

# POWER

"... the gospel ... is the power of God unto salvation ..." (Romans 1:16)

## A LITTLE JEWISH MAID WHO MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE (2 KINGS 5)

by Wade L. Webster

**A**s the fifth chapter of Second Kings opens, Naaman, a decorated Syrian captain, faced the cruelest and most powerful enemy in the ancient world. He faced the disfiguring, dissociating, and deadly disease of leprosy (2 Kings 5:1). Leprosy had besieged Naaman's body. It was encircling him and cutting off all hope of escape.

Eventually, he would be too weak to fight. However, as Naaman waited for his body to succumb to the siege, a little Jewish maid revealed the way for Naaman to overcome his enemy (5:2-3). Though this Jewish maid was little, she made a big difference in Naaman's life. Hopefully, by considering and copying her example, we can do the same for those in our lives today.

### Her Contentment

The little Jewish maid was "brought away captive out of the land of Israel" (2 Kings 5:2). While just a child, Syrian raiders ripped her away from her family. Can't you just imagine her terror-filled heart

and her tear-filled eyes? Was she snatched away while playing in the yard? Had her father or mother died trying to save her? Did someone sneak into her bedroom and steal her away in the night?

Although we don't know the answer to these questions, we can be sure that her capture was terrifying and traumatic. Likely, it took her a great deal of time to adjust to her new life in Syria. No doubt, she longed for home. However, like Paul, she learned to be content in her present state. She knew how to be abased, and how to abound. She knew what it was to be full and to be hungry (Phil. 4:11-12; cf. 1 Tim. 6:6-8).

When the little Jewish maid first appears in Scripture she is waiting on Naaman's wife (2 Kings 5:2). She is serving, rather than sulking; comforting, rather than complaining; and, thinking of others, rather than of herself. She was thinking about her master's condition and not about her own (2 Kings 5:3). What a great example she is of the characteristic of contentment.

I believe that we all need to learn a lesson about contentment from this little Jewish maid. Whatever our age, and whatever

our circumstances, we probably struggle with contentment. At fourteen years of age, Jason Lehman captured the discontentment that fills our world in the following poem:

It was spring, but it was  
summer I wanted,  
The warm days, and the great  
outdoors.

It was summer, but it was  
fall I wanted,  
The colorful leaves, and the  
cool, dry air.

It was fall, but it was  
winter I wanted,  
The beautiful snow, and the joy  
of the holiday season.

It was winter, but it was  
spring I wanted,  
The warmth and the  
blossoming of nature.

I was a child, but it was  
adulthood I wanted,  
The freedom and respect.

I was 20, but it was 30 I  
wanted,  
To be mature, and  
sophisticated.

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# A LITTLE JEWISH MAID WHO MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE (2 KINGS 5)

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I was middle-aged, but  
it was 20 I wanted,  
The youth and the free spirit.

I was retired, but it was  
middle-age I wanted,  
The presence of mind without  
limitations.

My life was over, and I never  
got what I wanted. <sup>i</sup>

If we are not careful, we will  
spend our whole lives as this  
poem suggests without ever  
getting what we wanted. We  
need to learn contentment  
before it is too late.

It has been noted that  
modern discontentment is  
blurring the line between needs  
and wants. Please consider the  
following observation:

In actual practice, virtually  
everything has become a  
'need.' Thus, men 'need'  
better jobs, fancier cars, and  
bigger homes; women 'need'  
careers outside the home, and,  
paradoxically, 'need' children;  
young people 'need' unending  
sexual encounters to liberate  
their repressed egos; children  
'need' them freedom to  
express themselves outside  
the 'bondage' of parental  
control. <sup>ii</sup>

Maybe, this little Jewish  
maid can help us all to get our  
priorities in order. If she could

be content in her circumstances,  
surely we can be content in ours.

## **Her Concern**

In talking with her mistress,  
the little maid expressed her  
concern for her master. She  
declared, "Would God my lord  
were with the prophet that is in  
Samaria!" (2 Kings 5:3).  
Although Naaman was the  
captain of the army that had  
evidently carried her away, she  
did not delight in the disease that  
now disfigured his countenance  
and threatened his life. She was  
compassionate, not vindictive.  
She wanted him to recover, not  
to suffer. She wanted him to get  
well, not for her to get even.

Please note that the little  
Jewish maid told her mistress  
about the prophet in Samaria  
(5:3). She could have simply sat  
on this information. However,  
she didn't. She displayed  
genuine compassion and  
concern. Like the Good  
Samaritan, she didn't just pass by  
on the other side of the road. She  
had compassion on Naaman and  
did what she could to help him  
(Luke 10:33). She loved  
Naaman, her neighbor, as she  
loved herself (Mat. 22:39).

I believe that we can all learn  
a lesson about concern and  
compassion from this little  
Jewish maid. Her compassion  
made a difference, and so can  
ours (Jude 22). We all need to

strive to be tenderhearted (Eph.  
4:32; 1 John 3:16-17) and to  
treat others as we would want to  
be treated (Mat. 7:12). Rather  
than rejoicing in the evil that  
befalls our enemies, we should  
love them, help them, and pray  
for them (Mat 5:43-44).

## **Her Confidence**

Although some bad things  
had happened to this little  
Jewish maid, her faith in God  
had not been shaken. The faith  
of others might have been  
overthrown under these  
conditions, but not hers (2 Tim.  
2:18-19; Mt. 7:24-27). Her  
faith was rooted and grounded  
in the promises of God (Col.  
1:23; 2 Tim. 1:12; Acts 20:24).  
She was fully convinced that  
there was a prophet in Samaria  
who could heal her master of the  
dreaded disease of leprosy (2  
Kings 5:3). Please consider  
how much greater her faith was  
than that of the king of Israel (2  
Kings 5:5-8). The king of Israel  
seems to have been unaware that  
there was a prophet in Israel.  
However, the little Jewish maid  
remembered him. Furthermore,  
the king rent his clothes, but she  
rested in hope.

