

תזריע

*Second Kings, chapter 4, verse 42 to chapter 5, verse 19*

**Introduction**

*Connection of sidra and haftarah:*

The sidra deals with the treatment of skin diseases (often referred to as "leprosy"), and the bulk of the haftarah tells the tale of Naaman, a Syrian general, who was healed from some such disease by the waters of the Jordan and through the mediation of the prophet Elisha. (See also the haftarah for Vayeira.)

*The setting:*

Elisha was the chief disciple of his illustrious mentor, Elijah, and was active for about fifty years (850-800 B.C.E.). While Elijah was an outsider, engaged in confrontation with corrupt power and religion, Elisha was the man whose counsel the rulers of Israel tended to seek. He had been a farmer before he became a follower of Elijah, and his concern for ordinary folk never left him. He was the subject of folktales, and many miracles were ascribed to him.

The haftarah is taken from the Second Book of Kings. For more on the book, see our *General Introduction*.

*The stories:*

1. A hundred men are fed by the miraculous multiplication of a few loaves of bread. (4:42-44)
2. An Aramean general, Naaman, is afflicted by a skin disease and healed. In consequence he acknowledges God as the sole ruler of the world. (5:1-19)