

Series: The Names of God

Title: El Shaddai

Text: Exodus 6:3

Review

Why did God create us? - To glorify God. What is our purpose? - To discover and enjoy his presence forever. The most significant discovery of your life is discovering that God loves you and has created you with purpose. In this study of the Names of God, we are tooling out some insight and information about this marvelous God we serve. Our goal for this series is to come to know God better. We have learned that God is the "Elohim" translated God in our English bibles and that Elohim is revealed as 'the Mighty God.'

The Elohim is:

- The Mighty God -- the Omnipotent Creator, the God of Greatness and Glory who spoke the worlds into existence.
- The God of the Covenant – The One who gives us promise after promise of his presence and blessing; the One who desires a relationship with his creation.
- The Eternal Godhead – The concept of the Trinity, the Three in One expressed as a plural noun with singular verbs and adjectives.
- The Mighty God who covenanted with himself to create and sustain humanity before he ever made us.

Last week we learned about YHWH translated Jehovah in our English bibles.

Jehovah is:

- The Existing One – The 'I Am that I Am' of Exodus 3 translated LORD in our English bibles. (In all capital letters.)
- Jehovah is His name. A Jew might say the Elohim, or the One True God, but he would never say the Jehovah, for Jehovah or YHWH is His name.
- Jehovah is righteous and holy and yet loving and redeeming.
- Jehovah is just and demands all those who violate his righteousness (including man's sin) pay a just penalty. But his grace provides mercy through Jesus Christ's death on the Cross.

Introduction

El Shaddai is The God of Strength and Power. Exodus Chapter 6:2 says, "And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "I *am* the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but *by* My name LORD I was not known to them." (Exodus 6:2-3 NKJV)

God was known primarily to the Patriarchs by the name El Shaddai, or God Almighty. This name appears first in connection with Abraham. Genesis 17:1, 2 says, " When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and

said to him, "I *am* Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."
(Genesis 17:1-2 NKJV)

It confirmed a promise God had already made to Abram in Genesis 15 that he would make him a great nation. The problem was that after many years Abram still did not have a child, so according to Genesis 16, Sarah came up with a plan for God and Abram to have a son by Hagar, her servant girl. That son's name was Ishmael. Ishmael was Sarah's plan. Isaac was God's plan. But God said Ishmael would also become a great nation, and He would bless Ishmael because of Abraham. Abraham's son, Ishmael, would later foster the religion of Islam. But this Muslim religion would not be the fulfillment of God's promise to Abram.

When Abraham seems discouraged that he and Sarah still have no son, God speaks to Abraham and asks, 'Is anything too hard for Jehovah?' So once again, God confirms his covenant with Abram. This time He changes Abram's name (High Exalted Leader) to Abraham (Father of a multitude). This occasion causes God to reveal to Abraham that 'the Elohim,' Jehovah is El Shaddai or God Almighty.

EL, as we already know, means strong or mighty. 'Shaddai' means, 'to do powerfully.' El Shaddai is God Almighty who reveals himself in notable works of power. This revelation occurs when Abraham and Sarah's bodies are past their childbearing years. But God miraculously works, and Isaac is born in fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham.

It is the El Shaddai who nourishes, supplies, and satisfies by extraordinary works of his miracle power to fulfill His promise.

I. El Shaddai – The God of Bounty and Blessing

El Shaddai (The Almighty God) pours out his blessings in divine provision upon his people. Whenever the name El Shaddai is used, it is always connected to a remarkable work of God's divine power. God is the El Shaddai, the Almighty God who daily loads us with benefits and blessings. When God divinely intervenes in your life, He reveals himself supernaturally as El Shaddai.

El Shaddai is the powerful bestower of abundant blessings. He is the all-sufficient One, all bountiful One. The El Shaddai makes this staggering promise of a son to Abraham, who is 100 years old, and Sarah, who is 90 years old.

The exciting part of this revelation is that the book of Hebrews records that Abraham did not stagger at the promise made by God because he believed the El Shaddai, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness.

