

# Lessons from the Divided Kingdom

## 1 & 2 Kings

Title:

God's mercy: Displayed and  
Defended

Scripture:  
2 Kings 5





# 2 Kings 5

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- Introduction

- God has been working to bring Israel back to the worship of Him
- Elisha has taken the mantle of God's prophet to show God's power and mercy
- God will showcase His mercy, and prove He is zealous to protect it's free nature!

Theme: God is always at work putting His mercy on display, and we can respond either with humble obedience and faith leading to God's healing, or with a selfish contempt for His mercy leading to God's wrath.

# I. God's Providence paves the way for His mercy (vv. 1-8)

## A. A Providential chain of interactions

1. Naaman
2. Israelite Slave Girl
3. King of Aram
4. King of Israel
5. Elisha

## B. God's mercy at work despite wrong motives



# I. God's Providence paves the way for His mercy (vv. 1-8)

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## Application:

- God is always at work, even in the mundane and difficult circumstances.
  - We know this, but need to remind ourselves of it often!
- What is our motive for seeking God's mercy? Is God simply a means to an (our) end?
  - What do our prayers primarily consist of?

## II. A Startling Conversion by God's mercy (vv. 9-19)

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A. A Proud Fool's Expectations (vv. 9-14)

B. A Servant's change of heart (vv. 15-19)

1. A Profession of Faith

1. A Desire for faithfulness and a need for discipleship

## II. A Startling Conversion by God's mercy (vv. 9-19)

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Application: this is a Gospel narrative!

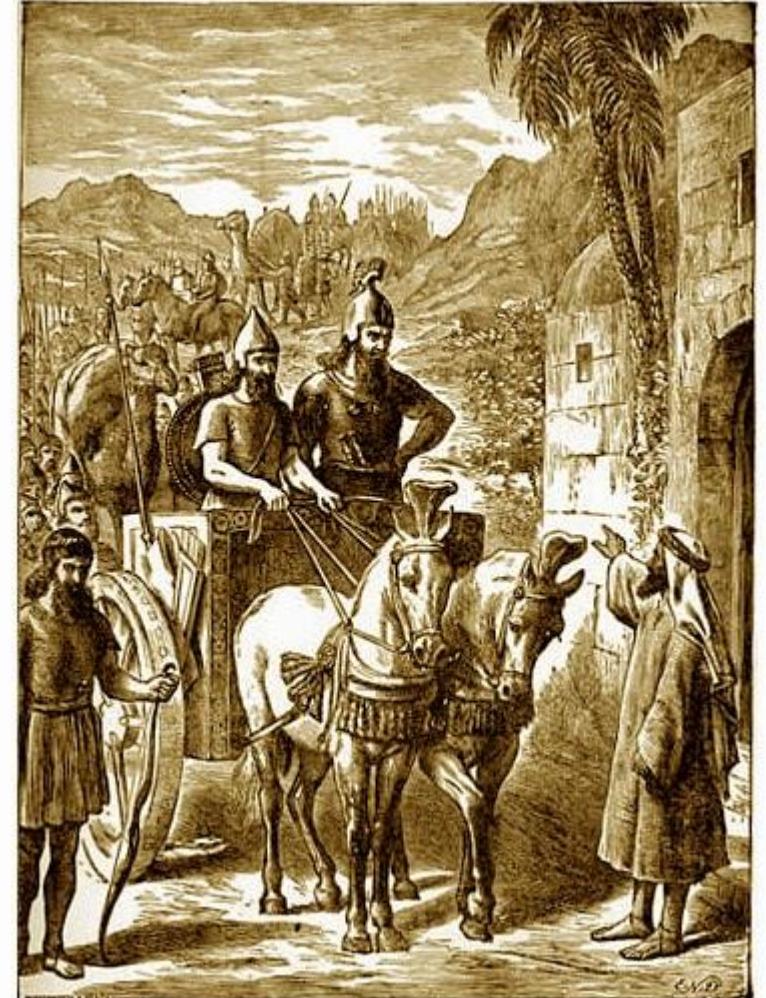
- Naaman had a fatal disease that he was helpless to cure – so do we!
- Naaman was an enemy of God's people – we are an enemy of God! James 4:4
- Naaman heard a witness that pointed him to a cure – we had a witness! Rom 10:14
- Naaman was called by God, through Elisha – we are called to come to God! Eph 1:18
- Naaman initially resisted God's plan for his healing – we do the same! Titus 3:3-5
  - Naaman expected sensationalism, and thought God's way was inadequate Psalm 46:10
- Naaman was encouraged by others – we need to be encouraged! 1 Thess 5:11



# III. A Selfish Contempt for God's mercy (vv. 20-27)

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- A. Selfishness causes blindness to God's works
- B. A dramatic sentence for misrepresenting God's mercy
  - 1. God will not be fooled by hidden motives!
  - 2. God takes His glory and FREE gift of mercy seriously!





# III. A Selfish Contempt for God's mercy (vv. 20-27)

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## Application:

- Our own selfish desires can blind us to the beauty of God's mercy
- God is zealous to defend the fact that His gift of mercy and salvation is FREE!
- Even believers can allow our service to God to be a façade covering selfish motives
- "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will take nothing, but serve for the glory of God alone!"