



73 Twenty Ministries  
BIBLE STUDIES FOR THE ENTHUSIAST

# A LEPER IN THE KING'S COURT

How Naaman's Status, Sickness, and Salvation Reveal God's Mercy  
Beyond Israel

73 TWENTY MINISTRIES

A TEACHING MINISTRY OF DR. ROBERT C CROWDER

## 73TWENTY MINISTRIES: CHARTING THE WORD, NAVIGATING FAITH

Rooted in a lifelong passion for teaching and guiding others in Biblical truth, 73Twenty Ministries is devoted to helping believers navigate the depths of Scripture with both clarity and conviction.

The name 73Twenty holds deep personal significance: it comes from my childhood home at 7320 Greenwood Boulevard in Denver, Colorado. It was here that the foundations of my faith, study, and service were first laid. With the majestic Rocky Mountains ever-present on my horizons, God's Word has been a constant guide and presence throughout my life. The logo of 73Twenty Ministries, with its three mountain peaks in gray, blue, and orange, symbolizes not only the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but also the unwavering foundation of Biblical truth upon which our faith is built.

For more than twenty years, I've served as a pastor, teacher, mentor, and author, committed to making Biblical truths accessible and applicable. Through sermons, Bible studies, books, articles, and other teaching resources, 73Twenty Ministries exists to equip believers, strengthen churches, and proclaim the Gospel. Our mission is both simple and profound: to chart the Word, guiding faith, and helping others anchor their lives in Scripture.

At 73Twenty Ministries, we believe that faithful Biblical study should engage the mind, transform the heart, and shape daily life. Whether through exegetical teaching, character studies, theological exploration, or practical application, every resource is crafted to deepen understanding, strengthen conviction, and encourage obedience to God's Word.

As a ministry grounded in a conservative Baptist, dispensationalist approach, we focus on Biblical exposition, doctrinal clarity, and practical discipleship. We uphold the belief that Scripture is the authoritative, inerrant, and sufficient Word of God, and it's our privilege to help others navigate its timeless truths.

I invite you to explore the resources at [73TwentyMinistries.com](http://73TwentyMinistries.com) and join us on this journey of discovery, growth, and unwavering faith. Together, let's stand on the mountain of God's truths and proclaim His name to every generation.

For His glory alone,

Dr. Robert C. Crowder, Th.D.

Founder, 73Twenty Ministries

# NAAMAN AND THE LAW OF LEPROSY: CONTEXT AND EXCEPTION

## QUESTION:

I'm reading 2 Kings 5 and have a question. "How was Naaman, a leper, able to enter Israel and meet with the king when Levitical law required lepers to live in isolation outside the camp?"

## MY RESPONSE:

You are correct to observe the tension between the Levitical laws concerning leprosy and Naaman's freedom of movement in 2 Kings 5. According to Leviticus 13–14, those afflicted with leprosy (*tzaraath*) were declared unclean and required to live in isolation outside the camp of Israel (Leviticus 13:45–46). This served both to prevent the spread of disease and to preserve ritual purity within the covenant community.

However, Naaman's case was different. He was the commander of the army of Syria (Aram), Naaman held a position of high authority and favor with his king, who esteemed him as a "great man" and a "mighty man of valor" (2 Kings 5:1). His status as a foreign dignitary afforded him diplomatic privileges not granted to the average person, especially not to those considered ceremonially unclean under the Mosaic Law. Since the Levitical purity laws applied specifically to the people of Israel, they did not bind foreign nations such as Syria. This explains why Naaman was able to enter cities, including Samaria, and appear before the king of Israel without being excluded.

Naaman's journey to Israel was not casual. It was a high-level diplomatic mission, complete with gifts and a letter from the king of Aram (2 Kings 5:5–6). Political protocol would have likely overridden religious restrictions in this context, allowing for his interaction with the king of Israel and ultimately with the prophet Elisha.

The narrative of Naaman's healing by Elisha holds profound theological significance. It is a striking example of God's mercy reaching beyond the borders of Israel to bless a Gentile; a theme that reappears in both the Old and New Testaments. Naaman's initial resistance to the prophet's simple instructions reveals his pride, yet his eventual obedience and healing show a transformative faith. After washing in the Jordan as Elisha instructed, Naaman was not only cleansed physically but also came to acknowledge the God of Israel as the one true God (2 Kings 5:15).

In summary, while Israelite lepers were subject to strict isolation under the Law, Naaman's foreign identity, political status, and the unique circumstances of his healing allowed him to move freely and seek help in Israel. His story highlights the reach of God's grace and the truth that national or ceremonial boundaries does not confine His power and mercy.

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