

El Shaddai

(All-Sufficient One, Lord God Almighty)

First time used in the Bible: Genesis 17, verse 1.

"And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I [am] the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect."

Other uses: Genesis 35, verses 11 and 12

"And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins; 12 And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land."

INFORMATION

"El" simply means God, and in the Bible it is often combined with other words, such as Shaddai to highlight specific characteristics of God. God chose to introduce himself to Abram as El Shaddai; the all sufficient one, the Lord God Almighty. Why might this be? Consider what God is telling Abram to do; walk before him and be perfect. What a challenge! If only we could walk before God and be perfect. God is telling Abram that his instruction to be perfect is backed up by the All Sufficient, Almighty God. (The exchanges between God and Abram are an interesting read in and of itself and something that everyone should study at some point.) God was considerate of Abram's circumstances, considerate of his humanity, and considerate of his fallen nature; while, at the same time, not condoning of it. God's conversational tone with Abram/Abraham is consistently friendly and approachable. In this case, he presents a challenge and provides the means of meeting this challenge.

WHAT IT MEANS TO OUR FAMILY

We believe in, follow, worship and pray to the one and only God; he is not like other gods for He is the Lord God Almighty. Almighty means that He is All-Powerful. There is nothing that is too great for our God. We have nothing to fear when we trust in Him. We can also take solace in knowing that he is the All Sufficient One. Without Him, the challenge of living as a Christian is too great; however, with His help, there is no challenge that is insurmountable.

Relevant Passages

Genesis 28:3-4

And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; 4 And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.

Exodus 6:2-4

And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the Lord: 3 And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them. 4 And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers.

Job 13:3

Surely I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Revelation 16:7

And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

Additional Thoughts

The word “Almighty” appears more frequently in the book of Job than in any other book of the Bible. Consider Job’s experiences and suffering and that his afflictions were permitted by (not caused by) the Almighty God. Also consider, that God, who is Almighty God, circumscribed the suffering of Job and did not permit Satan to destroy Job by taking his life. God also spoke with Job declaring who He is and his sovereignty, yet graciously restoring Job to fullness of health and restoring his wealth and giving him a new family. God was Almighty over Job, over Satan, over all mankind, over all creation!