

## Homework - Week 2

### El-Shaddai

#### *God Almighty, All-Sufficient One*

When I hear the name El-Shaddai, the first thing that comes to mind is the song by Amy Grant. And if you were in or around church in the 80's, you will immediately identify! While many of us may be familiar with this particular name of God, I think you will be encouraged and challenged as we dive into its rich meaning and application found throughout Scripture.

#### **Observe It**

The first mention we find of the name El-Shaddai is in Genesis 17:1. Read Genesis 17:1-8 and record your observations about the passage. Don't just skim through the verses, but take time to read and discover what it says.

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

Why:

How:

This particular passage was not the first time that God had made promises to Abraham. Record the promises given in the following Scriptures:

Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 13:16

Genesis 15:1-6

Notice the passage of time from when God first made the promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:4) to the promise we are looking at today (Genesis 17:1). How many years have passed?

That is a long time to wait for God's promise to be fulfilled! I don't know about you, but I tend to get antsy when promises don't see some action in what I deem to be a "reasonable" time. Read Genesis 16 and record what happens while Abraham and Sarah are waiting for God's promise to be fulfilled.

All of this history is crucial if we are going to fully grasp the magnitude of God's revelation as El Shaddai. The name El Shaddai is most often translated as "God Almighty" and occurs 48 times in Scripture. Hebrew scholars have also translated it as "God All-Sufficient;" signifying the one who nourishes, supplies, and satisfies. In fact, a very similar Hebrew word (*shad*) is translated as "breast" 24 times in the Old Testament. (see Isaiah 60:15-16 and Isaiah 66:10-13) In Nathan Stone's book, *Names of God*, he says El-Shaddai is "understood as that El who is all-sufficient and all-bountiful, the source of all blessing and fullness and fruitfulness."<sup>1</sup>

Look at the following passages and identify what is connected with El-Shaddai (God Almighty):

Genesis 28:3

Genesis 35:11

Genesis 48:3-4

Genesis 49:24-25

Another reference to Shaddai is Psalm 91:1 which says "*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.*" In the Spirit Filled Life Bible, there is a footnote that says Almighty (Shaddai) is believed to come from two participles meaning "the all-sufficient God, eternally capable of being all that His people need." What incredible comfort there is in knowing that we serve a God who can meet any and every need we will ever have. Not only does He have the power and means to meet all of our needs, but He delights in pouring out on us!

### **Experience It**

In Genesis 17, why do you think God revealed Himself to Abraham as El-Shaddai (God Almighty / The All-Sufficient One)?

In order for Abraham and Sarah to fully understand and experience God as the All-Sufficient One, they had to come to a place of recognizing their insufficiency. There was no way they could fulfill God's promises and plan in their own strength. Unfortunately, their attempts to "make it happen" resulted in

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<sup>1</sup> Nathan Stone, *Names of God*, 54

frustration and pain for not only themselves but future generations. Isn't that so often the case for us as well?

Can you think of a time in your life when you recognized your insufficiency and experienced God as El-Shaddai? What did that look like? On the contrary, maybe your attempts to be self-sufficient kept you from experiencing God in this way? Explain.

Is there a specific area/circumstance in your life where you need to experience God as El-Shaddai? Are you struggling to believe that He truly is All-Sufficient for your circumstance right now? Explain.

### **Express It**

If we believe the truth that God is El-Shaddai (powerful, mighty, and all-sufficient), we will express that in the way we live. For example, it should affect the way we pray and the way we respond to situations. Looking at your life, how can you specifically apply this truth? Be specific!

While we obviously cannot be all-sufficient to the people around us, there are times when God uses us to practically meet the needs of others. We become conduits of the blessings that God has given us, and He in turn uses us to bless others. This can be a beautiful reflection of El-Shaddai, the source of all blessing and fullness and fruitfulness. Is there a specific way you can reflect El-Shaddai in your circle of influence? Be specific!

### **Pray It**

Spend some time praying about what you learned in your study of El-Shaddai. Ask God to increase your understanding and experience of this part of His character.

## **Jehovah-Jireh** *The Lord Will Provide*

Provision. We have all found ourselves in a place where we desperately needed provision. I don't think it would be a stretch to say that our need for provision probably drives us to our knees in prayer more than any other request. One of the most familiar stories in the Old Testament is the backdrop for this particular name of God.

### **Observe It**

The name Jehovah-Jireh is found once in the Old Testament in Genesis 22:14.

Read Genesis 22 and record your observations below:

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

Why:

How:

What questions do you have about the passage? What do you not understand? *(Don't be afraid to ask questions! Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand. Do some research, look up cross-references, and read some commentaries. You never know what treasure you might discover as you seek God for further understanding and clarity about His Word.)*

Context and background is vitally important when studying Scripture. Read the following Scriptures and record how each passage sheds additional insight into this particular story:

Genesis 15:1-6

Genesis 21:1-6

Romans 4:18-22

While the specific name Jehovah-Jireh is not used in the New Testament, there are a number of Scriptures that reference God as our provider. Read the passages below and record what they say about God and His provision:

Philippians 4:10-20

Ephesians 3:14-21

Matthew 6:25-34

II Peter 1:2-4

### **Experience It**

In Genesis 22, how did Abraham personally experience God as Jehovah-Jireh?

Can you think of a time in your life when you experienced God as Jehovah-Jireh? In what specific ways did He provide?

Is there a specific area/circumstance in your life where you need to experience God as Jehovah-Jireh? Explain.

### **Express It**

What are one or two personal applications you can make in your life based on the Scriptures you have read about Jehovah-Jireh? Be specific!

As God's children created in His image, we are called to reflect His character. How can you reflect this specific part of God's character in your own life and with those around you? Be specific!

### **Pray It**

Spend some time praying about what you learned in your study of Jehovah-Jireh. Ask God to increase your understanding and experience of this part of His character, and pray that He would give you wisdom to know how to express it to those around you.