

El Shaddai

God's first revealed name in Scripture is El Shaddai, God Almighty.

You learned that the name Elohim means God and it's the plural form of El. With Shaddai, we have a compound word: sha, meaning, who and dai, meaning, sufficient.

From that we conclude that El Shaddai means God is sufficient or the All Sufficient One. It comes across more easily in English as God Almighty.

In the early days of Israel's history they knew of God only as El Shaddai.

God also said to Moses, "I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. Exodus 6:2-3 (NIV)

Notice the way LORD is written in all caps and the "ORD" in smaller size. That's the name Yahweh. That's the personal name of God and it appears as LORD over 6800 times in Scripture but the first revealed name of God is El Shaddai.

A better way to understand this name of God is to look at the use of El Shaddai. It does occur several times in Genesis and there is a pattern. This name appears in Genesis in connection with an impossible promise that God made and God keeps.

Genesis 17:1-8 – Abraham is promised a land, a nation and a blessing.

There are some challenges to this promise – When El Shaddai, God Almighty, makes this promise, Abraham and Sarah are old and past the time of child-bearing and the promise remains unfulfilled. God is intentionally making it hard so that when the promise is fulfilled the glory will go to God.

Abraham's response to God's delay reveals his struggle to wait on God. There are three possible responses mentioned in this message:

God's will, God's way –

God's will, my way –

God's will, the hard way -

Notice in Gen 17:3-5, God changes Abram's name to Abraham, father of many, *before* the promise is fulfilled. When El Shaddai, God Almighty makes a promise, it's as good as done.

When God wanted to do the impossible and build a nation out of one old very old couple, He revealed Himself as El Shaddai., God Almighty.

When you pray to El Shaddai, God Almighty, you praying to the God who can do all that He pleases. Nothing is outside of His reach.

This week ---