



Kingdom Center - JUSTIN HERNANDEZ

El Shaddai (Lord God Almighty)

I. Introduction

- A. The Book of Genesis is where we discover one of the more well-known names of God— El Shaddai
 - 1. It is a powerful compound connection of El (God) and Shaddai (almighty, sufficient)
 - Together as El Shaddai, the name appears seven times in the Old Testament, yet God is also referenced solely as Shaddai another 41 Times
- B. We are introduced to this name in Genesis 17, when Abraham (at the time still called Abram) receives a visit from the Lord.
 - Genesis 17:1-2
 - 1. God introduces himself to Abram as El Shaddai in the context of a covenant.
 - This covenant is a formal, official agreement that God makes with us. All who have trusted in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior have entered into what is called a “New Covenant”
 - Jesus spoke on this when He instituted the Lord’s supper (1 Corinthians 11:25)
 - 2. The fact that El Shaddai is introduced to us in the context of God’s covenant is no small thing.
 - God takes His covenant seriously. It’s very important to keep that in mind as we explore this name further.
 - We are originally exposed to God’s covenant some 25 years earlier in Genesis 12. This is when God established the essence of His agreement with Abram.
 - Genesis 12:1-4

II. Into Covenant

- A. God first brings Abram into covenant with Him when he was 75 years old. That is the age when God told Abram that He had a special plan for him and a special blessing.
 - 1. In fact, God’s Covenant always involves blessing. A blessing is God’s favor expressed to you and through you to others to bring Him the glory.



- A blessing is never only what God does to you. A blessing needs to come full circle in order to truly be a blessing.
 - A blessing is what God does to you so that it might flow through you to others.
 - When God told Abram He was going to bless him, it wasn't merely a promise to bring about good things in Abram's life
 - Rather, He said He would bring about good to Abram and "make him a great nation" so that "all the families of the earth will be blessed."
- 2. God would begin to make Abram into a great nation by giving him an heir
 - Fast-forward a few years, and Abram has begun to doubt that this promise will ever come to fruition
 - He questions God in Genesis 15:2-4
 - In other words, Abram assumes that since God hasn't given him an offspring, the heir that God intends to use to fulfill the promise of making him a great nation would be someone born in his house instead.
 - God responded quickly and concisely to Abram that the heir would indeed come from his own body.
- 3. It is funny how our finite minds still cannot understand things. This new information, rather than reinforcing Abram's faith in the all-powerful God, sent him looking for Sarai to find another solution.
- B. Tired of waiting on God, Abram and Sarai decided to take matters into their own hands. Because they were childless, Sarai decided to "help God out".
 1. She created a plan for Abram to sleep with Hagar in a man-made assistance program in hopes of obtaining the promise.
 - In their minds, God was moving way too slow. Not only that, but Sarai also blamed God Himself for not fulfilling the promise when she said "The LORD has prevented me from bearing children"
 2. God introduces His name El Shaddai to Abram 25 years after the promise was first given. Both Abram and Sarai had become old and undoubtedly weary
 - They had tried their own methods in an attempt to help God out, but nothing positive had come out of it.
- C. As you recall, El is the singular form of Elohim. Elohim is the name given in Genesis 1:1 that reveals God as the all-powerful Creator God.
 1. The name Shaddai comes from the root word Shad, which literally means "breast". The prophet Isaiah draws on this word picture
 - Isaiah 60:15-16



- Isaiah 66:10-12
- 2. What was Abram and Sarai's problem? They couldn't produce life. She was barren, they had no children. So how could God's promise— which was entirely contingent upon Sarai having a baby— be fulfilled when she had no capacity for new life?
 - This also happens to us. Have you ever felt your own inability to produce what you believed God has promised you ?
 - This is exactly why God reminded us that He is the Creator God who can create something out of nothing and sustain life on His own. He is EL Shaddai
 - Hebrews 11:3
 - God will work it out, you do not have to figure it out. God has got it.
- 3. God does not need human methodology to help facilitate a divine plan
 - Abram and Sarai's motivation was probably good, but they went outside of God's plan to try and fulfill what God had promised.

III. Abram's New Name

A. Genesis 17:2

1. God says to Abram, and this time without hesitation, Abram falls on his face before God. Sometimes that is all you can do. You can't explain it. You can't understand it, but you can believe what God is telling you.
 - After hearing the name EL Shaddai, Abram fell on his face before the God who can create life and sustain it.
 - Keep in mind that Abram is 99 years old at this time and Sarai has not been able to conceive.
2. In Psalm 91, with just two verses we get a glimpse of four names of God
 - Psalm 91:1-2
 - In essence, it's all about where you hangout. If you dwell with God "in the shelter of the Almighty" He will do his thing in your life.
 - Jesus gave us the same exhortation in John 15:5
3. Just as a baby can't demand to be fed in a crib all alone, but will receive nourishing life that he or she needs only when abiding close to his or her mom.
 - We receive all we need from God. The manifestation of His promise in us is found in the place of abiding.

