



Who is God? Knowing Him by His Names Dominican Republic Mission Trip 2008 Daily Study

The Almighty God

God as “God” has revealed Himself to us as the Creator God, the highest God. As we progress from Creation through the Scriptures, we see that God is revealing Himself progressively throughout time to His people. And in revealing Himself, He is also revealing His plans for us. Ultimately His plans are summed up in what we call the eternal covenant. This is the plan from all eternity past which God made with Himself – with the Trinity – to chose to save a people for Himself and for His glory. We study, then, what we call redemptive history – the story of our Salvation. God began by revealing Himself as the Creator, and as we move to Abraham, He reveals himself as “God Almighty.”

El Shaddai (ydd#) is the Hebrew for this English name. It means “most powerful or almighty” and is also a plural name. Used 48 times in the OT, 31 of which are in Job, it is used in conjunction with “El,” but most often it is used alone as “Shaddai” or “the Almighty.”

The Tyndale Bible Dictionary says, “God as El Shaddai is presented as the all-powerful One, totally self-sufficient, absolute ruler, and the One who can and does make final disposition.” Final disposition means that God ordains and orders the events of our lives, and He can do that because He is supremely powerful.

This name is first used in Gen. 17:1, and is the name that God used to reveal Himself to the patriarchs, particularly Abraham. Read Genesis 17:1-8, 28:1-3, 35:9-12. Here we have God approaching Abraham and making a promise for all that He purposed to do for and through Abraham and his descendants. Isn't it right that the Almighty should do this – the God who is Sovereign and powerful and can fulfill those promises? We also see Isaac who blessed Jacob and sent him off to find a wife in the name of the Almighty. God then blessed Jacob and renewed the Abrahamic promises to him by the same name.

We owe God praise and obedience purely because He is our Creator God – our Elohim. But God has now gone further and revealed that He has a plan for our lives and that He is a God of promise who will keep those promises because He chooses to and because He has the power to carry them out.

How do we react or respond to “the Almighty?”

Read how the three Biblical characters below responded to God by this name when they found themselves caught up in “life's circumstances.” How are they different and how do YOU respond to God?

- 1) Read the first chapter of Ruth and focus on 1:20-21.

There are two names for God used here. “LORD” we will get to tomorrow, but why does Ruth use two names?

- 2) Read the 91st Psalm and focus on verse 1.

What two names are being used here by the Psalmist? Again, do we pick random names to refer to God or is there more meaning here?

- 3) Review Job 38-41 and see God's response to the “words without knowledge” – Job 40:1-5.

