

GO BACK AND REPORT TO JOHN THE BAPTIST...

“Jesus replied, ‘The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me’” (Matthew 11:4-6).

THE BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT: Blind people were healed and believers are seeing and embracing the truth.

THE LAME WALK: Crippled people were healed and believers are changing their lives and walking on the path to righteousness.

THE DEAF HEAR: The deaf were healed and believers are understanding the word of God.

THOSE WITH LEPROSY ARE CURED: “Leprosy is chronic infectious disease that primarily affects the peripheral nerves, skin, upper respiratory tract, eyes, and nasal mucosa (lining of the nose). The disease is caused by a bacillus (rod-shaped) bacterium known as *Mycobacterium leprae*.”

<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/leprosy-hansens-disease>



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The people Jesus described who were cured from leprosy were both people with physical leprosy, but more importantly, people with spiritual leprosy. Spiritual leprosy is representative of a people who had a rebellious spirit working in opposition to God. They became spiritual decayed. Only a cleansing can cure them. As the physical body is disfigured by leprosy, so, spiritual leprosy is the consumption of a dark, contagious spirit that traps and captures weak-minded people. It is ravenous in consuming righteousness and it spreads wickedness, corruption, lying and deception like a cancer. Lawlessness is at the centre of this spirit, so God is forced to cut-off all who embrace this self-centred, self-determined, self-relying, and self-glorifying ideal.

The house of Israel had become so sick with unbelief, rebellion and disobedience that they were cut-off and needed a special type of healing. Ezekiel describes the need for a **cleansing** (Ezekiel 36).

“**O house of Israel**, that I am going to do these things... I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; **I will cleanse you from all your impurities** and from all your idols. I will give you a **new heart and put a new spirit in you**” (Ezekiel 36:22, 25-26).

Naaman, in the Old Testament story found in II Kings 5, is a type of mirror image of **leprous Israel** at a **time when they came to their senses and asked for healing**, sometime before the birth of Jesus and after being divorced—cut-off from the kingdom—no longer Israel—now known as Gentiles. This imagery is specific to the house of Israel not the house of Judah.

“And there were **many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha**, and **none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian**” (Luke 4:27). This New Testament scripture is key to bridging 10-tribed ancient Israel with 10-tribed Gentile Israel during Christ’s time.

The 10-tribed house of Israel was cured, after they were cut-off and separated from the family (in the same way that leprous people live apart from the non-leprous); They became known as Gentiles.



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There are many parallels between the story of Naaman and the house of Israel that cannot be overlooked.

- As the story goes, **Naaman** learned from his God-fearing and God-believing Israelite servant girl that Elisha could heal leprosy. So, **the Gentile 10-tribed Israel** learned from the believers, the Jews that God can heal their decayed spiritual condition, so they turned for help.
- Through the request of the King of Syria, **Naaman** went to the King of Israel who panicked when he received the request for healing. King Ahab was a wicked and faithless Israelite king. When Elisha heard of this, he told King Ahab not to worry. This was a reminder to King Ahab that Elisha, the prophet within Israel has power from God to heal. So, **10-tribed Gentile Israel** went to a prophet of God, seeking forgiveness and healing.
- **Naaman** was a military general, a man of status. He thought highly of himself and when Elisha did not come out of his tent, but rather he sent his messenger to tell him to wash seven times in the Jordan River to be cleansed, Naaman was insulted. His pride was hurt. He became angry; he refused and left. So, **the 10-tribed house of Israel** after their captivity, expected a personal audience before God and cleansing through an exotic ceremony. When their expectations were not met, they too became angry and refused to repent, resulting in their seven times punishment. They became wanderers for 2,520 years before settling in their new lands.

- **Naaman's** servants urged him to listen to Elisha and return. Again, like **the 10-tribed house of Israel** while wandering unprotected by God, suffering invasions and living in fear, eventually repented and turned back to Almighty God for redemption.
- **Naaman** washed himself in the Jordan River and he was cleansed from leprosy; his skin was made new like a young boy. The believers of **the 10-tribed house of Israel** began listening to and obeying God. They knew of a Savior and when Jesus identified himself as their Savior, they immediately believed him. The believers of the 10-tribed house of Israel were redeemed—the house of Israel has been fully restored.

“They [the Gentile Israelites] said to the woman, ‘We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and **we know that this man really is the Savior of the world**’” (John 4:42).

