

LESSON IV.

ELISHA AND NAAMAN

October 23, 1904

2 Kings 5 : 1-14. Study 2 Kings 5 : 1-19—Memory Verses, 10-14.

Golden Text—Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed ; save me, and I shall be saved.
—Jeremiah 17 : 14.



9 So Na'aman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Eli'sha.

10 And Eli'sha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jor'dan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.

11 But Na'aman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.

12 Are not Aba'na and Phar'par, rivers of Damas'cus, better than all the waters of Is'rael? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.

13 And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldst thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?

14 Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jor'dan, according to the saying of the man of God : and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

1 Now Na'aman, captain of the host of the king of Sy'ria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the Lord had given deliverance unto Sy'ria : he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper.

2 And the Sy'rians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Is'rael a little maid : and she waited on Na'aman's wife.

3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Sama'ria ! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

4 And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Is'rael.

5 And the king of Sy'ria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Is'rael. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment.

6 And he brought the letter to the king of Is'rael, saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold I have therewith sent Na'aman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy.

7 And it came to pass, when the king of Is'rael had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

8 And it was so, when Eli'sha the man of God had heard that the king of Is'rael had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Is'rael.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Once, when Naaman, the great Syrian general, and his men were making a raid upon Israel, they took captive a little Israelitish girl, and brought her back to Naaman's wife to be her maid. This little girl had not lived very long in Naaman's home before she heard that her master, who was so much honored by his heathen king and the people, was a leper. His disease was one that no doctor could cure.

One day the slave child said to her mistress, "How I wish my master were in the land of Israel, where there is a great prophet, who I know could cure him of his leprosy!" After a time some one told the king what she had said. "Suppose," said the King of Syria to Naaman, "you go and try what this man can do for you, and I will give you a

letter introducing you to the King of Israel." So Naaman was persuaded to go, and taking with him his servants and horsemen, and a handsome present for the King of Israel, he came and laid the letter before him.

But when the King of Israel read what Naaman had come for, he was afraid and said, "Surely the King of Syria is seeking a quarrel with me. Who ever heard of anyone being cured of leprosy? It is impossible!" In his perplexity the king received a message from Elisha, saying, "Send your visitor to me, I will prove to him that there is a prophet in Israel."

But when Naaman came with his horses and servants and stood at Elisha's door, the prophet only sent a servant out to tell him, that if he would be cured, he must go and