



# God is almighty

## Job 42:1-6

**Genesis 17:1-19; Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 6:7-15; 7:7-11; 19:23-30; Romans 8:14-28**

In the Bible there are many names for God. Each name reveals something wonderful about Him. The name El Shaddai which means 'God Almighty' is very rich and lovely in meaning and tells us much about God.

It means 'God, the All-Bountiful', or 'God, the All-Sufficient One'. In the original rendering it has a particularly tender and intimate meaning and is used of God exclusively in relation to His children. In fact, it has the shade of meaning of a mother to her baby, where she is the all-sufficient one, giving sustenance, protection, tender care and continual concern.

This name is found 48 times in the Old Testament and 31 of these are found in the book of Job. This is revealing because this important book gives a great revelation of the loving and tender care of God for His 'child', Job.

In Job 42:1-6 we have Job's reply to God after his long testing by Satan. He acknowledges that God's power is unlimited and His wisdom infinite and, compared with God, his strength is weakness; his wisdom, folly; and his righteousness, impurity.

***Then Job replied to the Lord: "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. {You asked,} 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. {You said,} 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." Job 42:1-6***

In Genesis 17:1 God used this name to Abraham when he was old and his long expected hope of a male child seemed impossible.

***When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless". Genesis 17:1***

In that encounter with God Almighty, Abraham saw Him as a tender and gloriously understanding Father who was not austere but full of love towards him. He saw God as All-powerful, the God of the impossible, and at the same time the God who was intimately and personally concerned in

Abraham's family and home life. He met Abraham's deepest personal need in a way that only the God of love could.

Throughout the Old Testament we become conscious that God is what the New Testament describes Him as - our loving Heavenly Father. He is the Almighty, but, wonder of wonders, He loves us individually and cares for us personally. Just as children have unquestioning faith and confidence in their parents so we can, and must, have complete trust in the Almighty, loving Heavenly Father.

Encourage the members to list some of the other Bible names given to God and see how many of them describe His All-sufficient, Bountiful Nature (e.g. Rock, Fortress, The Everlasting God, The Lord will Provide, The Lord is my Shepherd, The Lord is my Banner etc.)

Spend a few minutes meditating on Psalm 9:10.

***Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you. Psalm 9:10***