

# The Syrian Army Commander Naaman Miraculously Healed: A Lesson on God's Power to Convert and Heal a Person 2 Kings 05: 01–27

## 1. *The hope aroused in the brilliant but sick army commander*

- a. Naaman's noble character:  
Great, honourable, victorious, valiant (brave)
- b. Naaman's disease: Leprosy
- c. Naaman's hope aroused:  
A slave girl from Israel bore strong testimony to the LORD
  - 1) She served Naaman's wife
  - 2) She strongly urged her mistress to send Naaman to the prophet in Samaria
- d. Naaman's belief in the young girl's testimony
  - 1) He secured permission from the king to go to Samaria
  - 2) He travelled to Samaria and presented the letter to Joram the king
  - 3) He was feared and detained by Israel's king
    - Joram reacted: So worldly-minded, no thought of Elisha
    - Joram concluded Syria was seeking an excuse to invade Israel

- 1 Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.
- 2 Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife.
- 3 She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."
- 4 Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said.
- 5 "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing.
- 6 The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."
- 7 As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

**2. *The healing and conversion of Naaman: He laid aside his pride and obeyed God's Word***

- a. Elisha's offer to help
  - 1) Heard about Naaman's need
  - 2) Saw an opportunity to bear strong witness
- b. Naaman's arrival at Elisha's house
- c. Elisha's response and instructions
- d. Naaman's prideful, self-centred reaction: Anger, rage
  - 1) He expected Elisha personally to come out, wave his hand over his leprosy, pray, and heal him
  - 2) He considered the suggestions be those of a quack
- e. Naaman's healing and conversion
  - 1) He was encouraged to calm down by his servants
    - To do the thing suggested
    - To consider that he would gladly do any difficult task
  - 2) He reluctantly obeyed Elisha, the man of God
    - His flesh was restored
    - He was immediately healed
- f. Naaman's confession and dedication
  - 1) He returned to Elisha and confessed his belief
  - 2) He tried to pay Elisha

- 8 When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message:  
"Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel."
- 9 So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house.
- 10 Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."
- 11 But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy.
- 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.
- 13 Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!"
- 14 So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.
- 15 Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant."

3) He was informed that payment could not be accepted:  
Salvation was free,  
by God's grace,  
and not purchased

4) He asked for some dirt from Elisha's property

- To offer sacrifices to the LORD
- To never again sacrifice to a false god

5) He informed Elisha of his official duties as commander of the Syrian army

- He was required to join his king in religious ceremonies
- He would ask for forgiveness at such times

g. Naaman was told by Elisha to "go [home] in peace"

### **3. *The greed of Elisha's servant Gehazi***

a. Gehazi's lustful, craving thoughts

b. Gehazi's covetous action:  
Rushed to catch Naaman

1) He was spotted by Naaman

2) He lied, deceived Naaman

- Said Elisha had sent him
- Said two young prophets needed financial aid
- Said Elisha was requesting a talent of silver (75 pounds) and two sets of clothing

16 The prophet answered,  
"As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve,  
I will not accept a thing."  
And even though Naaman urged him,  
he refused.

17 "If you will not," said Naaman,  
"please let me, your servant, be given  
as much earth as a pair of mules can carry,  
for your servant will never again make  
burnt offerings and sacrifices  
to any other god but the LORD.

18 But may the LORD forgive your servant  
for this one thing: When my master enters  
the temple of Rimmon to bow down  
and he is leaning on my arm  
and I have to bow there also —  
when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon,  
may the LORD forgive your servant for this."

19 "Go in peace," Elisha said.  
After Naaman had travelled some distance,

20 Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God,  
said to himself, "My master was too easy  
on Naaman, this Aramean,  
by not accepting from him what he brought.  
As surely as the LORD lives,  
I will run after him  
and get something from him."

21 So Gehazi hurried after Naaman.  
When Naaman saw him running toward him,  
he got down from the chariot to meet him.  
"Is everything all right?" he asked.

22 "Everything is all right," Gehazi answered.  
"My master sent me to say,  
'Two young men from the company  
of the prophets have just come to me  
from the hill country of Ephraim.  
Please give them a talent of silver  
and two sets of clothing.' "

3) He was generously given more than he requested

- Two talents of silver and two sets of clothing
- Two servants to carry the wealth back

4) He hid the money and clothing

c. Gehazi's greed uncovered and his judgment

1) Elisha confronted his servant

2) Elisha revealed that he knew Gehazi had taken the money and clothing

3) Elisha rebuked his servant: Salvation and healing were to be free, not offered for profit

4) The judgment of God: Gehazi and his descendants would be stricken with leprosy

23 "By all means, take two talents," said Naaman. He urged Gehazi to accept them, and then tied up the two talents of silver in two bags, with two sets of clothing. He gave them to two of his servants, and they carried them ahead of Gehazi.

24 When Gehazi came to the hill, he took the things from the servants and put them away in the house. He sent the men away and they left.

25 When he went in and stood before his master, Elisha asked him, "Where have you been, Gehazi?" "Your servant didn't go anywhere," Gehazi answered.

26 But Elisha said to him, "Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money or to accept clothes — or olive groves and vineyards, or flocks and herds, or male and female slaves?"

27 Naaman's leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants forever." Then Gehazi went from Elisha's presence and his skin was leprous — it had become as white as snow.