

# Esther as Hero

Refrain

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - - - lu - - - jah!

hal - le -

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - - - lu - - - jah!

Hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - - - lu - - - jah! Hal - le -

hal - le -

- lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - - - jah!

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## II Kings 5: 1-14

<sup>1</sup> Naaman, commander of the king of Aram's army, was a great man and highly esteemed by his master, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram; he was a mighty warrior, but he was a leper. <sup>2</sup> On one of their raids, the Aramaeans brought back as a captive from the land of Israel a young girl, who became a servant to Naaman's wife. <sup>3</sup> She said to her mistress, 'If only my master could meet the prophet who lives in Samaria, he would cure him of the leprosy.' <sup>4</sup> Naaman went and reported to his master what the Israelite girl had said. <sup>5</sup> 'Certainly you may go,' said the king of Aram, 'and I shall send a letter to the king of Israel.' Naaman set off, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. <sup>6</sup> He delivered the letter to the king of Israel; it read: 'This letter is to inform you that I am sending to you my servant Naaman, and I beg you to cure him of his leprosy.' <sup>7</sup> When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, 'Am I God to kill and to make alive, that this fellow sends to me to cure a man of his disease? See how he picks a quarrel with me.' <sup>8</sup> When Elisha, the man of God, heard how the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent him this message: 'Why did you tear your clothes? Let the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.' <sup>9</sup> When Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance to Elisha's house, <sup>10</sup> Elisha sent out a messenger to say to him, 'If you go and wash seven times in the Jordan, your flesh will be restored and you will be clean.'

<sup>11</sup> At this Naaman was furious and went away, saying, 'I thought he would at least have come out and stood and invoked the Lord his God by name, waved his hand over the place, and cured me of the leprosy. <sup>12</sup> Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Can I not wash in them and be clean? So, he turned and went off in a rage.

<sup>13</sup> But his servants came to him and said, 'If the prophet had told you to do something difficult, would you not do it? How much more should you, then, if he says to you, "Wash and be clean"!' <sup>14</sup> So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored so that it was like a little child's, and he was clean.