I believe that we can all learn  
a lesson from this little Jewish  
maid's faith. Like the disciples,  
we should ask the Lord to  
"increase our faith" (Luke 17:5).

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**18th Annual  
Power Lectures  
July 25-29, 2010**

***Moses: The meekest man  
in all the land***

**Sunday**

- 9:30 A.M. ***Eldad & Medad: The Spirit That Dwelleth In Us Lusteth To Envy***  
Robert Jefferies
- 10:30 A.M. ***Moses: A Great Prophet Who Personified A Greater***  
Keith Mosher, Sr.
- 6:00 P.M. ***When Society Wages War On Boys***  
Brad Harrub
- 7:00 P.M. ***The Legacy Of Amram & Jochebed: How To Raise Your Son To Be A Leader Among God's People***  
Glenn Colley

**Monday**

- 9:00 A.M. ***Weak Leaders: What Did This People Unto Thee?***  
Dave Leonard
- 10:00 A.M. ***Moses: Who Built According To The Pattern***  
Curtis Cates
- 11:00 A.M. ***And He Began To Make Excuse – Who Am I?***  
Gary Hampton
- 1:00 P.M. ***Korah, Dathan, & Abiram: Swallowing Up The Competition***  
Todd Clippard
- 2:00 P.M. ***Passing The Mantle: Making Sure The Work Doesn't Die With You***  
Bob Prichard
- 2:00 P.M. ***(Ladies Class) Helping Your Husband To Be A Leader Of God's People***  
Cindy Colley
- 7:00 P.M. ***Loving The People You Lead***  
Allen Webster
- 8:00 P.M. ***When The People Murnur***  
B.J. Clarke

**Tuesday**

- 9:00 A.M. ***When A Meek Man Gets Mad***  
Patrick Morrison
- 10:00 A.M. ***Learned In All The Wisdom Of The Egyptians: Keeping Your Faith While Receiving A Secular Education***  
Dan Cates
- 11:00 A.M. ***Keeping The Flock: What God Taught Moses On The Backside Of The Desert***  
James Segars
- 1:00 P.M. ***When Success Depends Upon You And Your Hands Are Heavy***  
Chuck Webster
- 2:00 P.M. ***Moses And The Magicians***  
Lee Davis
- 2:00 P.M. ***(Ladies Class) Moving From The Shadows To The Son & From The Imperfect To The Perfect***  
Teresa Hampton
- 7:00 P.M. ***Refusing To Compromise: There Shall Not An Hoof Be Left Behind***  
Greg Dismuke
- 8:00 P.M. ***By Faith Moses: The Highlights Of A Great Career (Heb. 11)***  
Eric Owens

**Wednesday**

- 9:00 A.M. ***Nephews & New Fire***  
Caleb Campbell
- 10:00 A.M. ***Here Am I: Answering The Call To Lead God's People***  
Bobby Liddell
- 11:00 A.M. ***And He Began To Make Excuse – But, Behold, They Will Not Believe Me***  
Kevin Beard
- 1:00 P.M. ***Face To Face, Friend To Friend***  
Mike Vestal
- 2:00 P.M. ***But We Are Moses' Disciples: The Foolishness Of Following Moses & His Law After The Coming Of Christ & His Law***  
Tim Burroughs
- 2:00 P.M. ***(Ladies Class) Teaching Your Children To Love One Another***  
Melony Webster
- 7:00 P.M. ***When A Nation Throws Away Its Future: Unwanted Babies And A Nation's Demise***  
Eric Lyons
- 8:00 P.M. ***Handling The Hard Causes***  
Tommy J. Hicks

**Thursday**

- 9:00 A.M. ***Then Sang Moses***  
Tom Wacaster
- 10:00 A.M. ***Standing On Holy Ground***  
Bobby O'dell
- 11:00 A.M. ***And He Began To Make Excuse – O My Lord, I Am Not Eloquent***  
Jason Hilburn
- 1:00 P.M. ***May It Be Said Of Me: The Servant Of The Lord***  
Larry Butler
- 2:00 P.M. ***May It Be Said Of Me: The Man Of God***  
Chris Butler
- 2:00 P.M. ***(Ladies Class) Redeeming The Time Because The Days Are Evil***  
April Meacham
- 7:00 P.M. ***What Moses Saw From Mount Nebo***  
Tom Holland
- 8:00 P.M. ***My Servant Moses Is Not So, Who Is Faithful In All Mine House***  
Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

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Deuteronomy 5:32

Wade Webster, Editor

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We need to be fully persuaded that God can perform what He has promised (Rom. 4:21; Heb. 6:18; John 6:69).

As you recall, during his public ministry, Jesus set a little child in the midst of the disciples and told them that they had to become like the child in order to enter the kingdom of heaven (Mat. 18:2; Mk. 9:36). I believe that the writer of Second Kings has done the same for us with this little maid. Let us become like her.

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- i <http://jansjoyousjungle.com/think.html>
  - ii MacArthur, John, Jr., **The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Philippians**. Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 2001, P. 299.

**POWER**  
**YOUTH RALLY**

**“MESSAGES FROM MOSES”**

**JULY 23-24, 2010**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**  
**DAVID SHANNON**  
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