

1 And Naaman the prince of the army of the King of Aram [Syria] was a great man before his master [in his opinion]. And he was highly respected, because by him, Yahweh had saved Aram [Syria]; he was a mighty warrior – Leper. 2 And Aram [Syria] sent out raiding bands and took captives from the land of Israel, a young girl and she was before [a servant to] Naaman's wife. 3 And she said to her mistress, "If only my master was before the Prophet who is in Samaria, then he would gather-up [cure] his leprosy from him."

4 And he [Naaman] went and reported to his master, saying: "Thus and Thus the girl spoke who is from the land of Israel." 5 And the king of Aram [Syria] said, "Go! Enter! And I will send a letter to the king of Israel!" So, he [Naaman] went and he took in his hand 10 disks of silver and 6,000 gold [pieces] and 10 sets of garments. 6 And he brought the letter to the king of Israel saying, "And now, as this letter comes to you, behold, I send to you Naaman, my servant, and you shall gather-up [cure] from him his leprosy."

7 And it was as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his garment and said, "Am I God?! to kill and bring to life, that [the king of Syria] sends this to me, to gather-up [cure] a man of his leprosy; because you surely must know and see that he is trying to pick a fight with me!"

8 And it was as Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his garments, he sent to the king saying: "Why did you tear your garments? Let him come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." 9 And Naaman went by horse and chariot and he stood at the opening of the house of Elisha. 10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him saying: "Go and wash 7 times in the Jordan and your flesh will return to you and be cleansed."

11 And Naaman was angry and he went, and he said, "Behold! I said to myself, 'surely he will come out and stand and call on the name of Yahweh, his God, and he will wave his hand over the place and he will gather-up [cure] the leprosy!' 12 Aren't Amana and Farpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel?! Couldn't I be washed in them and be cleansed?" And he turned and he left in anger. 13 But his servants approached him and spoke to him and they said, "My father [if] a great thing the prophet has spoken to you, would you not have done it? How much more when he says, "Wash and be cleansed!"?

14 And we went down and dipped in the Jordan seven times as the man of God had spoken, and his flesh was returned like the flesh of a young boy and was cleansed. 15 And he returned to the man of God, he and all his camp, and they came and stood before him and he said, "Behold, now I know that there is no God in any land except in Israel! And now, take please a gift from your servant."

16 And he said, "As Yahweh lives, before Whom I stand, [may I be cursed] if I should take [a gift]!" And [Naaman] urged him to take, and [Elisha] refused. 17 And Naaman said, "If not, let your servant be given a [full] load of dirt for a yoke of donkeys, because your servant will never make a burnt offering or sacrifice to any God except Yahweh. 18 But may Yahweh forgive your servant this one thing: when my master enters the house of Rimmon to bow down there and he is leaning on my hand and I bow down in the house of Rimmon, may Yahweh please forgive your servant in this thing."

19 And [Elisha] said to him, "Go in peace."

And he had gone from him some distance of land 20 and Gehazi, Elisha the man of God's, boy [servant] said, "Behold, my master was too easy on this Naaman the Aramean [Syrian] by not taking from his hand that which he brought. As Yahweh lives [may I be cursed] unless I run after him and take from him

something. 21 And Gehazi pursued after Naaman; and Naaman saw him running after him and he fell [got down from] his chariot to meet him and he said, "Is there peace?"

22 And he said, "Peace! My master sent me to say: 'Behold, now this happened: 2 boys from the hill country of Ephraim came to me, from the sons of the prophets. Please send to them a disc of silver and 2 sets of garments.'" 23 and Naaman said, "Don't say no!¹ Please take 2. And he insisted on him and he bound the silver disks in 2 sacks with 2 sets of garments and he gave them to two boys, and they carried them before him. 24 And he came to Ophel and he took from their hands and he entered the house and he sent the men and they left.

25 And he came, and he stood next to his master and Elisha said to him, "Where have you come from Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant didn't go anywhere." 26 And he said to him, "Didn't my heart go out when the man turned from on his chariot to meet you? Is it the time to take silver and to take garments and olive trees and vineyards and flocks and herds and manservants and maidservants? 27 And the leprosy of Naaman will cleave to you and your seed forever!"

And he went out from before him – leprous and like snow.

¹ The Hebrew word here is notoriously difficult to translate. It is a command for someone to be caused to be willing. The NIV and NLT say, "by all means take"; the ESV and NASB say, "be pleased to accept"; The KJV says, "be content"; and other bibles have variations of these ideas. The idea is more than saying please, it is a polite insistence that Gehazi would receive a double-gift and not refuse.