

Naaman and Elisha

2 Kings 5:1-14

Characters: Narrator, Elisha, Naaman, Naaman's Officer, King of Israel, Aram, King's Adviser, Messenger

- Narrator: King Aram was a mighty king, and had great admiration for Naaman, who commanded his armies. Naaman was a great commander, and had won many victories for Aram, but had suffered from leprosy. One day, Aram had heard that there was a prophet in Israel that could heal people. He called Naaman into his throne room to tell him this news.
- Aram: Naaman, I have been told that you can be healed in Israel. I am sending you to see their king, along with 750 pounds of silver, 150 pounds of gold, and ten sets of cloths to offer as a gift when they cure you.
- Narrator: Naaman went off to see the King of Israel, bringing him the gold, silver, and clothes, as well as a group of his military officers.
- Naaman: Aram has sent me. He wants you to heal me of my leprosy. I bring you these gifts in exchange.
- Narrator: The King of Israel left Naaman, and went to a private room with his one of his advisors. He tore his clothes out of despair.
- King of Israel: Why did Aram send Naaman to me? I can't heal anyone! Surely, he must want a reason to start a war with me, and destroy my kingdom.
- King's Adviser: Why don't you send Naaman to Elisha? Surely Elisha can heal him.
- Narrator: The King of Israel sent Naaman to the house of Elisha. Elisha did not meet with Naaman; he sent out his messenger instead.
- Messenger: Elisha wants you to wash in the Jordan River seven times. Then you will be healed of your leprosy.
- Narrator: Naaman was upset that Elisha was unwilling to meet with him and sent out a messenger instead. He was also upset that Elisha expected him to wash in the Jordan River, instead of coming out and healing him by touching him.

- Naaman: I thought Elisha would come out and meet me! Instead, he sends a messenger out! And to tell me to wash in the Jordan River? I have washed in many other rivers—what does he want me to think, that the Jordan River has some magical property?
- Naaman's Officer: Naaman, we have already come this far—the least you could do is follow the instructions given to us by Elisha. If it doesn't work, then we will come back here, and figure something else out.
- Narrator: Naaman followed his officer's advice, and washed in the Jordan River seven times. On the seventh washing, he stepped out of the river, and his leprosy was cured. He returned to Elisha's house to thank him.
- Naaman: Elisha! Thank you for curing me! Now I know there is no God except for the God of Israel. Please accept these gifts.
- Elisha: As surely as the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will not accept any gifts.
- Naaman: Please, allow me to take two mule loads of soil from Israel back to my kingdom, so I may worship the God of Israel on his own ground. I promise I will never serve any other God except the God of Israel.
- Elisha: Very well, go in peace!
- Narrator: Naaman returned to his homeland, and worshiped the Lord every day.