

~ABANAH (48)
(A-ba'nah)

- One of the two rivers of Damascus referred to by the Syrian army commander Naaman when scorning Elisha's instructions to bathe himself in the waters of the Jordan as a cure for his leprosy.
- Are not the **Abanah** and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Can I not bathe in them and certainly be clean? With that he turned and went away in a rage. **(2 Kings 5:12)**
- This river is generally identified with the Nahr Barada, which rises in the Anti-Lebanon mountains to the Northwest of Damascus and, after traversing the mountains, emerges from a gorge just to the West of Damascus. Then it courses through the northern part of the city and fans out to irrigate a large area before finally losing itself in a body of marshes to the East of the city.
- Its waters, used to irrigate fields and orchards by means of canals and conduits, create an extensive verdant oasis. It can well be said that Damascus owes its existence to the Barada. It has long been the source of water for the city's cisterns, fountains, and baths. Classical writers called it Golden River, **Chrysorrhoas**. So, Naaman's high opinion of the river appears to have had a solid basis.
- The word **Amana** or **Amanah** is used instead of **Abanah** at;
- Are not the **Abanah** and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Can I not bathe in them and certainly be clean? With that he turned and went away in a rage. **(2 Kings 5:12)**
- In **An American Translation**, also in the translation published by **The Jewish Publication Society of America**, and the margin of the **Masoretic** text as well as the **Syriac Peshitta** so read.
- With me from Lebanon, O bride, with me from Lebanon may you come. May you descend from the top of Anti-Lebanon, from the top of Senir, even Hermon, from the lairs of lions, from the mountains of leopards. **(Song of Solomon 4:8)**

- Reference is made to **Amana** in many translations, and it is understood to refer to the Anti-Lebanon mountains in which the river here discussed has its source. Hence, the river may have taken on the name of the mountains in which it originated.