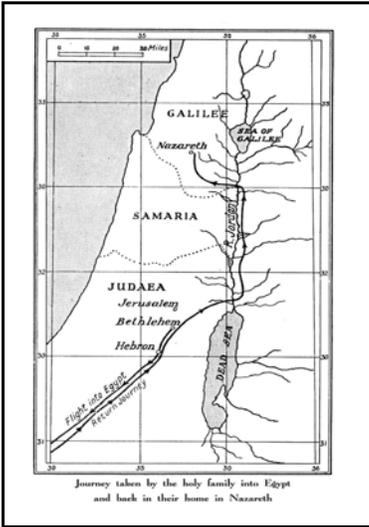


Naaman and Elisha

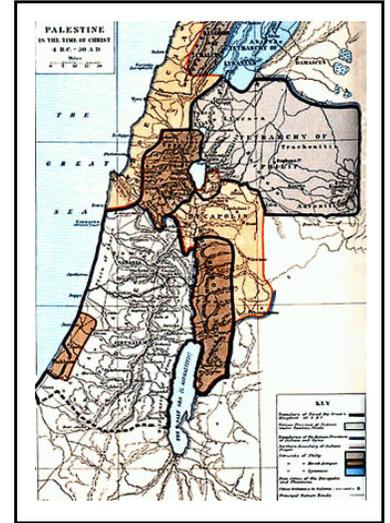
2 Kings 5



Which map would be more easily read to give an idea of the land of Israel? Sometimes the simplest solution is the best solution.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, You have given us the blessing of Your Word. Help us to listen and concentrate today on its message as we learn more about trusting in Your power. Amen.



The Story - summaries and excerpts

At the time of Elisha the prophet in Israel, there was a great commander of the Syrian army named Naaman. He was a mighty man of valor, but was also a leper.

After one of the raids, a young Israelite girl was taken captive as a slave, which was a common practice. This young girl, handmaiden to Naaman's wife, suggested that he go to see Elisha, who she believed would heal him of his leprosy.

The king of Syria (Ben-Hadad II) wrote a letter to Jehoram, the king of Israel, asking for the act of healing for Naaman. Jehoram tore his clothes in frustration, apparently thinking it was up to him to do the healing; the prophet Elisha heard about this and told him to send Naaman to him.

The story continues:

{9} Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. {10} And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

{11} But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' {12} "Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

{13} And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

{14} So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. {15} And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth,



except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant."

{16} But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive nothing." And he urged him to take it, but he refused.

{17} So Naaman said, "Then, if not, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the LORD. {18} "Yet in this thing may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand, and I bow down in the temple of Rimmon; when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD please pardon your servant in this thing."

{19} Then he said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him a short distance.

The servant of Elisha was named

Gehazi. After Naaman refused a gift in return for healing him of the leprosy, Gehazi had an idea. He ran after Naaman and told a lie, saying that Elisha had sent him because two young men were in need of money and clothing.

Naaman gladly gave him more than he asked for: two talents of silver and two changes of garments. Gehazi gave these things to his servants, who carried them for him so Elisha wouldn't notice them. Then Gehazi hid them in his house and dismissed the servants.

When Elisha asked him, "Where did you go, Gehazi?" He said he had not gone anywhere. But Elisha knew the truth. Therefore, he cursed Gehazi and his descendants with the very leprosy of which Naaman had so recently been cured.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

