

# ELISHA AND NAAMAN

## Introduction

- 1) **Elisha** served as a prophet of God after Elijah was taken to heaven (2 Kgs. 2:11-13)
- 2) A previous lesson looked at his early works highlighted by the story of the Shunammite woman
- 3) This lesson will continue to study **Elisha's** work and his encounter with Naaman the Syrian

## I) **The Continuing Work of Elisha**

- A) Purifies the pot of stew for the sons of the prophets (2 Kgs. 4:38-41)
- B) Multiplies food for one hundred men (2 Kgs. 4:42-44)

## II) **Naaman (2 Kgs. 5:1-19)**

- A) Who was Naaman (v. 1)?
  - 1) Commander of the army of the king of Syria (non-Jew, foreigner)
  - 2) A great and honorable man in the eyes of his master; a mighty man of valor
  - 3) "...but he was a leper"
- B) **Leprosy** – malignant, infectious skin disease: whiteness, sores, scabs (Lev. 13-14)
  - 1) For Jews, it represented uncleanness and divine judgment (Num. 12:10; 2 Kgs. 5:27; 15:5)
- C) Story of Naaman's healing started by the concern of his young Israelite slave girl (vv. 2-3)
- D) King of Syria sends letter to king of Israel requesting healing; Naaman brings gifts (vv. 4-6)
  - 1) King of Israel [Jehoram] upset thinking the king of Syria is seeking to pick a fight (v. 7)
  - 2) Elisha tells king to send Naaman to him (v. 8)
- E) Naaman goes to Elisha's door and a messenger delivers the prophet's instructions (vv. 9-11)
  - 1) "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored...be clean"
  - 2) Naaman has the choice to obey and be healed, or not obey and remain a leper
- F) Naaman's reactions (vv. 11-14a)
  - 1) **Angry** and insulted because Elisha did not do a "performance healing" and he would rather wash in the better rivers of Damascus – wanted to do things *his* way, a "better" way
  - 2) Servants reason with him that he would have been willing to do something great, so why not just do what the prophet said – have faith/trust, be humble and **obey** – "*So he went...*"
- G) Naaman washes seven times in the Jordan – his flesh is restored and he was clean (v. 14b)
  - 1) Flesh restored "like the flesh of a little child" (and his mind humbled as a little child)
  - 2) Converted into a believer and worshipper of the one true God (vv. 15-19; Lk. 4:27)

## III) **Important Lessons about Divine Cleansing: *God's Grace and Man's Obedience* (Rom. 3:23; Jn. 3:16; Rom. 6:23; Acts 2:38, 41; Rom. 3:24; 6:17; 5:1-2; Titus 3:5; Rom. 6:4)**

- A) ***Naaman had a deadly affliction*** = man afflicted with the deadly disease of sin
  - 1) Fame and greatness could not heal, nor can sincerity and goodness save from sin
- B) ***Healing/cleansing was available for Naaman*** = salvation is available for all men
- C) ***God's healing not purchased with money*** = salvation not purchased with earthly things
- D) ***Naaman's healing was a gift of God's grace*** = man's salvation is a gift of God's grace
- E) ***Naaman had to meet the conditions of healing*** = man must meet the conditions of salvation
- F) ***Naaman was not to be angry but obedient*** = let us gladly receive the word of God and obey
- G) ***Naaman healed by God's grace when he obeyed God's word*** = man saved from sin by God's grace when he obeys God's word – perfect merging of grace, faith, and works of obedience
- H) ***Naaman's washing resulted in a new life*** = sinners are saved through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit – raised from death to walk in newness of life

## Conclusion

**Naaman** was healed from his leprosy by the grace of God. You can be healed from the affliction of sin by the grace of God. Elisha delivered to him the conditions of God's salvation; Jesus reveals to us the conditions of His salvation. Will you obey and be made clean from sin?