

Redeemed; Revelation 12:10-11

I. Crimson River

a. "I went down to the crimson river"

- i. Naaman
- ii. 2 Kings 5:1 (ESV) ¹ Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper.
- iii. God is invested in Syria through Naaman
- iv. "The Lord" is Yahweh, the covenant God
- v. And even though Naaman is a leper, God was with him
- vi. God gave Syria victory in their battles through Naaman
- vii. Naaman hears about Elisha through his wife's Israelite servant girl
- viii. Naaman believes this Israelite slave girl (which is very interesting) and goes to his king with the information
- ix. 2 Kings 5:5–6 (ESV) ⁵ And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. ⁶ And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy."
- x. 2 Kings 5:9–10 (ESV) ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean."
- xi. Here is the commander of the armies of the occupying country at his door and Elisha doesn't even come out to greet him
- xii. Naaman is expecting some great pomp and circumstance
- xiii. Not only that, but Elisha also tells him to wash in the Jordan
 1. It is a river of Israel
 2. It is a very dirty river
 3. The Abana and Pharpar are rivers of Damascus and run a lot cleaner
- xiv. So Naaman, in his anger leaves Elisha
- xv. 2 Kings 5:13 (ESV) ¹³ But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"
- xvi. Naaman obeys Elisha, dunks himself 7 times in the Jordan and he was cleansed of his leprosy
- xvii. God cleanses a Gentile who commands the armies of an invading nation; this foreshadows our cleansing in the crimson river

b. The blood of Jesus

- i. Matthew 26:28 (ESV) ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
- ii. Naaman's angry rant is heard over and over today

- iii. 2 Kings 5:11–12 (ESV) ¹¹ But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage.
 - iv. People argue whether immersion is necessary
 - v. I would echo the very same thing the Israelite slaves told Naaman, “It is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, ‘Wash, and be clean?’”
 - vi. God tells us, ‘Wash and be clean,’ wash away our sins, be saved!
 - c. Have you been down to the crimson river?
- II. Mercy
 - a. “Yes, He washed me in His mercy”
 - b. Compassion or forbearance shown especially to an offender or to one subject to one’s power *also*: lenient or compassionate treatment ¹
 - c. Compassion is to be deeply moved to the point of action
 - i. Jesus’ compassion and forbearance (to refrain from enforcing a law, debt, obligation, etc.) resulted in His sacrifice
 - ii. Matthew 9:13 (ESV) ¹³ Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”
 - iii. I find Jesus’ statement interesting since He is merciful to us to the point of His own death
 - iv. Even though we are deserving of death, we are under the judgment of death, Jesus shows us mercy
 - v. James 2:12–13 (ESV) ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.
 - d. Instead of Judgment, we get mercy
 - e. 1 Peter 1:3 (ESV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- III. I Am Changed
 - a. “I’m not the same, I am changed”
 - b. This is the point where we get hung up
 - c. We don’t realize that we must change
 - d. There is an “old person” that must change into something new
 - i. I just want to read some verses that deal with this idea
 - ii. Colossians 3:9–10 (ESV) ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

¹ Inc Merriam-Webster, [Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary](#). (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

- iii. Ephesians 4:21–24 (ESV) ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
- iv. Galatians 3:26–27 (ESV) ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- v. Romans 6:3–7 (ESV) ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin.
- vi. We are not who we used to be; we are new!
- e. Our thinking must change
 - i. Philippians 4:8–9 (ESV) ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
 - ii. And when our thinking changes, so do our actions (“practice these things”)
- f. Our values must change
 - i. Galatians 5:19–21 (ESV) ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
 - ii. I’m sure you can find yourself in there somewhere (“and things like these”)
 - iii. Galatians 5:22–25 (ESV) ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.
- g. We come up from our immersion a new creation ready to change from our old self (habits, actions, thoughts) to a new person in Christ

IV. Redeemed

- a. (I’m)‘Not the same, I am changed; Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb; By His grace I am saved; I’m His child, forever - I am; Hallelujah; Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb
- b. Go down to the crimson river
- c. Be washed in His mercy

d. Be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb!