

## **Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 19.1, 2 Kings 5-6, Part 1 Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

### **1. Abstract of Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 19.1, 2 Kings 5-6, Part 1, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

**Dr. Oswalt's lecture analyzes the biblical story of Naaman's healing in 2 Kings 5-6.** The lecture highlights the contrast between Naaman's greatness and his leprosy, as well as the significance of the Israelite servant girl's faith. **Oswalt emphasizes that true victory comes from knowing and trusting in Yahweh.** The discussion explores themes of pride, humility, and recognizing God's power, as well as understanding that circumstances should not dictate one's faith. **Ultimately, Naaman's story illustrates a journey towards acknowledging God's presence and power in the world.**

**2. 13 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of  
Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 19.1 – Double click icon to  
play in Windows media player or go to the  
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link  
there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Kings).**



**Oswalt\_Kings\_Sessi  
on19\_1.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 19.1, 2 Kings 5-6, Part 1

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. John Oswalt's lecture on 2 Kings 5-6, part 1.

#### **Briefing Document: Dr. John Oswalt on 2 Kings 5-6, Part 1 (Naaman's Healing)**

**Overview:** Dr. Oswalt's lecture focuses on the story of Naaman's healing in 2 Kings 5, emphasizing the contrast between worldly power and true knowledge of God, the pervasive nature of God's power, and the importance of humility in receiving God's grace. He also touches on the nature of the ministry of Elijah and Elisha as a unified demonstration that Yahweh, not Baal or any other spirit, is the true God.

#### **Key Themes and Ideas:**

- **The Contrast Between Worldly Greatness and Spiritual Understanding:** Oswalt highlights the stark contrast between Naaman, a powerful and victorious Syrian general afflicted with a skin disease, and the anonymous Israelite maidservant who possesses the knowledge of Yahweh's power to heal. He states, "What a contrast, a mighty warrior, a little maid, a great man, a little girl, a captain, a captive. But this little girl knows the secret. This little girl knows what life is about. This little girl has the cure." This contrast underscores the idea that true power and victory come from knowing and trusting in God, regardless of one's social standing or circumstances. He asserts, "Oh, the truth is, however great you may be, if you do not know the secret of Yahweh in your life, you are a loser. No matter how small, insignificant, or unimportant you may be, if you know the secret of Yahweh in your life, you are the winner."
- **God's Sovereignty and Purpose:** Oswalt emphasizes that Yahweh is ultimately responsible for all events, even victories achieved by those who do not acknowledge Him. "Yahweh has given him victory. Now we might ask, wait a minute, what's that about? The Syrians don't serve Yahweh. Ah, but the biblical writer is going to say, if it happened, it happened because of Yahweh's purposes and his will." This highlights God's overarching control and His ability to work through unexpected channels to achieve His purposes.

- **The Power and Scope of Yahweh:** The healing of Naaman serves as another demonstration of Yahweh's power and reach. Oswalt notes that the ministry of Elijah and Elisha is aimed at "showing Baal is not God. The gods of this world are not God...There's one God, and he stands outside of the universe, able to penetrate it at every point." The miracles performed by Elisha, including Naaman's healing, demonstrate Yahweh's ability to intervene in any situation.
- **Humility and the Rejection of Pride:** A central theme is the necessity of humility to receive God's blessing. Naaman's initial resistance to Elisha's instructions to wash in the Jordan River stems from his pride. Oswalt explains, "So long as you and I think God owes us something, he's not going to be able to do anything for us. Not because he doesn't want to, but because our pride stands in the way. What is pride? Pride is simply the conviction that I'm God." Naaman's eventual obedience and cleansing represent a humbling experience that leads to his recognition of Yahweh as the true God.
- **The Significance of Elisha's Actions:** Elisha's refusal to personally greet Naaman and his rejection of Naaman's gifts are interpreted as a rejection of worldly facades and an affirmation that Yahweh is the sole provider. As Oswalt states, "Elisha is not going to be impressed by anybody's facade." Elisha refuses the gifts so that people will not think "The Syrians are Elisha's supply. And Elisha says I'm never going to run that risk for a minute. Yahweh is my supply."
- **The Nature of Faith and Testimony:** Oswalt notes Naaman's incomplete yet evolving understanding of Yahweh. Naaman asks for forgiveness for his future acts of bowing to another God, and Elisha's response "Go in peace" is interpreted not as endorsement, but as an acknowledgement that Naaman's understanding will continue to grow. "Here's a man who has understood who God is, who has been changed. In a real way, his eyes have been opened."