- **Naaman**, amazed and delighted, now believed that the God of Israel is the one Almighty God. So, he asked if he could take back with him some holy soil, where he would kneel to worship the Almighty God back in his homeland. So too, **the 10-tribed house of Israel** was amazed and delighted with the news of their redemption and the giving of grace. They immediately accepted Christ as the Savior and returned to worship the Almighty God as Christians in their distant lands.

The house of Israel, now restored, has received the most generous gift of grace from the Almighty God to a people, who for hundreds of years, vexed Him through their disobedience and disrespect. Hence, all of Israel will be saved.

“Ephraim will be like a mighty man, and their heart will be glad as if from wine; Indeed, their children will see it and be glad, their heart will rejoice in the LORD. **I will whistle for them to gather them together, for I have redeemed them**; and they will be as numerous as they were before. When I scatter them among the peoples, they will remember Me in far countries, and they with their children will live and come back” (Zechariah 10:8-10).

“They were broken off because of their unbelief... but God is able to graft them in **AGAIN**” (Romans 11:20-23).

“Don’t be ignorant of this mystery... **ALL of Israel will be saved**” (Romans 11:25-26).

“In those days, at that time, **the people of Israel and the people of Judah together** will go in tears to seek the Yahuah, their God. They will ask the way of Zion and turn their faces toward it. **They will come and bind themselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten**” (Jeremiah 50:4-5).

Curing spiritual leprosy requires true repentance and the bathing in the Holy Spirit, which changes the heart from a heart of stone to a humble, willing heart of flesh. Only with God's Holy Spirit, can Believers be cleansed and live the Way of God.

THE DEAD ARE RAISED: While Jesus did raise people from the dead, his claim to John, the Baptist was his assurance that believers will receive life eternal. By giving his life as payment for their sins, the house of Israel and all mankind would be saved and offered eternal life.

THE GOOD NEWS IS PREACHED TO THE POOR: While Jesus performed many miracles including feeding the multitudes, the poor spiritually are those who have learned to trust in God, like a little child. They are rich in faith, believing in the great strength and love their Creator has for them. They sincerely and deeply believe in all that Jesus taught. They make God's word their primary focus and passion. They live as pilgrims looking for the kingdom whose foundation and builder is God.

"Therefore, I tell you, **do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear.** Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air: They do not sow or reap or gather into barns—and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. **Are you not much more valuable than they?"** (Matthew 6:25-26).

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, **by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God"** (Philippians 4:6).

BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO DOES NOT FALL AWAY ON ACCOUNT OF ME:

This special group of people will not deny Christ and God. They have entered into a blood covenant of loyalty until death, for they love God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength. Daily, they set their minds to overcome. Yet, there will be some who will undergo a shaking that will awaken them from their spiritual slumber. They will endure Jacob's trouble and overcome. All of the overcomers will be in the first resurrection and rule with Christ.

"So, everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my father who is in Heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I will also deny before my Father who is in Heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33).

"If we die with him, we will also live with him. If we endure hardship, we will reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us" (II Timothy 2:11-12).

"If anyone is ashamed of me and my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels" (Luke 9:25-26).

"Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God—what is good and well-pleasing and perfect" (Romans 12:2).

“Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above**, not on the things that are on earth” (Colossians 3:1-2).

“And he said to them all, if any man will come after me, **let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me**” (Luke 9:23).

Jesus was reassuring John, the Baptist in Matthew 11 that through his teaching, people were being healed spiritually. They are repenting, getting baptised with the Holy Spirit, and their heart of stone was being transformed into a humble and willing heart of flesh. They are understanding and walking in the way of God. They are growing into an intimate relationship with the Almighty God through Christ. While not everyone today is a believer, those who overcome are the people Christ described to John, the Baptist. They are the unwavering whose faith is strong and love is unbreakable. They are the elect, the remnant, the saints, the 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel and the called and chosen from the nations of the world.

John, the Baptist could now rest because Jesus holds the baton of our salvation, with a tight grip; he will not fail. He is the tested stone that will not disappoint us.

“Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “Look! I am placing **a foundation stone** in Jerusalem, **a firm and tested stone**. It is a **precious cornerstone** that is **safe to build on**. **Whoever believes need never be shaken**” (Isaiah 28:16).



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Compiled by Janette Andrejowich. For more on the story of Naaman and the analogy of the restoration of Israel and Judah go to 119 Ministries. http://c96e50a40991046dcbfa-71bc4c8fd3e50b4ee0e248e517d3026f.r87.cf2.rackcdn.com/uploaded/t/0e5588188_1478029709_the-restoration-of-israel-in-2-kings-5-transcript.pdf