

Lesson I.

ELISHA HEALS NAAMAN THE SYRIAN

April 2, 1911

2 Kings 5 : 1-14. Study 2 Kings, ch. 5—*Memory Verses, 13, 14.

Golden Text—Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth : for I am God, and there is none else.—Isaiah 45 : 22.



rent thy clothes ? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Is'rael. 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 Ab'ana 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, wouldest 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.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Naaman was a great and strong captain in the army of Syria, a country near Israel ; but he suffered from the dreadful disease of leprosy. Now, it happened that once, when the Syrian soldiers were fighting against Israel, they carried away captive a little maid whom Naaman took to his own house, where she was taught to wait on his wife. This little maid, when she saw the sorrow in Naaman's house on account of her master's illness, said to her mistress, " I wish that my master could see the prophet that lives in my country in the city of Samaria, for I am sure he could cure him of his leprosy."

Some one who heard this told Ben-hadad, the king of Syria, who was very fond of his strong, brave captain. He said to Naaman, " You must go at once to Samaria, and I will

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

2 And the Syr'ians 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 Samar'ia ! 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 Syr'ia 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

give you a letter to Jehoram, the king of Israel, who lives there, asking him to cure you of your leprosy." So Naaman started at once, taking with him, besides the letter from his master, Ben-hadad, rich presents for the King of Israel. The letter said, " I am sending Naaman, my servant, to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy."

But when Jehoram had read this, he tore his clothes in great trouble crying, " Have I the power of God to cure a man of leprosy ? Ben-hadad must be only seeking an excuse to quarrel with me." But Elisha sent word to the king saying, " Send this man to me, and he shall see that there is indeed a prophet in Israel."

So Naaman, with his horses and chariots, came and stood at the door of Elisha's house.

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.