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A Biographical Study of Naaman

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Naaman

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Naaman, the successful soldier
 - A. He was commander of the Syrian army in the days of Elisha the prophet (2 Kings 5:1).
 - B. He was a good and brave man, used by God to give victory to the Syrian people (2 Kings 5:1).
- II. Naaman, the suffering soldier—He was a leper (2 Kings 5:1).
- III. Naaman, the seeking soldier
 - A. He learned about the supernatural power of Elisha through a young Israelite maid who served in his household (2 Kings 5:2-3).
 - B. Acting upon her testimony, he visited King Jehoram in Jerusalem (the youngest son of Ahab), requesting that he be healed of his leprosy (2 Kings 5:4-6).
 - C. This godless and powerless king could offer no help whatsoever, and was greatly relieved when Elisha agreed to meet with Naaman (2 Kings 5:8).
- IV. Naaman, the sulking soldier—Upon his arrival at Elisha’s home, Naaman was instructed by a servant of the prophet to wash himself seven times in the Jordan River for his healing (2 Kings 5:9-10).
 - A. The anger of Naaman (2 Kings 5:11-12)
 1. He expected Elisha to personally greet him and, in dramatic fashion, to heal him.
 2. He complained that if indeed the washing process was necessary, the rivers in Damascus were much cleaner than the Jordan.
 - B. The advice to Naaman—His servants gave him some excellent advice (2 Kings 5:13):
“My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? How much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?”
- V. Naaman, the saved soldier
 - A. His physical salvation—Naaman obeyed Elisha, washing himself seven times, and was instantly and totally healed (2 Kings 5:14).
 - B. His spiritual salvation (2 Kings 5:15-17)
 1. He stood before Elisha and acknowledged that the God of Israel was the only true God.
 2. He offered Elisha a gift, which the prophet refused.
 3. He vowed never again to offer burnt sacrifices to any god except the true one.
 4. He even took two muleloads of Israelite earth with him back to Damascus in order to make an altar to the Lord at his home.
- VI. Naaman, the seduced soldier (2 Kings 5:20-27)
 - A. En route back to Syria, Naaman was approached by Gehazi Elisha’s servant, who for personal greed lied to him, claiming the prophet had changed his mind and needed Naaman’s gift to help some other prophets.

- B. Naaman gave him two money bags and two expensive robes.
- C. Upon arriving back home, however, Gehazi was punished for this by having Naaman's leprosy supernaturally placed upon him.

THEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Jesus used the story of Naaman's healing during a sermon preached in his hometown synagogue of Nazareth to illustrate the faith of the Gentiles and the faithlessness of Israel. He said: "And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha, the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman, the Syrian" (Luke 4:27).
- II. Naaman thus became the only male in the entire Old Testament to be healed of leprosy.

STATISTICS

First mention: 2 Kings 5:1

Final mention: Luke 4:27

Meaning of his name: "Pleasant"

Frequency of his name: Referred to 11 times

Biblical books mentioning him: Two books (2 Kings, Luke)

Occupation: Military commander (2 Kings 5:1)

Important fact about his life: He was cured of leprosy.