

QUANTOCK MINISTRIES

*A Bible teaching and preaching ministry
for the Christian community*

D. M. HERRING
45 LUXBOROUGH ROAD
BRIDGWATER
SOMERSET
TA6 7JN

01278 - 451297
qmings@aol.com

2 KINGS 5 – THE STORY OF NAAMAN

This story comes as a surprise in the middle of the narrative of events in Israel. It tells of God's gracious and unexpected intervention in the lives of a number of people, not all from Israel, giving each an opportunity to respond to Him in faith.

v 1 – Naaman.

- a) Although a pagan, he is recorded as a great and respected man. Many people in the world like him today.
- b) His problem, leprosy, was the means God used for this whole episode of grace.

v 2 - 4 – The slave girl.

- a) Despite the terrible experiences in her young life she showed love towards her “enemies”.
- b) She was a good witness, not of herself but of the man of God.
- c) She showed tremendous faith, despite this never having happened before (Luke 4 v 27).

v 5 - 8 – The King of Israel (Joram).

- a) Had no understanding of the power of God in his land. (The establishment in our nation today, where the evangelical cause is mainly “underground”?)
- b) He was so wrapped up in himself that he couldn't see the letter was addressed to him as the nation's figurehead. (The self-centred concerns of leaders today who also often lack concern for their people?)

v 9 - 12 – Elisha.

- a) Realised that if Naaman was to experience the grace of God then he must go through a humbling experience.
- b) Obeyed God's law through Moses not to get close to a leper; obedience to God comes first.

v 13 - 14 – Naaman's servants.

- a) Servants of God's grace – these can be events and not just people (Isaiah 30 v 20 & 21).
- b) They themselves were given this moment to act in faith; another critical step in the story of grace.

v 15 - 19a – God at work.

- a) When God really moves, the work is instant and perfect (v 14 “young boy's skin”).
- b) God's grace comes without cost (v 16).
- c) When God moves in power there is no question as to who is the only true God (v 15) (the real answer to pluralism in our land today!)
- d) God knows our hearts whatever the cultural situation we find ourselves in (v 18 – 19a).

v 19b - 27 – Gahazi (an apostate in the house of God; echoes of Judas).

- a) The love of money is the root of all the other evils he displayed.
- b) Completely misunderstood the deeper significance of God's work going on around him.
- c) His action led to sowing of confusion in Naaman's mind as to the real character of the man of God.
- d) Caused great sadness in Elisha's heart just as he was rejoicing at the greatness of God.