

THE GOD WHO IS ENOUGH

"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. And I will make my covenant between me and you." (Gen. 17:1)
 (See also 35:11 and Ex. 6:2-3)

What would you think of a ninety-nine year old man today who said God had spoken to him commanding him to go all the way across this continent and start a new life without knowing exactly where he was going or what he was going to do when he got there?

Would you think he was quite foolish?

You might have reason to think so except for one thing. You must consider not only the old man, but the man's God. If this God is a figment of his disturbed imagination, that's one thing.

But if he is indeed God Almighty, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that's another thing.

To be precise, the Hebrew name for God Almighty is "El Shaddai." This expression has several shades of meaning, but one of the most basic meanings is "the all-sufficient God."

I. He is so called because he NOURISHES his people.

A. Consider how he nourished the Israelites, according to Genesis 45:11: "And there I will provide for you ... lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty."

This comes from the story of Joseph in Egypt, the Prime Minister of the greatest civilization of his day, presiding in splendor over a land of plenty, the bread-basket of the world, while poverty reigns in Canaan and all the surrounding countries.

B. El Shaddai is the all-sufficient God who provides for and nourishes his people in a time of poverty and need.

C. He can nourish his children with physical food.

1. Elijah fed by the ravens.

2. "We have had ENOUGH to eat and have left plenty" (2 Chron. 31:10).

This was during a time of spiritual revival under King Hezekiah, who re-instituted the observance of the Passover, and the temple sacrifices, offerings, and worship of El Shaddai.

"El" - the general word for "God"
in Heb. & other Semitic lang.,
such as Akkadian, Phoenician,
and some Arabic Dialects

Heb. combinations with "El" in the O.T.:
"The all-sufficient God"

1. El Shaddai - "God almighty"
2. El Elyon - "Exalted One"
3. El Eiam - "The Everlasting God"
4. El Bethel - The God of Bethel
5. El Roi - The God who sees me,
or the God of Vision,
= the God of Prophecy-
6. El Berith - God of the Covenant
7. El Elohe-Israel - God, the
God of Israel.

(see I.D.B. Vol. II, p. 412)

When the good King asked his Chief Priest Azariah how things were going, the answer was: "Since [the people] began to bring the contributions into the house of the LORD we have eaten and had ENOUGH and have plenty left; for the LORD has blessed his people, so that we have this great store left." Isn't that just like God? He blesses and blesses until there is more than enough!

D. He nourishes his church with spiritual food.

1. Eph. 5:29, "for no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it as Christ does the Church, because we are members of his body."

2. I Tim. 4:6, Christians are to be "nourished up in words of faith and doctrine."

E. God our Father is "El Shaddai" - "the strength-giver."

II. He is called "El Shaddai." moreover, because He SATISFIES his people.

He is the all-sufficient God who satisfies.

A. Blessings from heaven.

Malachai 3:10, "there shall not be room enough to receive it."

B. Ps. 41:16, "With long life will I SATISFY him and show him my salvation."

C. Ps. 17:15, "I shall be satisfied when I awake with thy likeness."

D. God pours Himself into believing lives.

III. He is El Shaddai, the God who is enough, because he ENRICHES his people.

A. I Cor. 1:5, "In every thing ye are enriched by Him."

B. Exod. 36:5, "The people bring much MORE THAN ENOUGH for the work" of building God's sanctuary in the time of Moses, so that the people had to be "restrained from bringing" their contributions! Would to God those days would return in our time!

I believe they will return!

IV. God is El Shadai, because he makes FRUITFUL.

A. He Himself is a fruitful, creative God.

B. In the case of Abraham, this was part of God's promise to him: "I will make you exceedingly fruitful" ... "the father of a multitude of nations"; "I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you" (Gen. 17:6).

C. God can make Christians "fruitful in every good work."

V. God is El Shaddai because he is also the God who brings CHASTENING in connection with fruit-bearing and spiritual growth.

A. This name of God, El Shaddai, is used 31 times in the book of Job.

In Job 5:17-25 we learn how God purifies and refines his children: "Happy is the man whom God reproves; therefore despise not the chastening of the Almighty." Throughout the believer's life he or she experiences both the wounding and healing hands of the Almighty; he corrects and disciplines us for our good and for his glory, and we have the assurance that we come to our grave in ripe old age, peacefully and triumphantly, like "a shock of grain comes up to the threshing floor in its season."

B. Christ purges or prunes the branches on his vines that they may bring forth more fruit (Jn. 15:2).

C. Heb. 12:10 - God chastens us for our profit.

VI. God is called El Shaddai, the God who is ENOUGH, because he is Almighty or supremely powerful.

A. The resources of the earth and sun are not inexhaustible.

B. All mines are eventually emptied.

All material things shall eventually pass away.

The Bible agrees with this: "Heaven and earth shall pass away." The Word of God shall not pass away, but the material elements of heaven and earth, of our galaxy, The Milky Way, and all other galaxies in space, even those too far away to see with even the most powerful telescopes, shall eventually pass away. They are not eternal.

Only El Shaddai is almighty and eternal.

The Rocks our astronauts brought back from the moon, are dated by radioactivity and estimated to be between 4 & 3 billion yrs. old.

But they are not eternal.
they had a beginning, and
they will have an end.
Only God is eternal.

He alone is beyond time and space and the cosmos;
He created it all; He is above it all.

It was not some mysterious "Big Bang" which accounts for the beginning of the universe.

The physicists who propose this hypothesis, are correct in only one primary respect -- that the universe did indeed have a sudden and dramatic point of origin.

But it came into being through the creative word and power of the Almighty God, not a "Big Bang."

Such a "Big Bang" would have left a chaos, not an orderly, well-designed, rational, comprehensible universe, which is ONE as the name suggests.

These qualities are the fingerprints of the Creator.

C. But God's treasury of blessing is ever rich; His store of power and energy is infinite.

This all-sufficient God who is ENOUGH is our very own loving Heavenly Father.

We can confidently say, "Our sufficiency is of God" (2 Cor. 3:6).

God is gracious enough to forgive all sin;
He is strong enough to strengthen our weakness;
He is loving enough to fill our heart with joy;
And He is big enough to meet our every need.

Mercutio when he is mortally wounded, in Romeo and Juliet, says of his wound that it is

..."not so wide as a church door,

Or so deep as a well,

But 'tis enough, 'twill serve."

So the wounds of Jesus may not be so wide or deep in human dimensions, but those blessed, sacrificial, loving wounds are more than enough to serve for the cleansing of every penitent sinner's stains, if they will only trust in him.

Let us all gladly surrender to this God who is El Shaddai, the all-sufficient God who is ENOUGH, and let us honor and serve him with all our hearts.

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