

NAMES OF GOD: “EL SHADDAI”

- A. **Jesus said children** are humble, & if we are to enter His kingdom we must be like them (**Matt 18:3-4**).
1. They are humble because they haven't learned to trust themselves, they have a simple yet profound trusting faith in people & even in God.
 2. A child's prayer shows a deep trust in the Power & Might of God: *“Dear God, help me to mind my parents & not fight with my brother. Help my dog to live a good dog's life. Keep us safe in our home from robbers.”*
- B. **The question for us** today is do we believe that God is All-Powerful?
1. Abraham is “the father of the faithful” (**Rom 4:12, 16; Gal 3:7, 29**), our example of faith in God.
 - a. One reason he is our example of faith is because he knew God to be faithful .

[Today we want to look at the Name of God that speaks of His power to faithfully keep His promises.

We should all realize that, today, the Name of Jesus Christ is above all other names (**Acts 4:12; Phil 2:9-10**); He has all power in Heaven & on earth (**Matt 20:18**).

But before God sent His Son into this world, one of the names by which God was known, a name of Power, was El Shaddai.]

I. “EL SHADDAI”

- A. “El Shaddai” is **Hebrew**; the English equivalent is the name “Almighty God”.
1. The first time God revealed Himself by that name was one year before Abraham became the father of Isaac (**Gen17:1-8**).
- B. “El Shaddai” is a cognate name made up of two names; the first is “**El**”, short for “Elohim.”
1. El was first name by which God revealed Himself to mankind (**Gen 1:1**).

2. That name speaks of God as the Eternal Creator, who sustains all things by the power of His word.

3. El also has power to suspend the laws that govern His creation (cf. [Exo 14](#); [Josh 10](#)).

a. The Psalmist prayed, “You are the God (El) who does wonders” ([Psa 77:14](#)).

4. God came to a 99 year old man, whose body was reproductively dead ([Rom 4:19](#)), & said to him “*I will multiply you exceedingly...for I have made you a father of many nations.*”

5. But the name God used to describe Himself to Abram was “El Shaddai” – All Mighty God – & it is He whom Abram believed as the One “*who gives life to the dead & calls those things which do not exist as though they did*” ([Rom 4:17](#)).

C. The **second half** of the name is “Shaddai”; it is used 48 times in the OT, & always translated “Almighty.”

1. The root word “Shad” meaning “breast”, which implies sustenance & nourishment.

a. So we are not to think of “Almighty God” as being a despot or tyrant.

b. He is not One who serves Himself with little or no regard for His creation, but rather He is One Who is loving & compassionate.

2. When the Jewish scholars translated the Hebrew OT into the Greek language they took this Hebrew word “Shaddai” & translated it with a Greek word meaning “all sufficient.”

[Therefore, “Elohim” (The All Powerful Creator) is also “El Shaddai” (The All-Sufficient One).

He certainly proved these traits to Abraham & his physical descendents, as well as to the rest of the world.]

II. EL SHADDAI REMINDS US...

A. **To Live By Faith**, as did Abraham ([Rom 4:16-21](#)).

1. When God revealed Himself as “El Shaddai”, Abram had finally realized that he was powerless to fulfill God’s promise.

2. The original promise was made in Genesis 12, & Abram lived for many years thinking that he had the power to make God's promise come to pass.
 - a. So at age 86 he accepted Sarah's offer to take Hagar to be his wife; & while Abram was trusting himself, God was waiting for the proper time to fulfill His promise.

3. God waited 13 years until Abram was 99, at which time Abram could finally see that the power to fulfill the promise was not in himself but completely in the hands of "El Shaddai".
 - a. What a perfect occasion for God to reveal Himself by a new name.
 - b. Abram didn't need his plans or strategies; all he needed was trust in "Almighty God," & to "live by faith" in His word ([Rom 1:17](#)).

