

The Names of God #5  
**El Shaddai – The Almighty God**  
Gen 17:1

Introduction:

1. “What will it take to make you truly happy? What will it take to relieve you of the anxiety that you feel? When do you think you might reach that state of contentment?”
  - a. Often the first response to those queries comes in financial terms
  - b. “When I can pay my bills and have some money left over.”
  - c. “When I have enough put aside to retire comfortably.”
  - d. The problem is that no one seems to know how much is enough for contentment.
2. One pastor told about his church building a parking lot
  - a. The lot would hold 60 cars and it would cost \$60,000
  - b. The church had many hard-working low to middle class families and the church budget could not handle the expense
  - c. There was one man in the church who could be considered wealthy
    1. He owned property in Virginia Beach before it became a popular tourist resort area.
    2. When the property values escalated considerably he sold off his holdings and did quite well
3. To keep the need and the financial progress before the people there was a big poster on the wall with 60 parking spots.
  - a. Families were encouraged to give \$1000 – they would receive a little car that would stick on the parking lot
  - b. Few of the families could afford to give the \$1000 so they went together and gave and a family received a portion of a car
4. The pastor went to the wealthy member knowing that he could easily afford to purchase 10-15 cars and give a big boost to the project.
  - a. The wealthy man looked at the pastor and acknowledged that he had enjoyed many years of financial prosperity
  - b. But then he added that no one know how long the good economy would last and he needed to protect his assets.
  - c. Then he said, “Pastor, I am facing an additional tax bill for nearly \$50,000 this year. You wouldn’t understand what it is like to be in that tax bracket.”
  - d. Later on the pastor said, “He was right – I would never be in his tax bracket. But I’ll never forget the look of fear that he had about the future, his uncertainty about the sufficiency of his resources.”
5. I go back to the original question – “How much is enough?”
6. Studying “El Shaddai” I hope you will learn that God is enough
  - a. Have you come to the place in your personal relationship with God that He is enough?
  - b. He can be trusted – He is sufficient to meet all my needs.
7. God’s Word tells us we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Have you found that to be true in your own life?
8. Abraham came to the place in his life where he realized that God was sufficient – God was all he needed

## **I. El Shaddai – God Almighty the Sufficient One**

### **A. El Shaddai – “All Sufficient One”**

1. Shad = breast
  - a) *At its mother’s breast the baby finds a safe and secure place*
  - b) *At its mother’s breast the baby finds all it needs to survive – love, warmth, nourishment*
  - c) *As children, when we were afraid we could run to mom and find safety and protection in her arms*
2. El Shaddai tells us that God is sufficient
  - a) *God is enough*
  - b) *God can supply your needs*
  - c) *El = might, strong – God is mighty enough to supply our needs*

### **B. El Shaddai – “The Almighty One”**

1. What new facet of the character of God does this name reveal?
2. El Shaddai is often translated “God Almighty” or “Almighty God”
3. “Almighty” refers to God’s omnipotence – He is able to carry out the will of a divine nature
4. We know that “El” = strong or powerful
5. El Shaddai tells us that God is able to pour out His blessings

## **II. Abram’s Need and God’s Promise – Gen 17:1**

- This is the first time that El Shaddai is used in the Bible

### **A. Remember Abraham’s Background**

1. God called Abram to leave Ur of the Chaldees and go to the land of Palestine
2. It took great faith for Abraham to leave all and go where God told him
3. But Abraham was trusting God’s promises in 12:1-3

*1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*
4. God even said more in 13:16

*16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.*

  - a) *As the drama unfolds, we are continually reminded of Abraham’s childless state*
  - b) *Years go by and Abraham and Sarah have no children*
  - c) *Both are aging*
5. God appears to Abraham again in 15:1-3

*1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. 2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? 3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.*

  - a) *Abraham reminds God that he still has no heir and his servant will have to be his heir*

b) *But then God reaffirms his promise to Abraham in 15:5*

**5** And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

6. More time goes by with no children and Sarah becomes desperate and suggests that Abraham have a child through her handmaid Hagar

### **B. Abraham Surrendered to El Shaddai – Gen 17:1-2**

**1** And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am **the Almighty God**; walk before me, and be thou perfect. **2** And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

1. Chapt 17 begins with a reminder that Abraham was now 99 yrs old
  - a) *By human reckoning, he and Sarah were past child-bearing*
  - b) *The promise of God looked like an impossibility*
  - c) *They had tried to help God out, but that didn't work*
  - d) *Abraham had come face to face with his own insufficiency before God revealed himself as El Shaddai*
2. Abraham would find out that with God nothing is impossible
3. When we surrender our will to His, he brings to fulfillment his promises through his power.
4. And now God reveals this name – El Shaddai – for the 1<sup>st</sup> time
  - a) *Vs 3 tells us that Abraham fell on his face in worship before God*
  - b) *God changed Abram's name to Abraham – exalted father to father of a multitude*
  - c) *God changed Sarai's name to Sarah – to contend, to exert oneself as a princess*

### **III. Naomi Knew El Shaddai – Ruth 1:20-21**

**20** And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the **Almighty** hath dealt very bitterly with me. **21** I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why *then* call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the **Almighty** hath afflicted me?