**Key Quotes:**

- "Oh, the truth is, however great you may be, if you do not know the secret of Yahweh in your life, you are a loser. No matter how small, insignificant, or unimportant you may be, if you know the secret of Yahweh in your life, you are the winner."
- "There's one God, and he stands outside of the universe, able to penetrate it at every point, but he's not the universe, and you can't manipulate him through the universe."
- "So long as you and I think God owes us something, he's not going to be able to do anything for us. Not because he doesn't want to, but because our pride stands in the way. What is pride? Pride is simply the conviction that I'm God."
- "Now I know there is no God in all the earth but in Israel."
- "Here's a man who has understood who God is, who has been changed. In a real way, his eyes have been opened."

**Implications:**

This lecture emphasizes the importance of humility, faith, and recognizing God's sovereignty in all aspects of life. It provides insights into the nature of true power and the transformative potential of encountering God. It also highlights the dangers of pride and the importance of relying on God as our ultimate source of provision.

## 4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 19.1, 2 Kings 5-6, Part 1

### Covenant on the Ground: 1 & 2 Kings, Session 19, Part 1 Study Guide

#### Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What is the overarching aim of the ministries of Elijah and Elisha as presented in the source material?
2. In what two ways can Elisha's ministry be viewed? Give an example of each from the text.
3. What contrast is presented in the first three verses of 2 Kings 5?
4. What secret does the little maid from Israel know?
5. Why does the King of Syria send a letter to the King of Israel regarding Naaman?
6. How does the King of Israel, Joram, react to the letter he receives from Syria?
7. Why does Elisha not greet Naaman personally when he arrives at his house?
8. What is Naaman's initial reaction to Elisha's instructions to wash in the Jordan River, and why?
9. What does Naaman proclaim after he is healed?
10. Why does Elisha refuse the gift Naaman offers him?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. The ministries of Elijah and Elisha aim to demonstrate that Baal and the gods of the world are not the true God. They show that Yahweh is the one God, standing outside the universe yet able to penetrate it, and cannot be manipulated.
2. Elisha's ministry can be viewed as both a ministry of blessing and a ministry of curse. An example of blessing is the healing of the water at Jericho, while an example of curse is the judgment on those who defy Yahweh.
3. The first three verses of 2 Kings 5 present a contrast between Naaman, a great and powerful commander afflicted with leprosy, and a little maid, a captive who knows the secret of Yahweh. The contrast highlights that worldly greatness is meaningless without knowing God.

4. The little maid from Israel knows the secret of Yahweh, understanding that life's true meaning and power come from a relationship with God. She believes that the prophet in Samaria can cure Naaman's leprosy.
5. The King of Syria believes that prophets work for kings, and he seeks to have the King of Israel command a prophet to heal Naaman. He does not understand that Elisha is independent and answers only to God.
6. Joram, the King of Israel, becomes anxious and fearful, believing that the letter from Syria is a provocation for war. He does not consider seeking help from Elisha.
7. Elisha does not greet Naaman personally because he refuses to be impressed by or bow down to worldly greatness. Elisha wants to make it clear that the power comes from God, not from social status.
8. Naaman is offended by Elisha's instruction to wash in the Jordan River because he perceives the river as inferior to the rivers in Damascus and feels disrespected that Elisha does not personally acknowledge his importance. His pride is wounded.
9. After being healed, Naaman proclaims that he now knows there is no God in all the earth but in Israel. This signifies his conversion and recognition of Yahweh's supremacy.
10. Elisha refuses the gift from Naaman because he doesn't want it said that the Syrians made him wealthy or supplied his needs. He wants it to be clear that Yahweh is his only supply.

## Essay Questions

1. Discuss the significance of the contrasts presented in 2 Kings 5, particularly the contrast between Naaman and the little maid. How do these contrasts contribute to the overall message of the story?
2. Analyze the role of pride in the story of Naaman. How does Naaman's pride initially hinder his healing, and how does he overcome it?
3. Explore the character of Elisha as portrayed in the text. What does his behavior towards Naaman reveal about his relationship with God and his perspective on worldly power?
4. Discuss the theme of knowing God in the story of Naaman. How does Naaman's understanding of God evolve throughout the narrative, and what is the significance of his final proclamation?
5. Examine the ways in which the source material connects the story of Naaman to the broader themes of 1 and 2 Kings, particularly the idea of Yahweh's power and the rejection of false gods.

