

El Shaddai

All-Sufficient One

God Almighty

DAY ONE

This week we will study God's name, El Shaddai the All-Sufficient One, our God Almighty! Let's begin by reading Genesis 17:1-8

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty ; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. 2 Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." 3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, 4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. 5 No longer will you be called Abram ; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. 6 I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. 7 I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. 8 The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

The first time El Shaddai is used to describe God in the Bible is Genesis 17:1. Try to put yourself in Abram's sandals. God made Abram some amazing promises.

Look up and fill in Abram's age in these verses.

Genesis 12:4 ____ years old

Genesis 16:3 ____ years old

Genesis 16:16 ____ years old

Genesis 17:1 ____ years old

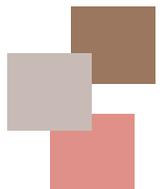
Read Genesis 17:17 to learn how much younger Sarai is than Abram.

God had promised he would make Abram into a great nation, make his name great and that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through him. In Genesis 17:1, we see God appeared to Abram, what name did he call himself? _____

What was Abram's response? _____

Why do you believe Abram responded like this? _____

Think about the name El Shaddai for a few minutes; it means he is the All Sufficient One. He is the source of all blessings. There are no problems too big for El Shaddai to handle.



Sometimes it is easier to believe that God created the heavens and earth than to believe he can keep a promise he made us. If you received a promise from God that he would move on your behalf, don't give up hope. What promise from God are you waiting on? _____

What has God promised those who follow Him? _____

Abram needed to know God as El Shaddai in order to remain steadfast believing that God would do everything he had promised. As a constant reminder of God's promises to come, he changed his name to Abraham, which means father of a multitude or father of many nations. What would this require if Abraham was going to continue to walk in obedience? _____

DAY TWO

Let's spend some time today looking at a few other instances where the name El Shaddai is seen in Scripture.

Genesis 28:1-4

So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him. Then he commanded him: "Do not marry a Canaanite woman. 2 Go at once to Paddan Aram, to the house of your mother's father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. 3 May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples. 4 May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now reside as a foreigner, the land God gave to Abraham."

In Genesis 28:1-4, we find Isaac blessing his son Jacob and sending him to choose a wife from his kindred. Isaac and Rebekah do not want Jacob to choose a wife of the Hittite women, as his brother Esau had done. Notice the name of God Isaac uses when praying a blessing on Jacob. What is he clearly saying to Jacob? _____

What is he clearly saying to Esau? _____

List the blessings this prayer held for Jacob. _____

Read Genesis 35:1-13 to see God's covenant conversation with Jacob after he has returned.

Then God said to Jacob, "Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau." 2 So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes. 3 Then come, let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone." 4 So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had and

the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak at Shechem. 5 Then they set out, and the terror of God fell on the towns all around them so that no one pursued them. 6 Jacob and all the people with him came to Luz (that is, Bethel) in the land of Canaan. 7 There he built an altar, and he called the place El Bethel, because it was there that God revealed himself to him when he was fleeing from his brother. 8 Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died and was buried under the oak outside Bethel. So it was named Allon Bakuth. 9 After Jacob returned from Paddan Aram, God appeared to him again and blessed him. 10 God said to him, "Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel." So he named him Israel. 11 And God said to him, "I am God Almighty; be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will be among your descendants. 12 The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you." 13 Then God went up from him at the place where he had talked with him.

In Genesis 35, Jacob has returned after many years away. His relationship with Esau has been restored, and he is living in the land God promised to Abraham.

Underline the change God declared concerning Jacob in verse 10?

How important do you think this change was to Jacob? What did this change mean?

When he spoke to Jacob what name did God use to identify himself? _____

Now it is not only the prayer of his father Isaac, but it is the declared blessing of God. What did God promise Jacob? _____

Read Exodus 6:1-7. Many years and generations have passed, the children of Israel are now the great nation God had promised Abraham. Sadly, the children of Israel have been suffering under the bonage of the Egyptians for many years, and they cried out to God, and He sent them a deliverer, Moses.

Exodus 6:1-7

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country." 2 God also said to Moses, "I am the LORD. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself fully known to them. 4 I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they resided as foreigners. 5 Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant. 6 "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. 7 I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.

The LORD spoke to Moses and told him, "I revealed myself to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as _____."

