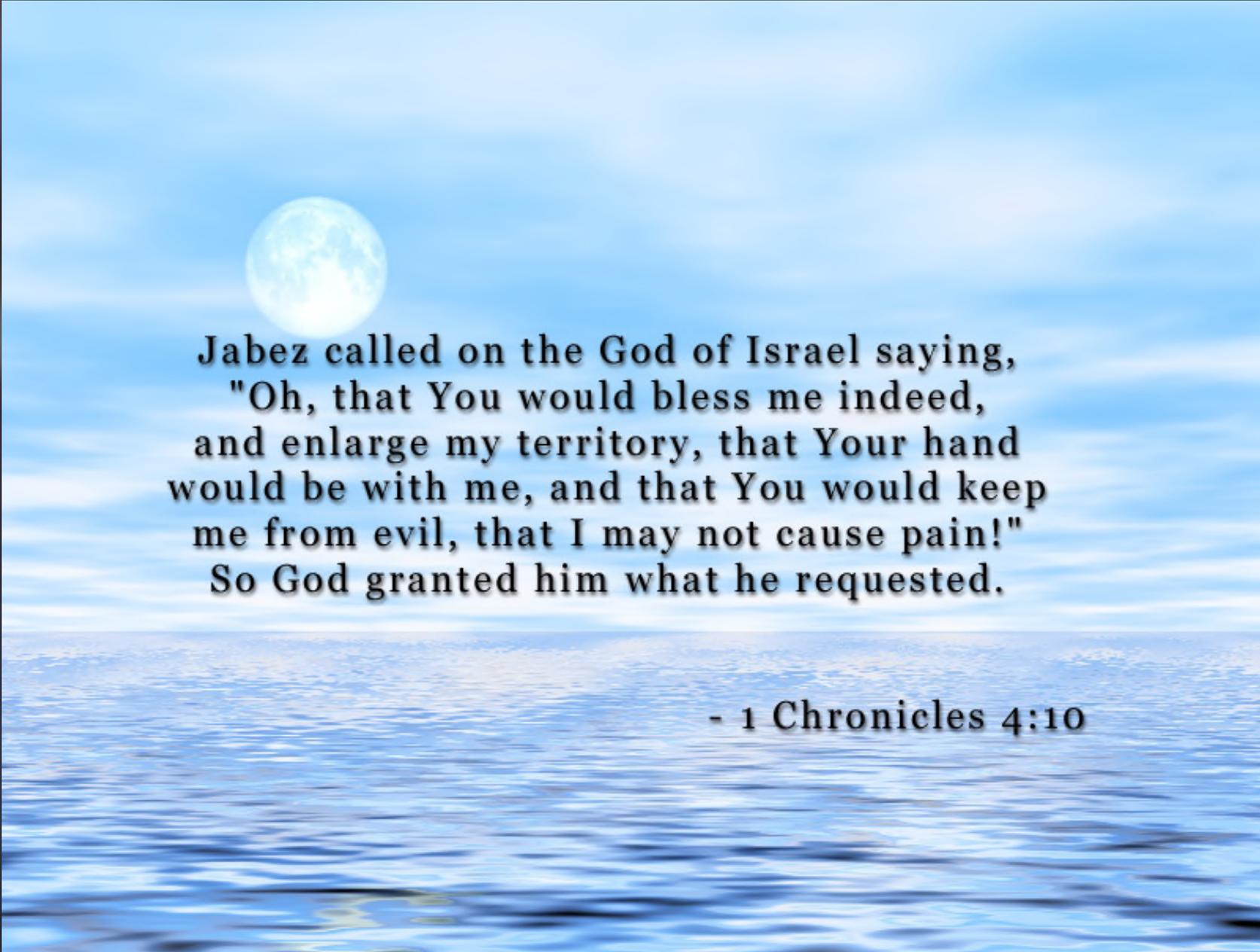


**My Church;**

**My Savior**

**Acts 2:1- 4; 37 – 39; 42**

A full moon is visible in the upper left quadrant of a blue sky. Below the sky is a body of water with gentle ripples. The entire scene is framed by a dark border.