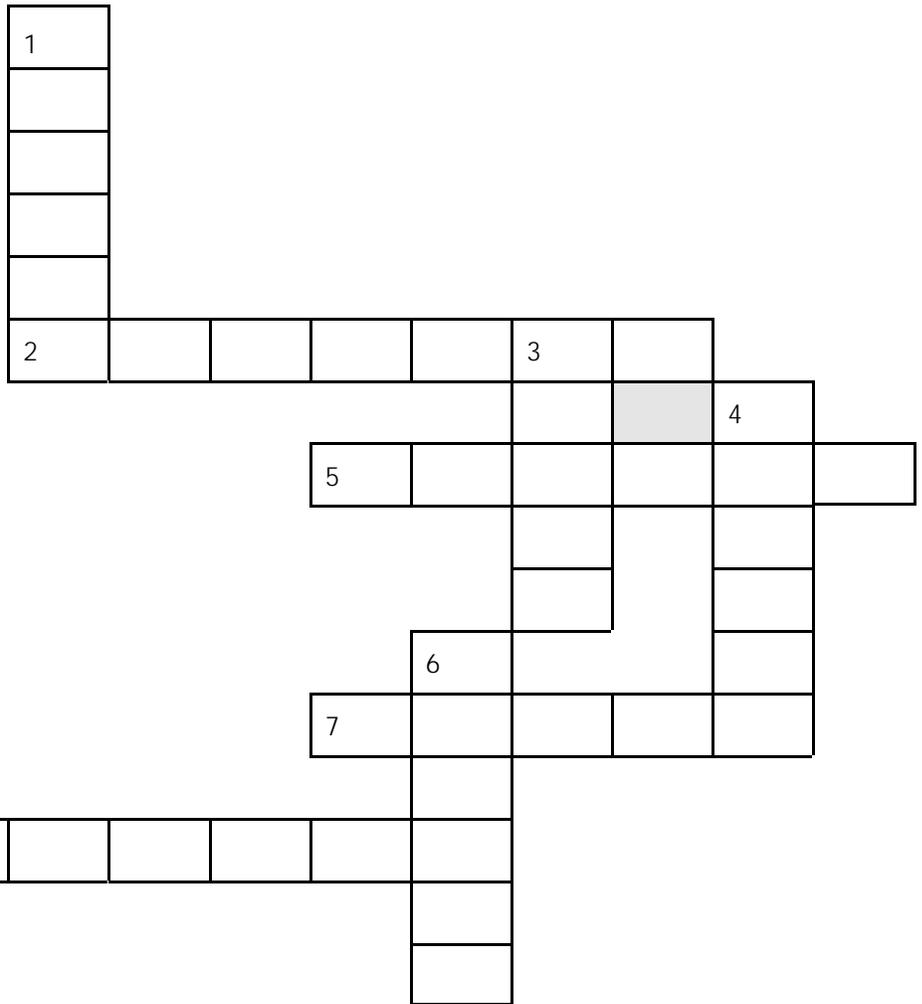
1. How did the servant girl confess her faith?
2. Why did Naaman become "furious" when he heard the instructions to cure his leprosy? (two reasons)
 - a.
 - b.
3. What was Naaman worried about after he was cured?
4. What motivated Gehazi to run after Naaman?

Outer Aim - The Lord through Elisha healed Naaman of his leprosy.

Your Turn - Complete the CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

ACROSS

- 2. A terrible disease
- 5. The river in which Naaman was to wash.
- 7. The number of times Naaman had to wash.
- 8. The prophet of God.



DOWN

- 1. The country the servant girl was from.
- 3. The country Naaman was from.
- 4. The man with leprosy.
- 6. The man who was greedy.

Inner Aim - God, through Jesus Christ, has taken away our sins.

What God's Word Tells Us - Look up the following Bible passages. Fill in the missing words and discuss their meaning.

1 Corinthians 1:25 Because the _____ of God is wiser than _____, and the _____ of God is _____ than men.

John 20:31 But these are written that you may _____ that Jesus is the _____, the Son of God, and that _____ you may have _____ in His name.

Passages

2 Timothy 3:15 - and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

1 John 1:7 - The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Hymn - TLH #294 v. 1, 2

O Word of God Incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky ---
We praise Thee for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our foot-steps, shines on from age to age.

The Church from her dear Master received the gift divine,
And still that light she lifteth o'er all the earth to shine.
It is the golden casket where gems of truth are stored;
It is the heav'n-drawn picture of Christ, the living Word.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

Thank You for giving us Your Son, Jesus Christ, to take away all our sins. Because of what He has done, we can be sure of our place in Heaven with You. Let us never think of the Gospel as "too simple" or foolish for us. It is Your holy Word that leads us to You through the power of Your Holy Spirit! Keep us strong in the faith and help us love You more and more each day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.