



Naaman

2 Kings 5:1-14

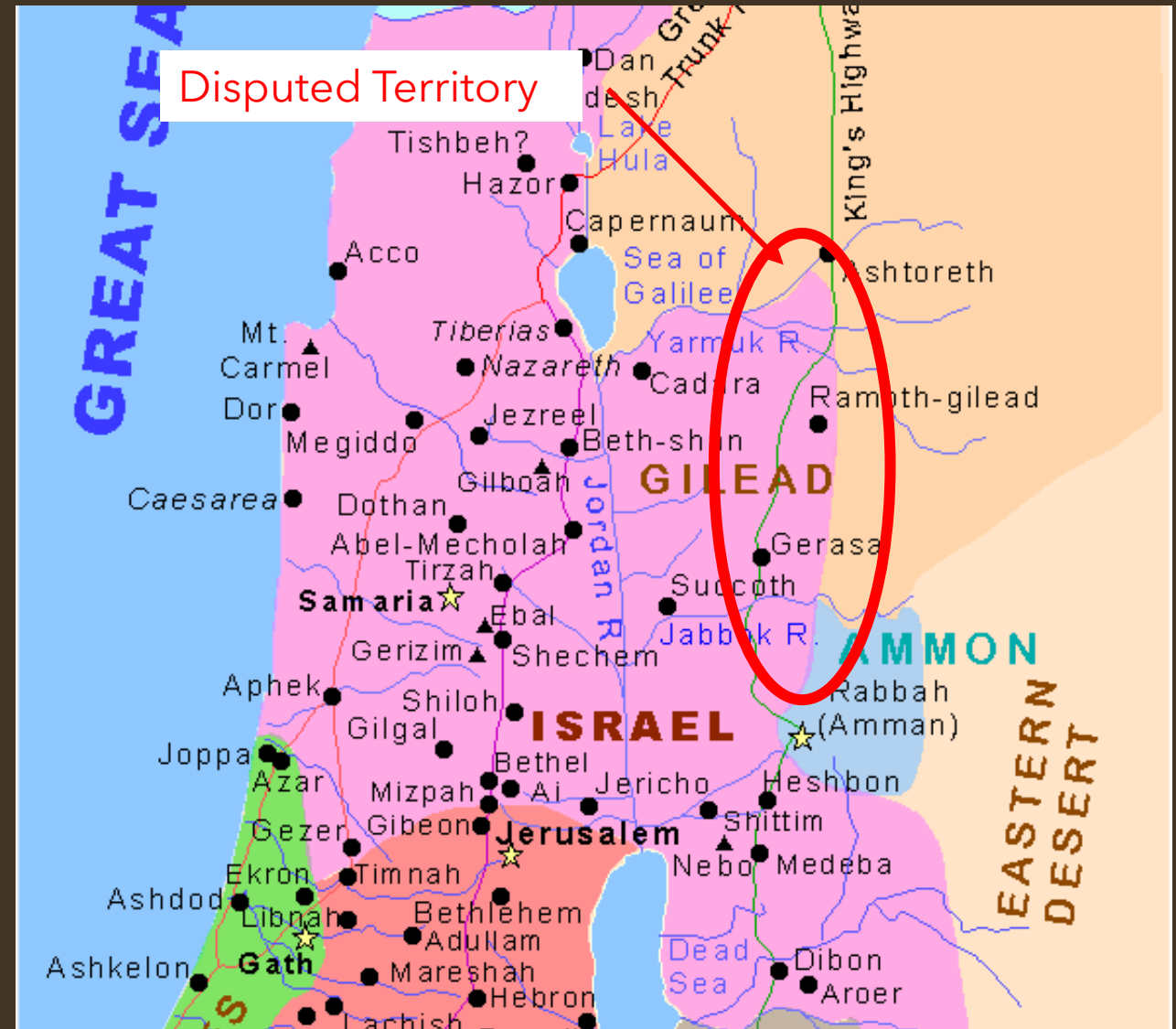
Desperation

Pride

Obedience

Background

- Israel and Aram (Syria) had been at war continually since the time of Solomon (1 Kings 11:25, 22:1-3)
- During the time of the story of Naaman, Aram has been oppressing Israel since the death of Ahab (2 Kings 5: 1a)
- During the story of Naaman the names of the Kings of Israel and Aram are not revealed. However, it is most likely Jehoram (Israel) and Ben-Hadad (Aram) (2 Kings 3:1-2; 6:24)



1. Desperation vs 1-8

- V1-4 Who is Naaman
 - Captain of the army of the King of Aram V1
 - Valiant Warrior and successful in battle against Israel (God had given Israel into his hand) V1
 - A good master V2-4
 - Listens to the council of those under his charge, even a servant girl
 - But he had a physical ailment bringing everything he had down V1

1. Desperation vs 1-8 Continued

- V5-6 Naaman was desperate enough to go to Aram's mortal enemy for help. Also shows his value to the king of Aram.
- V7 King of Israel's unwillingness to trust God, only concerned with physical things
- V8 Elisha "don't worry send him to me"

2. Pride v9-12

- V9-Naaman arrives en masse
 - Chariots, money and clothes (5:23)
- V10-Elisha or rather his servant gives a cure
 - Elisha sends a servant to tell Naaman
 - Dip in the Jordan River 7 times

2. Pride v9-12 Continued

- V11-12-Naamans excuses
 - It wasn't what Naaman was expecting
 - No fan fare
 - Naaman's pride made him feel disrespected
 - The Jordan River is too dirty, not a body of water to wash one-self
 - "Better rivers in Damascus" - Pride overcomes desperation

2. Pride v9-12 Continued

- V12-Went away enraged
 - He was blind to the reason he was even there
 - If he stays in this mindset, he will die from his leprosy
 - Pride had completely taken control.

3. Obedience V13-14

- V13-Wisdom Prevails, Naamans servants come to his aid
 - Servants "don't you want to be healed? Is your pride worth dying from leprosy?"
 - The whole reason he is in Israel is because of slave girl, why wouldn't he listen to his other servants
- V14-Naaman Obeys
 - Naaman dips 7 times - flesh healed better than someone else his age, like a little child's skin

Application-Desperation

- Naaman had an incurable physical disease, without Christ we have an incurable spiritual disease (Rom 3:23, Rom 6:23, Jam. 1:15)
- How desperate are we to be healed? (Mark 9:45,47)
 - How much money and goods will we give up to be healed
 - Would we ask our mortal enemy for help?
 - Would we listen to someone who we might not expect to have the answers?
 - Would we call in all our favors?

Application-Pride

- What will keep us from putting off sin? (Rom. 8:6-8)
 - Money? (Rich young ruler, Mark 10:17-22)
 - Time? (parable of the feast, Luke 14:16-24)
 - Expectations? (Pharisees & Gentiles, I Cor. 1:22)
 - Our own pride? (Pride of Life, 1 John 2:16)

Application-Obedience

- Obedience-When God commands, we ought to listen and do
 - Obeying is how we access the Grace of God (1 John 1:6-7,9)
 - Obedience is a change of action that leads to a change of heart (Rom. 12:2)
 - Obedience is more important than "good things"(Saul-I Sam 15:21-23)
 - Our salvation makes us into something this world can't produce (I John 5:11-12)