

God Almighty

EI (God) - Shaddai (Almighty) = "God Almighty."
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I. Introduction: (From Foundations of Pentecostal Theology; by Duffield & Van Cleave)

Webster defines "name" as "that by which a person or thing is known."

The Hebrews thought of names as being revelatory, as disclosing some attribute or characteristic of the person named. For instance, the name "Adam" means "of the earth" or "taken out of the red earth"; his name revealed his origin.

A number of names for God are found in the Scriptures, for no one name, or even multiplicity of names, can reveal all His Attributes. But, we need only know God's Attributes to the extent that He is pleased to reveal them, and those that pertain to the relationships we have with Him.

It is assuring to know that there is some relationship with God, revealed by one of His names, that corresponds to every need of His children. It is the goal of theology to define, as far as possible, what those relationships are. The study of the names of God will significantly help us to attain that goal.

II. Definition:

A. EI-Shaddai - "The Almighty God"

- the all-powerful, all-powerful One;
- totally self-sufficient, all-sufficient;
- transcendent;
- absolute ruler, sovereign ruler;
- the One who can and does make final disposition.

This is the generally accepted meaning of EI Shadai.

God Almighty is used only seven times in the Scriptures.
(Gen 17:1; 28:3; 35:11; 43:14; 48:3; Ex 6:3; Ez 10:5).

B. Shaddai = Almighty

Is used 41 times as follows:

in Job 30 times (Job 5:17; 6:4, 14; 8:3, 5; 11:7; 13:3; 15:25; 21:15, 20; 22:3, 17, 23, 25, 26;
23:16; 24:1; 27:2, 10, 11, 13; 29:5; 31:2, 35; 32:8; 33:4, 10, 12; 35:13; 37:23; 40:2)

elsewhere 11 times (Gen 49:25; Nu 24:4, 16; Ru 1:20, 21; Ps 68:14; 91:1; Isa 13:6;
Eze 1:24; 10:5; Joel 1:15)

There are differences as to the exact meaning of this term:

1. It is a derivative from a related word which means "mountain" and pictures God as the overpowering almighty one standing on a mountain.
The emphasis derived from this name is God's Omnipotence.
"The God of the mountains" or "God almighty"
2. It's root is "shad"; meaning "breast," consequently a metaphor of the God who nourishes, supplies, satisfies; Giving to the Divine name the meaning of "The Satisfier" or "All Sufficient One."
3. Shaddai is a composite term of sha ("the one who") and dai ("is sufficient").

4. Shaddai is derived from the verb shadad ("to overpower, to deal violently, or to devastate").

5. Berkhof (Systematic Theology) points out that whereas God as El Shaddai is indeed presented as the all-powerful One who overpowers nature, the name, where it occurs in the Bible, does not present God as an object of fear or terror, but rather as a source of blessing and comfort.

C. Notes

1. **The Septuagint** (the Greek translation of the Old Testament) translates 'El Shaddai as Pantokrator, the "All-Ruler" or "Sovereign One."

2. **shaddai** appeared in Hebrew personal names such as:
Zurishaddai (Nu 1:6) = Rock of the Almighty; whose Almighty is the Rock; the Almighty is a Rock; my Rock is almighty.

Ammishaddai (Nu 1:12) = People of the Almighty; (root = {has concept of strength} most powerful; to be strong; to act violently; to lay waste). An ally is the Almighty.

II. How El-Shaddai is used:

A. Abraham - First mentioned principal

The earliest Old Testament appearance is in Gen 17:1, where "God" identifies Himself as "God Almighty" to Abraham.

Gen 17:1 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless."

Note:

The Abrahamic covenant was marked by a degree of closeness between "God" and the human participants that was distinctive in Hebrew history. "God Almighty" revealed Himself as a powerful deity who was able to perform whatever He asserted.

But the degree of intimacy between El Shaddai and the patriarchs at various stages shows that the covenant involved God's care and love for this growing family that He had chosen, protected, and prospered.

He led the covenant family from place to place, being obviously present with them at all times.

He demanded a degree of obedience that would enable Abraham and his descendants to walk in His presence, and live blameless moral and spiritual lives Gen 17:1.

B. Moses

El Shaddai served as the name for "God," until the time of Moses (Gen 17:1; 28:3; 35:11; 43:14; 48:3). when a further revelation took place. In the early Mosaic era, the new redemptive name of "God" and the formulation of the Sinai covenant made El Shaddai largely obsolete as a designation of deity.

Ex 6:3 and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty , but by My name, LORD, (Jehovah) I did not make Myself known to the

C. El Shaddai and suffering - the chastening of God's people.

1) It is used 31 times in the book of Job as follows:

by Eliphaz - Job 5:17; 15:25; 22:3, 17; 22:23, 25, 26

by Bildad - Job 8:3, 5

by Zophar - Job 11:7

by Job - Job 6:4, 16; 13:3; 21:15, 20; 23:16; 24:1; 27:2, 10, 11, 13; 29:5; 31:2, 35

by Elihu - Job 32:8; 33:4; 34:12; 35:13; 37:23

by the LORD - Job 40:2

2) It is also used twice in the book of Ruth by Naomi.

Ru 1:20, She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty (Shaddai) has dealt very bitterly with me.

Ru 1:21 "I went out full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has witnessed against me and the Almighty (Shaddai) has afflicted me?"

3) Is used by the prophets in connection with judgment and the "day of the Lord".

Isa 13:6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

Joel 1:15 Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, And it will come as destruction from the Almighty.

D. David: David uses Shaddai for blessing

Ps 68:14 When the Almighty(Shaddai) scattered the kings there, It was snowing in Zalmon.

Ps 91:1; 1-2He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty (Shaddai) 2 I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!"

III. Application - He is the God who:

A. He keeps covenant

Ne 9:32 "Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness,

Dt 7:9 "Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

1 Ki 8:23 He said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing lovingkindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart,

Dan 9:4 I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed and said, "Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments,

Mic 7:18-20 Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. You will give truth to Jacob and unchanging love to Abraham, which You swore to our forefathers from the days of old.

B. He gives discipline

Heb 12:3-13 the discipline of the Lord

3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. 4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; 5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; 6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." 7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline ? 8 But if you are without discipline , of which all have become partakers, then you

are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. 11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. 12 Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

Dt 8:5 Thus you are to know in your heart that the LORD your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son.

1 Co 11:31-32 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

Pr 3:12 For whom the LORD loves He reproveth, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.

2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

Ps 94:12 Blessed is the man whom You chasten, O LORD, and whom You teach out of Your law;

Ps 118:18 The LORD has disciplined me severely, but He has not given me over to death.

Rev 3:19 "Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.

C. He gives Protection

1 Pt 1:5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Ps 41:1-3 The LORD will deliver him in a day of trouble. The LORD will protect him and keep him alive, and he shall be called blessed upon the earth; and do not give him over to the desire of his enemies. The LORD will sustain him upon his sickbed; in his illness, You restore him to health.

Ps 121:5-8 The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun will not smite you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. The LORD will guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever.

2 Thes 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. C

The following References were used in this study:

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