

**July 27<sup>th</sup> 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 descendents 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 extra** ....that 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 suffering** .....lives 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**

