

July 27th 2008: Names of God: El Shaddai. Genesis 17:1-22. Exodus 6:3

I remember some years ago.....song by Amy Grant.....El-Shaddai

Struck me then.....As one of the most beautiful sounding names for God

It is a two part Name

El.....shortened form of Elohim

Shaddai.....which stands on its own as a name.....**Translated as Almighty**

- **Shaddai on its own.....as a Name for God.....is found 41 times**
While the compound name →El Shaddai....only appears 7 times

In 3 of those 7.....it is God proclaims it as belonging to Himself...Him alone
→first to Abraham.....Then to Jacob.....Then to Moses

When He speaks to Moses.....God is reminding Moses of the revelation of Himself
That He has already given His people;Exodus 6:3

I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty,

- **That revelation to Abraham is recorded in Genesis 17:1**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty ; walk before me and be blameless.

Abram already knew that his God was Elohim

But because of what... about to face.....God knew ..He needed to know more than that
He needed to know that His God was also EL Shaddai.....

- **So what was Abram facing here ??**

Well God was about to change Abram's name to Abraham

Which means father of many.....yet he was 99.....wife Sarah was 90

- **God was also about to tell him.....that Sarah at 90....would have a child**
And that God's promise to Abraham.....That his descendants would become
Would come true through this child

- **How could this impossible thing happen.....Easy!!....says God**

Because my name is **El Shaddai**.....The God of the impossible.....Almighty One

The next time we find God using this name is in Genesis 35:11...to Jacob
Once again a name change is involved

As God confirms that the old name which meant ---schemer is gone
New name is Israel

Once again a wonderful promise is expressed:

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 come from your body. 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."

Here is a promise...that only El Shaddai.... God Almighty.....can bring to fruition

So the extrathat this name →El Shaddai tells us about our God
Is that He is prepared and able...to do the imposs...Even to change course of nature
 For the sake of His chosen people...**those He loves**

- **And that He is a God who keeps all His promises**.....Cares deeply.....
 Who provides daily.....and works great changes....in accordance with the new name

- **And it is also as El Shaddai**....that He calls us to do our part
 To walk before Him.....and seek to live lives that are blameless.....

- **But perhaps this morning you are conscious of thinking**
 Well that's all well and good.....
But if God is indeed all that the name...El Shaddai suggests.....Why is it that bad things

The interesting thing about such a thought....is that we find Job voicing... same
About the name Shaddai.....back in the book of Job

As I mentioned earlier.....Shaddai stands alone...some 41 times....as a name for God

- **31 of those times we find it in the book of Job**
 where Job and his friends both use it.....**Most...familiar with Job's story**.....

In fact.....it's Eliphaz

Who first introduces this title for God in 5:8.....when he says

*"Blessed is the man whom God corrects;
so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.*

And then he follows....with a description of all the wonderful things that the Almighty Shaddai does.....for those who trust

**Job responds to him in 6:4 by saying.....I trust Him.....I walk in His ways....
YET.....the arrows of the Almighty.....you speak so highly of.....are at present in me**

**Throughout the rest of the book...each one of Job's advisors argues....for the Almighty
He can't possibly let you down.....So therefore you must have sinned**

**Job's reaction....is to turn to his friends.....and to declare that he has done no sin
No wickedness.....that could merit these bad things**

**And then Job addresses God.....and basically says
You have given us this name for Yourself.....Shaddai.....Almighty
With all that such a name promises.....for those who follow**

**How come then.....you are allowing all these bad.....to continuously happen to me
When I have sought always to be just and righteous**

**IT just doesn't add up.....Your Name is SHADDAI
Why aren't you living up to it?**

- **And then in 40:2 God responds:**
"Will the one who contends with Shaddai correct Him?

**God then shows..... problem that Job had... & his advisors had in an even worst way
Was in their belief.....that because all these bad things were happening
God was obviously not living up to His name**

- **He was not being the Almighty one to Job**
He was not being there for Job.....Not looking after him.....Not preserving him

So God describes His immense power.....

His majesty as shown in all He has made and controls.....

And how as God He will always be Almighty ...Can't not be Almighty

- **That despite what Job**....because of His earthly situation....may dare to think **God has** never deserted Him(unable to).....**But has** always preserved his soul

- **For Job with His earthly and limited understanding**

Can never expect to understand the workings of the Almighty....in his life..others

But because God is all he says He is.....Job doesn't need to
God has revealed enough of Himself.....for man to trust Him as the Shaddai always

And especially to keep doing so....even when the sufferings of this life...seem contradict

And its here that this name of God.....contains such a special meaning for us
Because we too are troubled.....by what we sometimes see as unanswered prayer
Unexplainable sufferinglives of those who God loves

- **When God gave us this name**.....

.He was declaring Himself as a God who is for eternity the Almighty One.....

He will not allow Himself to be anything else

Unable to break His promises to take care of us

By this name He commits Himself.....to preserving our souls.....against all

- **Consequently.....when circumstances force us to live on the edge**

When things happen that we cannot understand or comprehend

It's this name for God that says.....Trust me

- **We will never on this earth....fully understand God's ways**

But by faith we can always be assured.....

That He has promised to always be our El Shaddai.....

A Promise He will Never Break

