

The City of Damascus

A decorative graphic consisting of a solid green horizontal bar at the top, followed by a white horizontal bar below it. The white bar has a stepped, blocky appearance on its right side, with several thin green lines extending from the top edge of the white bar.

Damascus

- A gentile city of Syria
- Located about 70 miles from Capernaum and 150 miles north of Jerusalem at 2,300 ft. above sea level
- The Abana and Pharpar rivers run through it making its land fertile
- Its location made it an important trade city



Early History of Damascus

- Mentioned 1500 B.C. in the Tell el-Amarna Letters as an important trade route for Egypt.
- Mentioned early in the Bible – Gen. 14:15; 15:2
- Played an infamous role as an enemy of Israel
 - Defeated by David – 2 Sam. 8:3-6
 - A thorn in Solomon's side – 1 Kgs. 11:23-25
 - When Israel divided, it played Israel and Judah against each other and fought against them – 1 Kgs. 15:18-20; 20:34; 2 Kgs. 8:10-13; 13:3, 22
- Its decline was prophesied and began with its destruction by the Assyrians in 732 B.C. – Jer. 49:23-27; Amos 1:3-5

Event 1: The healing of Naaman the Leper

2 Kings 5:1-19

Naaman and His Healing

- Naaman was the commander of Syria's army
 - He was hostile to God's people, conducting raids upon them
 - Told by his Jewish slave girl of God's grace to heal him through Elisha
- Naaman: An example of *God's grace bestowed by faith*
 - His healing was to be by grace, seeing he was an enemy of God and his people
 - He received grace because he *sought* it from God – Lk. 4:27
 - He received grace on God's terms—*obedience of faith* – 2 Kgs. 5:11-12, 14
 - We must receive grace on God's terms—*obedience of faith* – Heb. 5:8-9; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21