4. Then Abraham was faced with a choice, & it is the same choice with which we are faced: the choice is NOT will he "believe in God," BUT will he "believe God."
 - a. Abram now had to go back to his family & instruct them to no longer call him "Abram" (exalted father) "Abraham" (father of nations).
 - b. Do you think he got some funny looks from some of his servants? Perhaps, but Abraham went right on believing God.
 - c. Sarah also learned to believe the promise of "El Shaddai" ([Heb 11:11-12](#)).

5. So the name "El Shaddai" is a reminder that God's people "walk by faith, not by sight" ([2 Cor 5:7](#)).
 - a. What kind of a promise has "Almighty God" made to the Christian? Eternal life ([1 John 2:25](#); [Titus 1:2](#)).
 - b. Do we believe that He will help us attain that promise? ...that we must put our full trust in Him & strictly follow His word, as Abraham had to learn? ...that following our own wisdom is fruitless?

c. Like Abraham, we will see God's promise come to pass if we will learn to trust His power to fulfill His promise, & if we will live in obedient faith.

1) If we will wear the name of His Son "Christian", keep separate from the sins of this world, & abide in His word (1 Pet 4:16; 2 Cor 6:17-18; 1 John 2:24, 14).

2) Do you think the world will give us some funny looks for living like that (1 Pet 4:4)?

d. But to "walk by faith" is to believe that "Almighty God" not only has the power to make promises, but also to fulfill them & to grant His people the best of both worlds.

1 Tim 4:8 – For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, *having promise of the life that now is & of that which is to come.*

2 Cor 3:5 – Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but *our sufficiency is from God,*

2 Cor 9:8 – *God is able to make all grace abound toward you,* that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

Impalas can be contained behind a very short wall IF they are unable to see what is on the other side. That is odd considering they can leap 10 feet into the air at 30 foot strides. Why will they not leap? **They have no faith!** They simply will not leap into a place they cannot see.

Do we have that problem too? Do we NOT have quite enough faith to fully carryout the will of God or too fully obey him (**Matt 6:25-34**).

[Finally, the name "El Shaddai" reminds us...]

B. That We Can Be Fruitful, as was Abraham (**Gen 17:6**).

1. Because Abraham believed "El Shaddai", He enabled Abraham to be fruitful (to do everything that God intended for him to do).
2. The name "El Shaddai" is often associated with His promise to bless His people by making them fruitful: Isaac (**Gen 26:22; 28:3-4**). Jacob (**Gen 28:12-15; 35:9-12; 48:2-4; 49:25**).
3. This knowledge of "Almighty God", is also important to the Lord's church.

- a. It means that we will not prevail by our wisdom, wealth or strength, but because “Almighty God” is going to make us fruitful ([Col 1:9-14](#)) through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- b. We may need some pruning first, but eventually we can be fruitful ([John 15:2](#)).

- a. But like Abraham, we cannot receive the reward of living by faith until we acknowledge that we are powerless to attain the promise of God on our own ([1 John 2:25](#)), we must trust & obey Him.
- b. And secondly we cannot bear the fruit of living by faith until we empty ourselves of personal ambitions, & let the “Almighty God” work in & through us.

CLOSING

A. **I meant to tell you** that of the 48 times “El Shaddai” is used in the OT, it is found 31 times in Job. Why?

1. Because when you have lost everything, & when you have suffered more than anyone else, that’s when you can learn that God is All-Powerful & All-Sufficient.
2. Those who knew God as “El Shaddai” knew Him because they had been brought low & then found that He had sustain them during that time.
3. God still wants to do that for us today, but now every spiritual blessing is in Christ Jesus ([Eph 1:3](#)).

God’s Plan of Salvation

Hear the gospel Christ; read it: Acts 2; 3; 13; 17; Rom 10:17

Believe Jesus to be both Lord and Christ, the Son of God and Savior of men:

Acts 2:36; John 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31; Acts 4:12; Titus 1:4

Repent of your sins: Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 1 John 3:4

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ: Matt 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom 10:9-10

Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins: Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:27; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:21

Be obedient to the Lord, He will be your Judge: Titus 2:11-12; Heb 5:9; 2 John 9; Rev 2:10; John 12:48
