

Thursday Evening Bible Class. Name and Titles of God

Study No. 10 – El Shaddai

28th July 2022

Further to Brother Derek's introduction, we notice from the list of references he has given, that it is only in the revelation to the patriarchs, the Faithful Fathers; Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that God reveals himself by the Name 'El Shaddai'. Apart from Exodus 6:3, and Ezekiel 10:5, the term Shaddai is used, and not El Shaddai. Or in our English Bibles, The Almighty, as opposed to God Almighty. This is an important point, for it shows us the special relationship that God had with those with whom the Promises were made. Referring to the list that Brother Derek provided, we see that Exodus 6:3 states that God was known to the Fathers specially as El Shaddai, God Almighty.

Fruitfulness

To **Abraham** in Genesis 17:1, God explained his Title 'El Shaddai', and said walk before me and be perfect [or complete] God used this Title, when he told Abraham He would multiply his seed exceedingly. He would be very fruitful. **Isaac** also was familiar with this Title 'El Shaddai' as he used it in the blessing he gave to Jacob Genesis 28:3: *El Shaddai (God Almighty) bless you, and make you fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people.* **Jacob** also knew God as El Shaddai, as God revealed Himself in a dream at Peniel in 35:11: *And God said unto him, I am El Shaddai (God Almighty): be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee.* We begin to see the theme develop when we look at further passages Brother Derek highlighted: Genesis 48:3-4, and 49:25, where the Title is associated with Fruitfulness and increase in the Seed.

Affliction and Judgement

As we have said going forward, the rest of the times the Title is mentioned (except in Ezekiel 10:5) the prefix El is dropped, and just Shaddai (the Almighty) is used. Some instances can be looked at:

Numbers 24:16 Balaam the false prophet used by God saw the vision of the Almighty, ... *there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre*

shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

In Ruth 1:20,21, Naomi, Ruth's mother in law lamented ...*Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for Shaddai (the Almighty) hath dealt very bitterly with me...and Shaddai (the Almighty) has afflicted me?*

In the book of Job, there are 31 times, the Title is used, more than in any other book. In many of these instances the Title Shaddai is associated with the words:

Correction...chastening...arrows...terrors...judgement...wrath...troubles...vexed...justice...contention

We notice how these are all negative, and not the cheerful, positive, affirming element of Hope, but of retribution and a reckoning.

This use of the word Shaddai is seen also in Psalm 68:14 *When Shaddai (the Almighty) scattered kings ... Isaiah 13... a destruction from Shaddai (the Almighty). Joel 1:15 *Alas for the day ... a destruction from Shaddai (the Almighty) shall it come.**

Hope again!

This is not all!

Returning to Job, we find that there are other passages that Brother Derek listed where the Title Shaddai is associated with words such as

Seeking...searching...speaking...to be built up...defence...to call upon...inspiration...life giving breath

This is a return to the first theme of Fruitfulness and Promise, and this is again borne out by the rest of the passages Brother Derek has in his list. Psalm 91:1 *He that dwells in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of Shaddai (the Almighty)*

Ezekiel 1:24 and 10:5 *I heard ...the noise ..as the voice of Shaddai (the Almighty)...* These last two passages are in relation to the voice of the Cherubim and their protective power.

So what do we find?

The Title El Shaddai is only used in relation to the promises given to the Patriarchs. That the Title Shaddai is used in association with

- 1) blessing, protection, fruitfulness, power to strengthen and sustain
- 2) cursing, chastening, affliction, judgement and destruction.

What does it Teach?

The nation of Israel were the Fruit promised to the Patriarchs. They were called out to be used as an example to the nations and to witness to the Gospel of God. They were given blessings if they would obey, and curses if they disobeyed. They could choose Life or Death. They chose Death. The curses fell upon them. However, the Promises God made held firm. Paul in Romans 11 explains how and why, but he adds that the example of Israel is still relevant, because Verse 21: *For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.* He then emphasises the point: *Behold therefore **the goodness and severity of God**: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.*

The revelation of God - EL (Ail) to mankind results in two pathways or reactions. Obedience or disobedience. Love or Hate. God reacts to the choices we make in two ways. Blessing or cursing.

This is why the Title Shaddai has been given to us.

In Hebrew we have already been shown Shaddai is derived from

- 1) *shadad* to ruin thus The Destroyer
- 2) *shad* for breast thus The Nourisher

The Title then has been designed to have a two fold meaning, to give the sense of the equity and sovereignty of God.

Brother Terry