- Abraham was burdened, but Naomi was bitter

#### **A. Remember Naomi's Background**

1. She and her husband Elimelech and two boys left Bethlehem for Moab during a time of famine
2. While in Moab, her husband died, and then her two boys, who had married, both died
3. Naomi and her daughters-in-law were left as widows
4. Naomi heard that there was food again in Bethlehem and she + Ruth returned
5. When Naomi returned to Bethlehem people didn't even recognize her
  - a) *As they saw her for the first time many wondered "Can this really be Naomi?"*
  - b) *Her face was weathered, her shoulders slumped and her eyes were filled with pain and grief*
6. Widows had no social status and no economic means to survive
7. And Naomi blamed all her problems on God – El Shaddai
  - a) *El Shaddai has dealt very bitterly with me*
  - b) *Jehovah has emptied me*

- c) *Jehovah has testified against me*
- d) *El Shaddai has afflicted me*

### **B. Naomi Turned from Bitter to Better – Ruth 4:13-16**

**13** So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son. **14** And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed *be* the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. **15** And he shall be unto thee a restorer of *thy* life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him. **16** And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.

1. She continued to walk with God
2. In the end, God proved that He was more than enough
  - a) *Boaz turns out to be a kinsman redeemer*
  - b) *He redeemed and married Ruth*
  - c) *Eventually Naomi is seen holding a little baby who would become the grandfather of David*
3. God proved his faithfulness and sufficiency in the life of Naomi

## **IV. Job Knew El Shaddai**

- Of the 48 occurrences of El Shaddai in the Old Testament, 31 of them are found in the book of Job

### **A. Job's Background – Job 1:1-4**

**1** There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

**2** And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. **3** His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

**4** And his sons went and feasted *in their* houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. **5** And it was so, when the days of *their* feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings *according* to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

1. He was Righteous - vs 1
2. He was Rich – vs 2-3
3. He was Religious – vs 4-5
4. By the world's standards, Job was successful
5. By God's standard he was a spiritual man
6. Very quickly disaster struck in Job's life
  - a) *His children died*
  - b) *His livestock and wealth were lost*
  - c) *His wife turned against him*
  - d) *Then Job lost his health*
7. In all of this Job trusted God and worshipped – Job 1:20-22

20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, 21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. 22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

### **B. The Use of El Shaddai in Job**

1. **Job 5:17** Behold, happy *is* the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the **Almighty**:
2. **Job 6:4** For the arrows of the **Almighty** *are* within me, the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit: the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me.
3. **Job 6:14** To him that is afflicted pity *should be shewed* from his friend; but he forsaketh the fear of the **Almighty**.
4. **Job 22:25** Yea, the **Almighty** shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver.
5. **Job 31:35** Oh that one would hear me! behold, my desire *is, that the Almighty would answer me, and that mine adversary had written a book.*
6. Finally Job gets to take his case directly to God and God answers with a series of questions near the end of the book of Job
  - a) *This is the longest speech of God in the Bible*
  - b) *God asks Job dozens of questions*
    - (1) “Where were you when I established the heavens and the earth?”
    - (2) “Can you place the stars in the sky?”
    - (3) “Do you give the horse his strength...?”
7. After Job received his theology lesson from God he broke down and said....  
**Job 42:3** *Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. 5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. 6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*
8. El Shaddai is more than adequate when we are inadequate
9. “When you have nothing left but God, then you become aware that God is enough.” – Maude Royden
10. The only answer that God gave to Job was the answer of Himself
  - a) *Job wasn't asked to trust a plan, but a person – El Shaddai*
  - b) *God who is in control and who knows what is best for us*
11. Life is unfair sometimes and bad things happen to good people
  - a) *The question is not, “Why did this happen to me?”*
  - b) *The deeper question is, “Now that this has happened to me, will I remain loyal to God?”*

## **v. Lessons for Today**

### **A. Fall Before El Shaddai in Reverence**

1. This is what Abraham did when he met El Shaddai in – Gen 17:3  
**3** *And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,*
2. Even when we don't understand, we must still worship Him

### **B. Run To El Shaddai As Your Refuge – Ps 91:1**

**1** He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty [El Shaddai]. **2** I will say of the LORD, *He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.*

1. We can run to God in our troubles
2. He is our refuge and fortress
3. Many believers get caught up in the “Avis” kind of Christianity – they keep trying harder
4. The harder they try the more frustrated they become
5. Then we come to the end of our rope and realize, “I’ve tried everything else, I guess I’ll pray.”
6. We need to empty ourselves of self and discover that God is sufficient to supply all your needs according to His riches

***c. Learn That God Has Abundant Resources to Supply All Our Needs***

1. Abraham and Sarah’s attempt to help God out with their schemes, pale in significance when we see all that God wanted to supply out of His abundance.
2. Let us learn that God is Almighty to nourish and supply
3. He’ll fulfill His promises in His own time