The LORD goes on to say that he is about to reveal himself to Moses in a new way. We discussed this in our first lesson, it is the name Jehovah. It is written in all caps; Jehovah means the Self-Existent One. He needs no other. Who is He? He is "I AM." He never changes. His promises never fail. He is faithful and we need to obey Him.

The names of God represent the different character qualities and attributes of God as he revealed himself to men and women. After studying these two names, El Shaddai and Jehovah, what differences do you see in these two names? _____

DAY THREE

The apostle Paul mentions Abraham's great faith in his letter to the believers at Rome.

Read Romans 4:19-22 TPT

In spite of being nearly one hundred years old when the promise of having a son was made, his faith was so strong that it could not be undermined by the fact that he and Sarah were incapable of conceiving a child. 20–21 He never stopped believing God's promise, for he was made strong in his faith to father a child. And because he was mighty in faith and convinced that God had all the power needed to fulfill his promises, Abraham glorified God! 22 So now you can see why Abraham's faith was credited to his account as righteousness before God. TPT

It is wonderful to read about Abraham's great faith, but we too need to experience God as El Shaddai. Just as God spoke to Abraham and said, "walk before me and be blameless." He is calling us to this same life. This is the abundant life Jesus spoke of in John 10:10 saying, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

This is a life God can bless. In John 14:23, Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

Would you say you are living the "abundant life?" _____

You might want to take a few minutes and consider what an "abundant life" looks like that Jesus was talking about. How is your life richer and fuller with Jesus? _____

Do you find comfort and peace even in times of difficulty and trials? _____

Read 2 Peter 1:3-4 TPT.

Everything we could ever need for life and complete devotion to God has already been deposited in us by his divine power. For all this was lavished upon us through the rich experience of knowing him who has called us by name and invited us to come to him through a glorious manifestation of his goodness. 4 As a result of this, he has given you magnificent promises that are beyond all price, so that through the power of these tremendous promises you can experience partnership with the divine nature, by which you have escaped the corrupt desires that are of the world.

What has God promised those who follow Him? _____

What are some signs that God truly is El Shaddai in your life? _____

DAY FOUR

In what ways are you teaching your children to look to El Shaddai? _____

The next time your children have a need, why not join them in asking El Shaddai to meet that need. You will then raise a child who does not look to mom and dad to meet their needs but to their heavenly Father.

What problem or challenge are you currently facing that you need to take to your All-Sufficient One, El Shaddai? _____

Psalm 91:1 says, "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty." This should be a picture of our trust—trading all our fears for faith in him, no matter how intense our fears. To do this we must "dwell" and "rest" in him. Why not stop and pray right now and allow El Shaddai to comfort your heart and give you peace knowing there are no problems that are too difficult for him to handle?

DAY FIVE

"El" is translated as "God" and can be used in conjunction with other words to designate various aspects of God's character. The Hebrew word Shaddai is derived from the Hebrew word - shad, meaning "breast." This refers to God completely nourishing, satisfying and supplying His people with all their needs as a mother would her child. Connected with the word for God, El, this denotes a God who freely gives nourishment and blessing, He is our sustainer. Write the meaning for the names below.

Jehovah -

Elohim -

El Elyon -

El Roi -

El Shaddai -

Are you looking for comfort, direction or provision in someone or something other than El Shaddai, God Almighty? _____ Most of us would say yes, we each might have something different we have tried in order to fill the voids of our life. How sufficient are the various sources you have tried? Has trusting something other than El Shaddai left you lacking?

Why not take a minute to talk to the One who loves you more than anyone else? Talk to your heavenly Father—He is longing to meet your need.

Isaiah the prophet speaks about all the foolish things people put their trust in that leave them empty, and then he extends the invitation to turn to the LORD in Isaiah 30:18 (TPT version) when he says, "For this reason the Lord is still waiting to show his favor to you so he can show you his marvelous love. He waits to be gracious to you. He sits on his throne ready to show mercy to you. For Yahweh (Jehovah) is the LORD of justice, faithful to keep his promises. Overwhelmed with bliss are all who will entwine their hearts in him, waiting for him to help them."

The Lord gave very clear instructions to Abram in Genesis 17:1, "Walk before me and be blameless." Do you believe this is God's call for you? What will this look like in your life? _____