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Naaman:** The commander of the Syrian army who suffers from a contagious skin disease.
- **Elisha:** A prophet of God in Israel who ministers during the reigns of several kings.
- **Joram:** The King of Israel during the events of 2 Kings 5.
- **Samaria:** The capital city of the northern kingdom of Israel; sometimes used to refer to the entire kingdom.
- **Jordan River:** A river in Israel, not particularly impressive compared to those in Syria, in which Elisha instructs Naaman to wash.
- **Leprosy (Contextual):** A contagious skin disease (likely not Hansen's disease) that rendered a person unclean and separated from society and certain forms of worship.
- **Baal:** A false god worshipped by the people of Syria and, at times, by the Israelites.
- **Yahweh:** The name of the God of Israel.
- **Ramon:** A Syrian god in whose temple Naaman is expected to bow.
- **Covenant:** An agreement between God and his people, as referenced in the introduction of the session.



## 5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 19.1, 2 Kings 5-6, Part 1, [Biblicalelearning.org](http://Biblicalelearning.org) (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided source:

### FAQ on 2 Kings 5-6 (Part 1): The Story of Naaman and Elisha

- **What is the primary focus of the Elijah and Elisha ministries as portrayed in the Books of Kings?**
- The ministries of Elijah and Elisha are presented as a unified effort to demonstrate that Yahweh is the one true God and that Baal and other "gods of this world" are not divine. They demonstrate that Yahweh exists outside of the universe and cannot be manipulated, setting Him apart from other spiritual forces.
- **How is the ministry of Elisha characterized in terms of blessing and curse?**
- Elisha's ministry is described as having both aspects of blessing and curse. He offers healing and provision to those who align with Yahweh, but also brings judgment upon those who defy Him and His representatives. The nature of the ministry (blessing or curse) depends on the individual's response to Yahweh.
- **What is the significance of the contrast between Naaman and the little Israelite maid in 2 Kings 5?**
- The contrast highlights that true knowledge and faith in Yahweh outweigh worldly status or power. Naaman, a great and powerful Syrian general, is afflicted with leprosy, while the young, captive Israelite maid possesses the knowledge that can lead to his healing. This emphasizes that even the seemingly insignificant can hold the key to salvation.
- **What does the story of Naaman reveal about pride and its role in our relationship with God?**
- Naaman's initial reluctance to follow Elisha's instructions to wash in the Jordan River reveals the obstacle of pride. Pride, in this context, is defined as the conviction that one is ultimate in the world. As long as Naaman's pride stood in the way, God could not help him. Only by humbling himself and obeying could Naaman receive healing.

- **Why did Elisha refuse to accept a gift from Naaman after healing him?**
- Elisha refuses the gift from Naaman to avoid any perception that he is profiting from God's power or that the Syrians are his source of provision. He wants to make it unequivocally clear that Yahweh is his sole provider and that his actions are not motivated by personal gain.
- **What is the significance of Naaman's transformation after being healed?**
- Naaman's transformation is not just physical, but also spiritual. After being healed, he proclaims that he now knows there is no God in all the earth but in Israel. This demonstrates a profound shift in his understanding of God's existence and power, moving from ignorance to a clear recognition of Yahweh's sovereignty.
- **What does Naaman's request for Israelite soil and forgiveness for bowing in the Temple of Rimmon reveal about his understanding of Yahweh?**
- Naaman's requests reveal his still-developing understanding of Yahweh. While he acknowledges Yahweh as the true God, his desire for Israelite soil indicates a lingering belief that Yahweh is localized to Israel. Similarly, his request for forgiveness for bowing in the Temple of Rimmon shows his struggle to reconcile his newfound faith with his obligations to the Syrian king.
- **What is the lesson in the story for people who are in circumstances that seem beyond their control?** The story of the little maid teaches that one's life is ultimately in God's hands, not controlled by external circumstances. This implies that even in difficult situations, one can trust in God's goodness and find purpose, as the maid did by directing Naaman towards healing.