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

**Call on the Lord O Church**

## As a Man thinks So is He

- I am tired of being told the church is irrelevant
- I am tired of being told why folks don't come to our church
- I am tired of being told people won't come to church and that the church won't go to people
- I am tired of being told why someone must leave the church
- I am tired of thinking of the church as an institution

- You see I love our church – that’s you and me loving Jesus together. If I give up on my church, there’s nothing to replace, even another “church”, because essentially I gave up on you.
- I come to life thinking of my church as being loved by Jesus.
- I come to life thinking of the skills, gifts and talents Jesus put together in this place.
- I come to life rejoicing in the deep love and sacrifice Jesus has lavished upon us.
- I wonder what Paul felt when he realized his deep criticism, anger and hatred of the church was of Jesus himself? Who hates the church like this?

- **In fact the One who orchestrates this thinking and action is jealous, envious of the church.**
- **People follow him because of power exercised and power promised – but they do not love him.**
- **People come to church because they fall in love and experience real change.**
- **And he, has nothing that can even come close.**

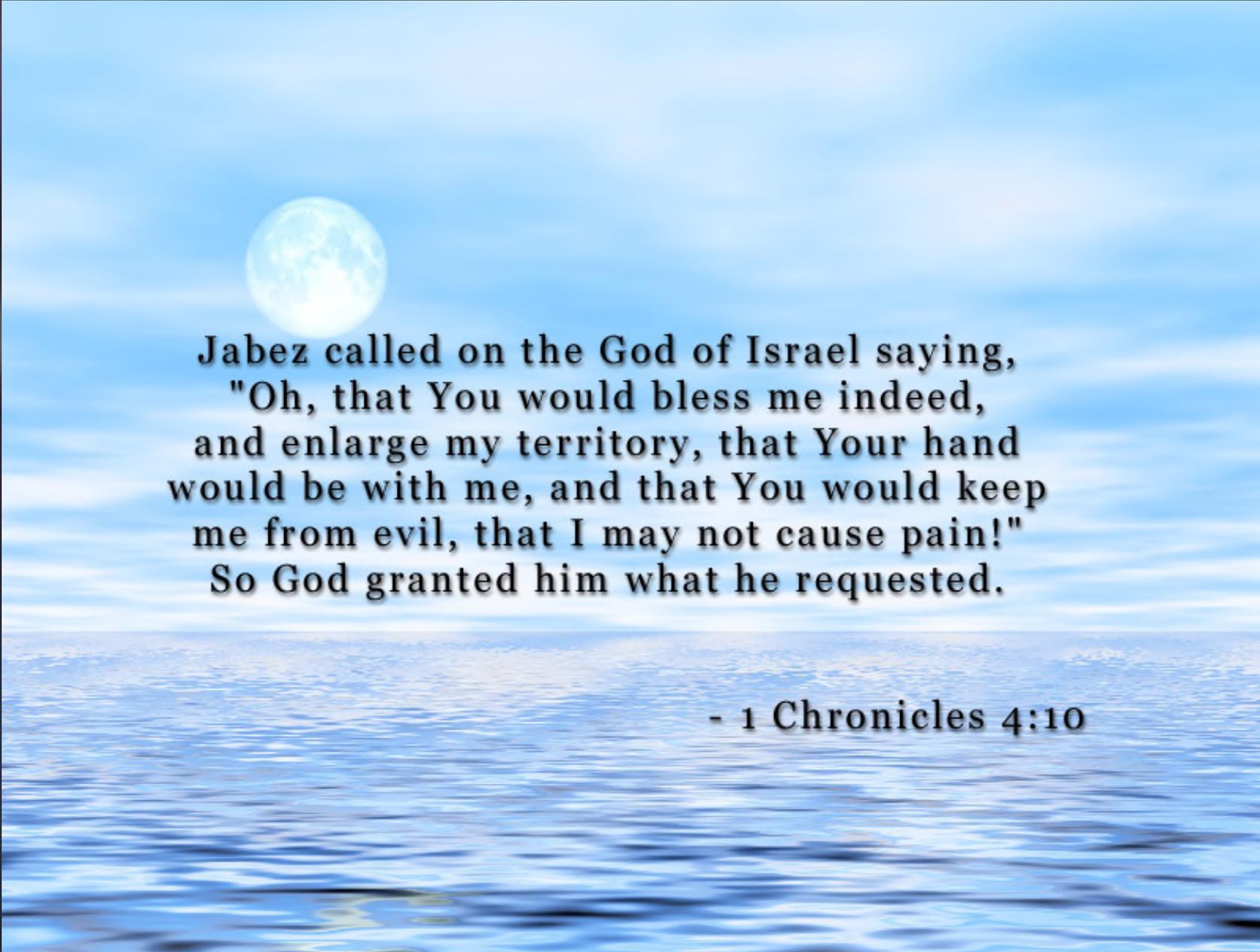
**In the Reader's Digest article "What Good is a Tree?" Tells of substance released when roots of trees touch that helps reduce competition. This unknown fungus helps link different trees, even trees of different species. A whole forest may be linked together. If one tree has access to water, another to nutrients, a third to sunlight, the trees have the means to share with one another. Blair F. Rorabaugh**

