

2 Kings 5:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 5: God's grace extends to Gentiles; judgment on greed. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. The prophetic ministry served as God's primary means of covenant enforcement, calling both kings and people to faithfulness. During this period, Israel and Judah struggled with persistent idolatry, particularly Baal worship introduced under Ahab and Jezebel.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 5 takes place during the Elisha prophetic ministry, approximately 850-800 BCE. The chapter's theme (Naaman's Healing and Gehazi's Greed) reflects the historical reality of God's compassionate provision through prophetic miracles while both kingdoms struggled with persistent idolatry. Archaeological evidence from this period includes royal inscriptions, administrative documents, and material culture that corroborate the biblical account while providing additional context for understanding the political and social dynamics at work.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 5 regarding god's grace extends to gentiles; judgment on greed?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's character, particularly His justice, mercy, and faithfulness to covenant promises?
3. In what practical ways should this text shape contemporary Christian thinking about faithfulness, worship, and obedience to God?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵשׁ	בְּנֵי	הַלְּאָכְלָם	מֶלֶךְ	אֶצְבָּע	שָׁרֵךְ	וְאֵתֶנְתָּמָן
Now Naaman	captain	of the host	of the king	of Syria	H1961	man
H5283	H8269	H6635	H4428	H758		H376
וְאֵתֶנְתָּמָן	בְּנֵי	הַלְּאָכְלָם	מֶלֶךְ	אֶצְבָּע	שָׁרֵךְ	וְאֵשׁ
was a great	with	his master	and honourable	with	H3588	had given
H1419	H6440	H113	H5375	H6440	H0	H5414
וְאֵתֶנְתָּמָן	בְּנֵי	הַלְּאָכְלָם	מֶלֶךְ	אֶצְבָּע	שָׁרֵךְ	וְאֵשׁ
because by him the LORD	deliverance	of Syria	man	H1961		
H3068	H8668	H758	H376			
וְאֵתֶנְתָּמָן	בְּנֵי	הַלְּאָכְלָם	מֶלֶךְ	אֶצְבָּע	שָׁרֵךְ	וְאֵשׁ
he was also a mighty	in valour	but he was a leper				
H1368	H2428	H6879				
וְאֵתֶנְתָּמָן	בְּנֵי	הַלְּאָכְלָם	מֶלֶךְ	אֶצְבָּע	שָׁרֵךְ	וְאֵשׁ

Additional Cross-References

Luke 4:27 (Parallel theme): And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

Romans 15:18 (Parallel theme): For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed,

Proverbs 21:31 (References Lord): The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.

Deuteronomy 2:37 (References Lord): Only unto the land of the children of Ammon thou camest not, nor unto any place of the river Jabbok, nor unto the cities in the mountains, nor unto whatsoever the LORD our God forbad us.

Esther 9:4 (Kingdom): For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater.

Exodus 11:3 (References Lord): And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people.

2 Kings 4:8 (Parallel theme): And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.

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