

3. Job

Don't miss the significance of why the name El Shaddai is used more in the Book of Job than in any other book.

When we are most empty, God is most evident.

“When you have nothing left but God, then you become aware that God is enough.”

Maude Royden

Ultimately the only answer God gave to Job was God Himself.

The main point of the book of Job is that life is unfair, that bad things do happen. The one great biblical purpose for trials is to draw you near to God. The question is not, “Why did this happen to me?” The deeper question is, “Now that this has happened, will I remain loyal to God?” The most important battles take place inside of us. When we're disillusioned and bitter and shattered, what will we do?

Psalm 91:1:

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

God Almighty didn't fix their circumstances, He changed their souls.

You don't always get to pick your circumstances, but you do get to pick how you chose to respond to them.

What's in a name?!?!

Almighty. El Shaddai

The first part of this compound name El is the word for God and means “mighty and powerful.” While there is some difference of opinion regarding the primary meaning of Shaddai, and it is often translated as Almighty because it can also stand for mountain. The word actually has a more tender definition. The root shad is connected to the nurturing relationship a mother has with her infant child and signifies one who “nourishes and satisfies.”

When the two words are put together, El Shaddai means the “One mighty to nourish and satisfy.” God pours out His provision because He is all-powerful. The ancient rabbis referred to Him as the “all-sufficient One.”

1) Abraham

Genesis 17:1

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless.

This name for God is used 48 times in the Old Testament. The first instance of El Shaddai is found in Genesis 17:1.

God appears to Abraham in Abraham's time of need and self-doubt, this after Abraham had taken matters into his own hands to fulfill God's promise. God shows up and says I am God Almighty, I am your sufficiency. I will give you the desire of your heart, you walk with me and trust me and be blameless.

2) Naomi

Ruth 1:19-21

So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, “Can this be Naomi?” “Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.”

It is God who is behind the circumstances of life. It is God who allows good things and bad things to come into our lives.

Ecclesiastes 7:14:

When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other.”

- Sometimes life presents us with a bewildering variety of grief and sorrow.
- Sometimes life simply disillusion us.
- Sometimes life is horribly unfair.

When suffering and unfairness and crisis hit we find ourselves faced with a choice:

Do we run to God or away from God?

2 Corinthians 4:18.

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Reason and logic cannot find the answer to pain because it isn’t our reason that’s suffering; it’s our souls. Pain isn’t a premise to be argued. That’s why God sent us a Savior – one who stepped into the center of our pain and allowed the wounds of the world to be poured into his own heart.

God’s love is greater than our pain. His grace is deeper than our heartache. And he knows firsthand how hard life on this earth can be.

Whatever His reason for allowing disappointments and suffering, God understands what we’re going through and can intimately identify with our questions. He experienced the worst the world had to offer, and now he offers to heal the bruises on our souls with time and grace and glimpses of his love.

Isaiah 53:3-5, 10

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed... Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer...

God is more interested in your character than your comfort.

God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy.

Naomi trusted God in the midst of her bitterness and loss. She understood at the end that it is when we are empty that we can see that God is enough!