**There's a picture for the church!**

- **XI. The Church**<sup>5</sup>

- **15.** We believe in the Church, the community that confesses Jesus Christ as Lord, the covenant people of God made new in Christ, the Body of Christ called together by the Holy Spirit through the Word.
- God calls the Church to express its life in the unity and fellowship of the Spirit; in worship through the preaching of the Word, observance of the sacraments, and ministry in His name; by obedience to Christ, *holy living*, and mutual accountability.

- The mission of the Church in the world is to *share in the redemptive and reconciling ministry of Christ in the power of the Spirit. The Church fulfills its mission by making disciples through evangelism, education, showing compassion, working for justice, and bearing witness to the kingdom of God.*
- The Church is a historical reality, which organizes itself in culturally conditioned forms; exists both as local congregations and as a universal body; sets apart persons called of God for specific ministries. God calls the Church to live under His rule in anticipation of the consummation at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A full moon is visible in a clear blue sky above a body of water. The moon is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image. The water below is a deep blue with gentle ripples. The entire scene is framed by a dark border.

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**Call on the Lord O Church**

## The Church in Action

- Acts 2:1-4 This is the Power of the Church
- Acts 2:37-39 This is the Process of Becoming the Church
- Acts 2:42 This is the Practice of the Church

We grow *warmer* through fellowship.

Love must be learned and learned again

Assign top priority to relationships

We grow *deeper* through discipleship.

Why do you think we have Sunday Discipleship class

Why else have small groups, ministry teams and training etc.?

The Church grows *stronger* through worship.

In our excitement over styles of worship, have we forgotten how to worship?

In our focus on music have we forgotten the worship that powerfully comes through the Word?

The Church grows *broader* through ministry.

YOU broaden our touch, our witness, our prayer life our love and our impact – every day!

The Church grows *larger* through prayer and evangelism.

Loving Jesus, loving His church, loving people

## Consider This:

- Sooner or later, you must learn to hang on when the going gets tough, to give even when you are not getting much.
- The durable glue of friendship is called commitment.
- In any permanent friendship there will be periods when your friend is not functioning well and is not able to give generously to the friendship.

The test: Can you stay and wait?

- In all relationships there are times of movement toward intimacy and there are times of withdrawal and distance.

- **The secure friendship does not panic during the withdrawal phase.**
    - **Jesus said lose your life and you will find it.**
- Happiness lies on the backside of commitment and loyalty, not on the front side of take what you need.**

**Oh Church -**

**Who is our Master?**

**What is our Message?**

**What is our Motive?**

A photograph of a waterfall in a dense forest. The water is white and frothy as it falls into a pool of clear, greenish water. The surrounding trees are lush and green, with sunlight filtering through the canopy. The text is overlaid on the image in white, bold font.

# **Let the Spirit of the Our Church**

**Run freely**

**Laughing**

**Chuckling**

**Delighting**

**Splashing All over Everyone**

**With love**

**For the Purposes of Our Jesus**