

Whatever Happened to Hope? PART 4

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 NLT

MAIN TAKEAWAY

No matter the circumstances, or how 2025 went, **don't let go of hope**. God is not finished with you yet, and 2026 can be your comeback year if you choose to believe it. You don't have to be captive of what happens to us, of despair, or negativity. We can be captive of hope, never be shaken.

Big Idea: To make a comeback in 2026 you have to believe that better days are ahead for you.

KEY SCRIPTURES & TAKEAWAYS

1. **Psalm 105:19 NLT** Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the Lord tested Joseph's character.
 - a. Joseph never lost hope, no matter his circumstances, he kept believing God's Word was going to pass. He kept hold of God's promise and was promoted.
 - b. There was nothing that could shake Joseph free of the hope that God is good.
2. **Zechariah 9:12 NLT** [Come back to the place of safety, all you prisoners who still have hope! I promise this very day that I will repay two blessings for each of your troubles.
 - a. We receive double blessings when we are prisoners of hope.
3. **Psalm 27:13-14 NLT** Yet I am confident I will see the Lord's goodness while I am here in the land of the living. ¹⁴Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.
 - a. Waiting at times feels difficult, but God's promises are always true.
4. **Psalm 42:11 NLT** Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again— my Savior and my God!
 - a. We must speak to ourselves that God is in control, that our hope is in the Lord.
 - b. God's hope is an anchor, it keeps us from drifting, it keeps us steady.
5. **1 Chronicles 4:9-10 NLT** There was a man named Jabez who was more honorable than any of his brothers. His mother named him Jabez^[a] because his birth had been so painful. ¹⁰He was the one who prayed to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would

bless me and expand my territory! Please be with me in all that I do, and keep me from all trouble and pain!” And God granted him his request.

How to make a comeback in 2026:

- 1. Choose hope over your circumstances:** It’s not about what you’ve been called, or what has been spoken over you, it’s about what God has said about you.
- 2. Ask God for better days:** God wants the best for us, He is a generous God and He wants us blessed next year. Don’t compare yourself to others, or focus on how this year went, focus on God, look up not around you.
- 3. Draw close to God:** Jabez didn’t want the blessing without the Blessor. Only God can satisfy us, we are fulfilled when we have a close relationship with Him. The blessing that really matters is His Presence in our lives.

REFLECT & REVISIT

Go back and read **1 Chronicles 4:9-10 NLT** and reflect on Jabez’s response. He did not ask God “*why*”, he asked “*why not me?*”. As we end this year and start 2026, choose hope over your circumstances by refusing to let past pain, disappointment, or what 2025 looked like define your future. Ask God boldly for better days, pick that dream back up and pray for His blessing and expansion in every area of your life in 2026. Make the decision to draw close to God by inviting His presence into all that you do, believing that true comeback begins not just with what God’s blessing, but with walking closely with Him.