

servant; thus respecting the ceremonial law, showing the dignity of his office, and humbling Naaman's pride. **Go and wash in Jordan.** 1.) A simple act; 2.) A self-denying act; 3.) An act of obedience; 4.) An act of perseverance; 5.) An act of faith; 6.) A symbolic act, showing us in a picture the process of salvation. **Flesh shall come again.** In leprosy, the flesh decays and falls away in running sores; and the cure consists in the renewal of the flesh.

11. Naaman was wroth. His pride was touched, that he, a Syrian nobleman, should be treated no better than an outcast among the Israelites. (9) **Pride keeps many from eternal life. Behold, I thought.** He had already planned an impressive way of healing, and he expected the Lord and the prophet to come to his plan. Just so there are many now who are willing to be saved, but unwilling to "kneel at an altar," or confess that they have been sinners. **The name of the Lord his God.** Literally, "of Jehovah his God." He knew that Jehovah was the God of Israel, just as Rimmon was of Syria, and Chemosh of Moab. **Over the place.** Showing that the leprosy had been recently manifested, and as yet touched only a part of the body.

12. Abana and Pharpar. The *Barada* and the *Azai*, two crystal streams rising in Mount Lebanon and flowing across the plain of Damascus, only to be lost in the desert; fit types of the worldly morality, cold ceremonialism, and intellectual culture, which men would substitute for the old Gospel of salvation. **Damascus.** The capital of Syria, and one of the most ancient cities in the world; so beautiful when seen at a distance that Mohammed refused to enter it, saying, "Man can have but one paradise, and mine is not on the earth!" **Went away in a rage.** How foolish is that rage which makes a man turn away from purity and

life, just because its conditions are not of his own choosing! (10) *Naaman has left many descendants in the world.*

13. His servants. They knew the quickness of his temper, and the real worth of his character. Well for him that he had wise advisers, and better, that he followed their advice. **Some great thing.** He would have been ready to spend a great fortune, or to take a great journey, if he could have obtained healing. **How much rather then!** So now, since it is so easy, why should any hesitate to obtain salvation?

14. Then went he down. From the mountains of Samaria to the valley and the brink of Jordan. **Dipped himself seven times.** He obeyed the command precisely, just as every sinner should do who would be saved. **Like the flesh of a little child.** What a picture of that mightier work of grace, by which the sinner becomes a new creature.

15. He returned. Like the grateful Samaritan leper in Christ's time, he turned back to give thanks. **Came and stood.** But now with new body and a new feeling. **No God in all the earth.** This does not show that Naaman was converted, in the Gospel sense, to the worship of the God of Israel. He meant that the God of Israel should be hereafter his patron-divinity. **Take a blessing.** A present, or reward, after universal Oriental custom.

16. I will receive none. Elisha would show him that the work was of grace, and not a matter of purchase; and also that God's prophets were not magicians, whose powers were at the service of a fee. The endowments of the prophet were not bestowed for his own enrichment, but for the benefit of men.

HOME READINGS.

- M.* Naaman the Syrian. 2 Kings 5. 1-16.
Tu. Gehazi's punishment for sin. 2 Kings 5. 17-27.
W. Sight restored by washing. John 9. 1-25.
Th. Cleansed by God. Isa. 1. 16-27.
F. Power to heal given disciples. Matt. 10. 1-15.
S. Health restored by repentance. Job 33. 23-33.
S. Whiter than snow. Psa. 51. 1-10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Psa. 51. 7.

LESSON HYMNS.

- No. 15, Dominion Hymnal.
 Salvation! O the joyful sound!
 What pleasure to our ears!
 A sovereign balm for every wound,
 A cordial for our fears.
 No. 12, Dominion Hymnal.
 Let earth and heaven agree,
 Angels and men be joined.
 No. 28, Dominion Hymnal.
 There is a fountain filled with blood,
 Drawn from Immanuel's veins.

TIME.—Supposed to be about B. C. 894.

PLACES.—1. Damascus, the capital of Syria. 2. Samaria, the capital of Israel; 3. The residence of Elisha, perhaps at Samaria; 4. The river Jordan.

RULERS.—See Lesson XI.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Cleansing from sin.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

- Naaman's Captive, v. 1-4.**
 Who was Naaman?
 Why did the king esteem him so highly?
 What was his affliction?
 How had the Hebrew maid been captured?
 What was her office in Naaman's family?
 What word did she speak which led to great results?
- Naaman's Journey, v. 5-10.**
 What did the king of Syria do?
 Why did he write his letter to the king of Israel?
 Why did the king of Israel imagine it had an evil purpose?
 What was Elisha's message?

3. Naaman's Rage, v. 11-13.

Why was the captain angry?
 In what respect was he like any sinner?
 What good advice did he heed?

4. Naaman's Cure, v. 14-16.

What occurred when he obeyed the prophet?
 What effect did his healing have upon him?
 How did he show his gratitude?

Practical Teachings.

Where in this lesson do we learn—

- That no earthly position is exempt from misfortune?
- That a child's words may affect vast interests?
- That doing great things saves no one?

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

1. Naaman's Captive, v. 1-4.

What was Naaman's standing with the king?
 What had given him this favor?
 With what was he afflicted?
 Who waited on Naaman's wife?
 What did she want her master to do?
 For what reason?

2. Naaman's Journey, v. 5-10.

What was told the king?
 What present did the king give to Naaman?
 On what journey did he send him?
 What request was made of the king of Israel?
 How did the king of Israel receive the letter?
 What rebuke did Elisha give the king?
 What request did he make?
 To whom did Naaman then go?
 What did the prophet direct him to do?

3. Naaman's Rage, v. 11-13.

How did Naaman receive the prophet's order?
 What had he expected?
 How did his servant rebuke him?

4. Naaman's Cure, v. 14-16.

How was Naaman finally cured?
 What did he do when healed?
 What confession did he make?

Teachings of the Lesson.

Where in this lesson is it shown—

- That good service may be rendered by the humblest?
- That there is only one right way?
- That cleansing comes through obedience?