II. El Shaddai – The God of Miraculous Fulfillment

Abraham and Sarah had to learn that what God promises, he will also provide, and any self-effort to try and help God fulfill his plan only causes frustration and

conflict. When we fully trust the miraculous power of the El Shaddai, He brings miraculous blessing and fulfillment to our lives. Even salvation through Jesus Christ is God's gift to us, and we cannot earn it by any amount of good works. Ephesians 2:8, 9 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV)

We cannot rely upon our own strength and abilities to accomplish the vision and dream that God puts into our heart. We must trust in the El Shaddai, the Mighty God, with all of our heart, to fulfill the promises he has made to us through His word. Only El Shaddai can accomplish the impossible through us. Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

If we try to figure out our own plan to help God fulfill his promise, it will only bring heartache and trials for us. Today, God still says to us to "walk before him in faith and be wholehearted in our devotion to him."

III. El Shaddai – The God of Abundant Fruitfulness

The El Shaddai is also His commitment to the fruitfulness of His promises.

When God changed Abram's name (Exalted Leader) to Abraham (Father of a Multitude), God pronounces His own blessing upon him. It was the blessing of 'fruitfulness.' In Genesis 17:6, God says, "I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you." (Genesis 17:6 NKJV)

We live in a world that strives so hard to succeed and works so hard to achieve its own goals. But God says to us, "trust in me, rely upon me; don't do it your way; follow my ways, and I will make your life meaningful and fruitful." What a tremendous promise of blessing! When we acknowledge our insufficiency, we are in the best position to realize God's all-sufficiency.

It is not easy to rid yourself of selfishness. Someone once said, 'The problem with a living sacrifice is it keeps getting up off the altar.' No wonder the Apostle Paul taught that we must daily crucify the flesh with the affections and lusts.

The real test of your faith in the El Shaddai is when you do not witness God's divine intervention in the time frame you think he ought to work. But when we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of the El Shaddai, he promises that he will exalt us in due time, which, of course, is in His time, not ours.

God does promise that His blessings will overtake us if we obey His word. Deuteronomy 28 says, "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God." (Deuteronomy 28:1-2 NKJV)

When El Shaddai fulfills His promises, you will be fruitful and blessed beyond your wildest expectations.

As a Master Gardener, however, El Shaddai does prune his vines. But, he does this pruning so our lives will be even more fruitful. In John 15:16, Jesus said, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you." (John 15:16 NKJV)

God has chosen us to bring forth much fruit and that our fruit should remain.

Conclusion

El Shaddai is the God of divine connection. The pouring out of God's promise of blessing in supernatural equipping power causes us to think of the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit released God's divine promise of supernatural power. In Luke 24:49, Jesus told his disciples, "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:49 NKJV)

As God's people today, we have been chosen to be the vessels that glorify Him by practicing our faith in the El Shaddai. God calls upon us to follow him and release his supernatural miracle power by faith before our generation. God has called us to lead our family and friends to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ to be their savior and Lord.

There is no amount of ability or reason that can ever convert one soul to Christ. A faithful witness still requires supernatural strength and power to stand with boldness and confidence and proclaim God's abundant blessings and promises in the face of defying people and circumstances. But Christ lives within us and equips us with incredible faith to believe that the Holy Spirit will work through us with extraordinary zeal and power to accomplish His purposes and fulfill his promises.

We will never accomplish what God can with His supernatural strength and power in our own human strength. For our faith to succeed, we must trust in the El Shaddai and not be swayed by our circumstances. We believe in the impossible and embrace the promise that God has poured out his Spirit upon us. That connection with God equips us to endure and overcome by the mighty power and strength of the El Shaddai.

The Almighty God, the El Shaddai, is the God of tremendous riches and blessings of His grace. The Almighty God, the El Shaddai, can always demonstrate his supernatural and miraculous works before us.

It is His strength that is made perfect in our weakness. It is His all-sufficiency that makes up for our insufficiency. It is His fullness that fills up our emptiness. It is His fruitfulness that brings us out of our bareness. He is the El Shaddai, the Almighty

God, the God of Strength and Power. The God of bounty and blessing. The God of miraculous fulfillment. The God of abundant faithfulness.