### 2 Kings

## Chapter 5

1There was a man named NaAman who was the commander-in-chief of the army of Syria. He was highly valued by his lord and everyone admired him. Jehovah had also used him to save Syria; for, he was a very strong and mighty man.  
  
However, this man had contracted leprosy.  
  
2Meanwhile, the Syrians had gone into IsraEl lightly armed, and they captured a young girl there, who was given to NaAman’s woman as a servant.  
  
3And it was she who suggested to her lady:  
  
 ‘My master should go to see the prophet of God who is in Samaria, for he will cure him of his leprosy!’  
  
4As a result, [NaAman’s woman] went in to [her husband] while he was [with the king] and told him what she’d heard the girl from the land of IsraEl say.  
  
5And the king of Syria said to NaAman:  
  
 ‘Then go there, and I’ll send along a letter for the king of IsraEl.’  
  
So thereafter, NaAman went [to Samaria] carrying along 700 pounds (320kg) of silver, 6,000 gold coins, 10 suits of clothes, 6and a letter to the king of IsraEl, which said:  
  
 ‘Along with this letter, {Look!} I am sending my servant NaAman to you and I’m asking that you cure him of his leprosy.’  
  
7Well when the king of IsraEl read the letter, he ripped his clothes and said:  
  
 ‘Am I God who can bring death to one and life to another that he would send me a man to be cured of his leprosy?  
  
 ‘How do I know that this really isn’t just an excuse to attack me?’  
  
8However, when EliSha heard about the king of IsraEl ripping his clothes, he sent [a message] to the king which said:  
  
 ‘Why did you tear your clothes?  
  
 ‘Allow NaAman to come to me, so he will know that there’s a prophet in IsraEl!’  
  
9And thereafter, NaAman went to him riding his horse-drawn chariot, stopping in front of the door of EliSha’s house. 10Then EliSha sent a messenger outside to him that told him:  
  
 ‘You should go and bathe yourself in the JorDan River seven times, and your flesh will be cleansed.’  
  
11Well, NaAman was outraged!  
  
He said:  
  
 ‘They told me that this man would come out and stand before me, then call on the Name of his God and put his hand on the leprosy and cure it!  
  
 12‘Aren’t the Abana and Phaphar Rivers in Damascus superior to the JorDan and all the waters of IsraEl?  
  
 ‘If I want to wash myself, I can go bathe in them!’  
  
So he left in a huff!  
  
13But later, his servant spoke to him and gave him some great advice.  
  
He said:  
  
 ‘Shouldn’t you do what the prophet said?  
  
 ‘All he told you to do was to bathe and be cleansed!’  
  
14So then NaAman went down to the JorDan and dipped himself in the water seven times, just as EliSha had said… And he was cleansed!  
  
In fact, his skin became like that of a young boy!  
  
15So he returned to EliSha with his entire contingent of guards, then he stood before him and said:  
  
 ‘{Look!} Now I know for sure that there’s no God in all the earth other than just in IsraEl!  
  
 ‘Please accept these blessings from your servant!’  
  
16But EliSha said:  
  
 ‘As [Jehovah, the God] that I stand before lives; how could I accept such things?’  
  
Well, [NaAman] kept insisting, but EliSha kept resisting.  
  
17Then NaAman said:  
  
 ‘At least, let your servant give you this team of mules, and you can give me some of your red earth in return… Then I’ll quit insisting.  
  
 ‘For your servant promises that he won’t present whole burnt offerings or sacrifices to any gods other than to Jehovah alone, because of what this God has done!  
  
 18‘However, may Jehovah deal kindly with your servant when I have to enter the temple of RemMan with my master! Because, when he goes there, he has to hold onto my hand when he kneels before RemMan… So I must bend down also.  
  
 ‘May Jehovah deal kindly with your servant in this matter.’  
  
19And EliSha told NaAman:  
  
 ‘Yes, go in peace.’  
  
So he left and headed towards the land of DebRatha.  
  
  
20But after that, GeHazi (EliSha’s servant) said to himself:  
  
 ‘{Look!} NaAman was saved, yet my master wouldn’t accept any of the things that he brought.  
  
 ‘As Jehovah lives, I’m going to run after him and accept anything that he’s willing to give!’  
  
21So then, GeHazi ran after NaAman, and when NaAman saw him running behind, he stopped his chariot and waited for him.  
  
And [after he caught up], GeHazi said:  
  
 ‘Peace!  
  
 22‘My master has sent me and he told me to say:  
  
 ‘{Look!} two young men just came to me from the sons of the prophets in the hills of Ephraim. So, please let me have 70 pounds (32kg) of silver and two suits of clothes to give to them.’  
  
23And NaAman said:  
  
 ‘Here, take 140 pounds (63.5kg) of silver!’  
  
So GeHazi took the silver in two pouches, as well as two suits of clothes, and he handed them to his servants that carried the things on ahead of him... 24And when they got to a shady spot he sent them on, as he took it all for himself and carried it back home.  
  
25Well later, when he went to see his master, EliSha asked him:  
  
 ‘Where did you come from, GeHazi?’  
  
And GeHazi replied:  
  
 ‘Oh, your servant was just traveling here and there.’  
  
26And EliSha said to him:  
  
 ‘Wasn’t my heart traveling with you when the man stopped his chariot to wait for you?  
  
 ‘So, now you’ve taken the silver and the clothing, and you’re planning to buy gardens, olive groves, vineyards, sheep, oxen, and male and female servants... However, the leprosy of NaAman will stick to you and to your offspring throughout the ages!’  
  
Then, as he was leaving, his face became as white as snow with leprosy!