

LEPROSY TO LEPROSY

An entire chapter is devoted to the healing of a famous Syrian General at war with Israel.

We will study this entire chapter by the following seven homiletical points and make doctrinal comments related to these points.

In your study Bible, there should be a map to show you the traveling involved in this story (Damascus of Syria to Dothan of Northern Kingdom to Jordan River).

1. Commander General (2Kg. 5:1) – Soldier of valor named Naaman (delightful or gracious).

He was a decorated military hero of Syria. Lord had given him victory. He has been penciled into the plan of God like Pharaoh (Rom.9:14).

He had leprosy (**tsaraath**) (2 Kg.3, 6, 7, 11, 27) [word used for various types of skin diseases]. Those with leprosy were considered the **“walking dead.”** (Num.12:12) [Miriam]

But Naaman had been penciled into the Plan of God because of Positive Volition (PV) at God Consciousness (GC) (Acts 17:24-27) [Heathenism].

It is interesting that only three people are mentioned by name in this story (Naaman, Elisha, and Gehazi). They all play important roles in the Plan of God in this story.

However, there are four additional characters playing important roles in the unfolding of this story (a slave girl, an aid to the General and two guards).

2. Captive Israelite slave girl (2 Kg. 5:2-4) [P.O.W] – A spiritual light to world (Matt.5:14).

She was taken captive by border raiding party.
In Hebrew, she is referred to as marriageable age (narah).
She served Naaman's wife (Eph.6:5-8).

She was the spiritual light of Christ in this home (Matt.5:43-48).
She is the bright star of this story (Phil.2:15-16).
She told them of a prophet in Samaria that could heal Naaman (true assumption; John 8:32).

3. Contact between two enemy kings (2 Kg. 5:5-7) – Syria and Israel (historical enemies).

Israelite king's first reaction was a **false assumption** – pick a fight (abah / hithpael ptc) [opportune].

However, the Syrian king and the Israelite king were actually fighting against a common enemy to mankind – leprosy.

The Syrian king was willing to award 5-6 million dollars for a cure of his top military general.
They joined in a search for a cure. This search took Naaman to a Super Grace (mature) believer named Elisha and the Plan of God.

4. Command given to Naaman by Elisha (2 Kg. 5:8-12) – spiritual challenge and encounter.

Elisha sent a message to Israel's king related to the Plan of God – “Now let him come to me, and he shall know (yada / kal impf) that there is a prophet in Israel.”

Naaman arrived at Elisha's house (unclean) and Elisha sent a message to him with a prescription for healing – “your flesh shall be restored (shub / kal impf) to you and you shall be clean (taher / kal impv)” (2 Kg.5:10).

This is a climatic point in this story!

This was the directive Will of God for the healing of Naaman (permissive and over-ruling). The directive Will requires three additional functional aspects of God's Will (geographical, operation, and mental).

Naaman became angry (qatsaph / kal impf) [hateful and insulting] (Matt.23:12). “I thought.” (Matt.23:11-12) [OMCD of false assumption]. He was only familiar with magical power of demons not with miracle power of God Almighty. He left angry still a leper. **How did that work for him?**

5. Cured of leprosy (2 Kn. 5:13-16) - spiritual enlightenment

Naaman's personal aid gave good advice (common sense / true assumption). He surrounded himself with good people.

Naaman did “according to the word of the man of God and his flesh was restored (shub / kal pf) like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean” (vs.14).

He returned to Elisha (clean) and they had a conversation. – “Now I know (yada / kal pf) that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; so please take a present (birakah) [gift of blessing] from your servant now.” (vs.15)

Elisha made an issue of God's grace to Naaman – “As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will take nothing. And he urged him to take it, but he refused (mael / piel impf).” (vs.16; Job 9:10; 36:15; James 4:6-7)

6. Carry soil home (2 Kg. 5:17-19) – strange requests

First Request: “If not (take present), please let your servant at least be given two mules load of earth; for your servant will **no more** offer burnt offering nor will he sacrifice to other gods, but to the Lord” (vs.17.) He pledged to honor the God of Israel.

Second request: involved the House of Rimmon and forgiven (salah / kal impf). Elisha told him to “go in peace” (vs.19)

7. Curse of leprosy (2 Kg. 5:20-27) – second leprosy (sequel story)

This Israelite was cursed with Naaman's leprosy.

Gehazi's sin (2 Kg.5:20-24) – 2 of 10 sets of talents of silver and clothes – greed attacked grace (1 Tim.6:10). Two guards assigned to this detail.

Put his spiritual light under a bushel (Matt.5:15-16) [OMCD].

Note Elisha's interrogation (2 Kg.5:24-26 / 2 questions). Curse pronounced upon Gehazi and all his future generations (vs.27; Job 7:5-6)