

A Little Maid From Israel

II Kings 5:1-4



II Kings 5:1-3

- **1** Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honorable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valor, *but he was a leper.*
- **2** And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.
- **3** And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord *were* with the prophet that *is* in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

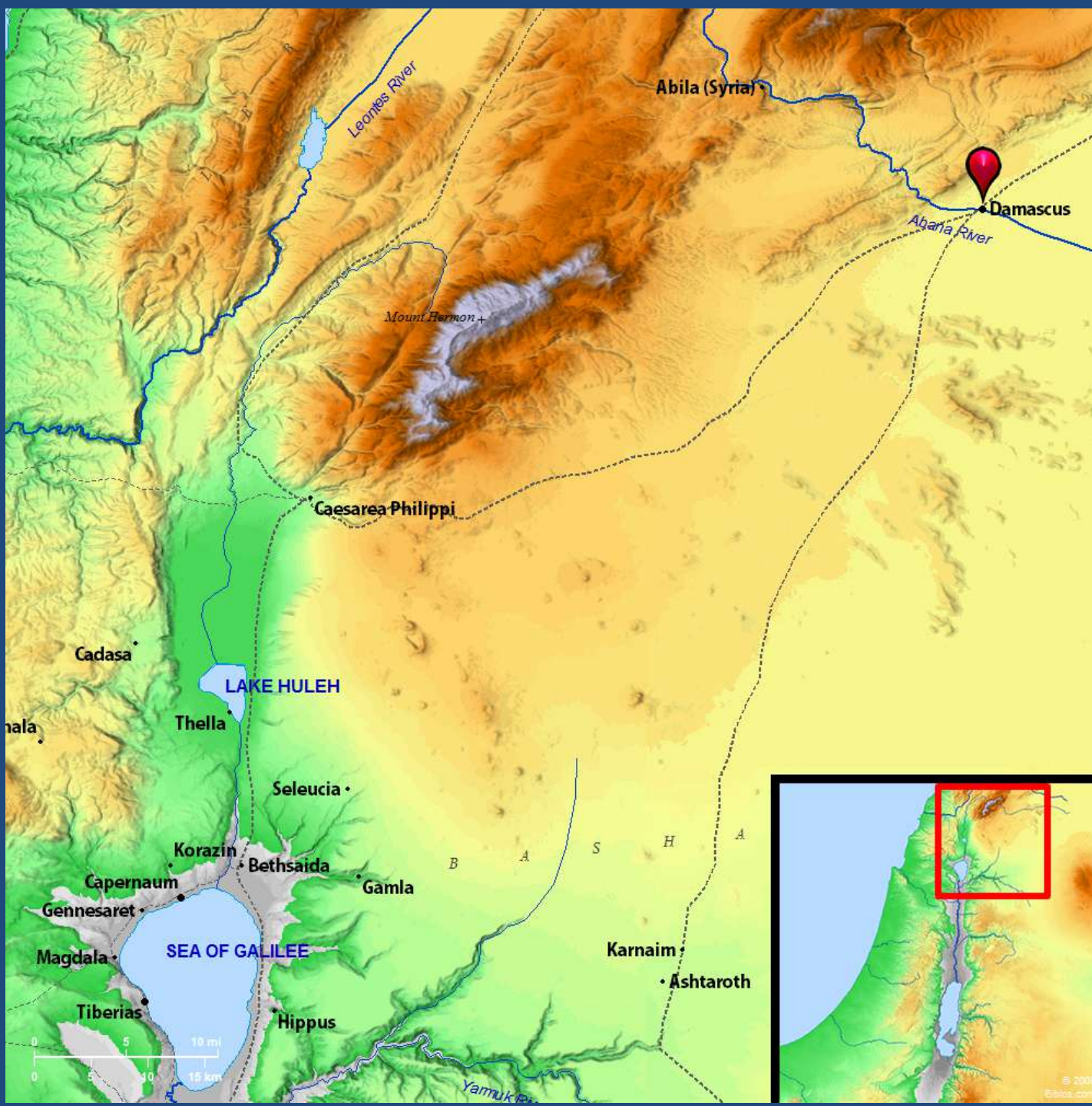
A Comparison And Contrast

Naaman

- His name means “gracious” or “pleasant”
- He is a Syrian. (Oppressor)
- He is the army commander.
- He is esteemed and respected, mighty.
- Successful. (Lord gave deliverance)
- He is a pagan.
- He is a leper.

A Little Girl

- We are not told her name.
- She is an Israelite. (Oppressed)
- “Little” → young, small, insignificant, unimportant
- She is a slave.
- She is a believer in the true God.
- Cf. 5:14 → ...and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.



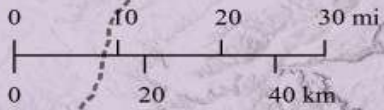


In order to keep his people from traveling to Jerusalem to worship at the temple, Jeroboam sets up calf idols at Dan in the north and Bethel in the south and encourages the people to worship them.

At Shechem the 10 northern tribes reject the rule of Rehoboam and set up Jeroboam as their king. For a time Tirzah serves as the capital of the northern kingdom. Later Samaria would become the permanent capital.

Jerusalem continues to serve as the capital of the southern kingdom of Judah.

The Moabites and the Edomites eventually reassert their independence from the kingdoms of Israel and Judah.



She Didn't Forget the Lord Even Though Away From Home. (II Kings 5:3; Lk. 4:27)

- *Do we “forget” the Lord when we leave home?*
 - When on vacation? Do we put the Lord in our plans? (Matt. 6:33)
 - When at work? Do we set an example of what a child of God is, or do we just “fit in”? (Titus 2:9-10; Col. 4:22-24)
 - When at school? Can others see our faith? Do we resist peer pressure and temptation? (I Tim. 4:8; Prov. 1:10)
 - Where ever we are...with our friends, shopping, ballgame, in our car, etc...

She Didn't Forget the Lord Even Though Away From Home. (II Kings 5:3; Lk. 4:27)

- ***Others who did not forget the Lord when away from home:***
 - Joseph → “How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?” (Gen. 39:9)
 - Daniel → “But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank.” (Dan. 1:8)
 - Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego → “But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” (Dan. 3:18)

She Was Concerned About The Welfare of Others

- She is not filled with self-pity, self-absorbed, self-centered, but looking at the welfare of another. (Phil. 2:1-4)
- She is not bitter and vindictive against her enemies. (Rom. 12:17-21; Matt. 5:44)
 - She was concerned about the well-being of one who had mistreated her. (Matt. 7:12; Matt. 22:39)
 - She did the right thing for others regardless of their treatment of her.
 - Paul. (Acts 16:55-30; Phil. 1:12-18)
 - Stephen. (Acts 7:59)
 - Jesus (Lk. 22:50-51; Lk. 23:34)

She Did What She Could Where She Was

- She saw one in need.
 - Naaman was a leper.
 - Tragic disease. (Isa. 1:4-5; Rom. 6:23)
 - Made one unclean, and had no human cure. (Lev. 13:45; Matt. 15:18-20)
 - Could separate one from others. (Lev. 13:5ff; Eph. 2:1-2)
 - Healing not purchased by money. (II Ki. 5:13; I Pet. 1:18-20)
 - Was healed only when obedient to the word of God. (II Ki. 5:14; Rom. 6:17-18)
 - She takes the initiative to speak a few simple words and which bring Naaman into contact with the healer.