

Series: The Name of God #1655

Title: Various Scriptures

El Shaddai, El Elyon, Abba

Thank you for joining me today from wherever you are and by however you listen as we meet together coast-to-coast here in the United States and all the way around the world. We continue now with our study on the names of God. As we begin, I have two songs that I have been singing all morning, a hymn and a chorus that speak to the powerful and wonderful name of God. The first is the hymn *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name*. Do you know it? When sung properly, it is a glorious hymn of praise to the name of God. I wish I could sing it for you, but I cannot hit the right notes, not even close. So I do not sing in public (although I very much do privately.) I do hope you can sing it! In fact, I hope that after hearing the lyrics this will be a hymn that you cannot get out of your mind.

“All hail the power of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall. Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all. Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all! Oh, that with all the sacred throng we at his feet may fall! We’ll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all. We’ll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all. All hail the power of Jesus’ name!” The emphasis there begins, all hail the power of Jesus’ what? Of Jesus’ *name*.

And then the chorus *His Name Is Wonderful*. This is beautiful also. The lyrics are: “His name is wonderful. His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord. He is the mighty King, Master of everything, His name is wonderful Jesus my Lord. He’s the Great Shepherd the Rock of all ages, Almighty God is He. Bow down before Him, love and adore Him, His name is wonderful Jesus my Lord.” Here again the *name* of Jesus is exalted. Let us accompany our Bible study with music in our worship of our Great God whose *Name* we honor.

And we come back now this name El, and look specifically at El as a compound name. The first is El Shaddai. (Shaddai is spelled, for notetakers, S-H-A-D-D-A-I). I believe that Shaddai comes from the Hebrew root word *shadad*, referring to power. Shaddai, in the Scripture, when referring to *The God* has been translated as “almighty,” in reference to God’s power (His omnipotence). The Lord is all-powerful and this comes through in this name. Let me share with you some Scripture references so you can see this for yourself in the Word of God.

Genesis 17, verse 1, “**Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty...’** Almighty is Shaddai. Listen to this *great* promise. Psalm 91, verse 1, “**He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.**” Almighty is Shaddai. And we have Shaddai again to speak of the Lord’s discipline. Remember Naomi’s experience with God in Ruth chapter 1, verses 20-21. “**She said to them, ‘Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹I went out full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has witnessed against me and the Almighty has afflicted me?’**” The name of God, Almighty, is Shaddai.

The Book of Job speaks of God this way. Job chapter 5 and verse 17. “**Behold, how happy is the man whom God reproves, so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.**” And then the texts where Shaddai, the Almighty, speaks of God’s bold judgment. Yes, God is Judge and He will bring His judgment. Isaiah 13, verse 6, “**Wail, for the day of the Lord is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.**” Almighty again is Shaddai. And Joel chapter 1, verse 15, “**Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is near, and it will come as destruction from the Almighty.**”

Not quite there the sentiment of that old, sappy Amy Grant song *El Shaddai* that she sang *before* she departed from the faith and went full on, as they say today, “woke.” Friends, Shaddai speaks of the Almighty and this, in part, means that God chastens and destroys in judgment.

Over in the New Testament, we meet the same God. The word there for the name and nature of God as Shaddai is *pantokrator*. We find this word translated Almighty in, for example, 2 Corinthians 6, verse 18, “**‘And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,’ says the Lord Almighty.**”

This word is all over the Book of the Revelation. Just one example. Revelation 1, verse 8, **“I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”** The word Almighty is the translation of *pantokrator*, which is the New Testament equivalent of Shaddai. So, El Shaddai is God Almighty. There is El and then Shaddai, the compound name El Shaddai.

The next name we want to look at is El Elyon. Elyon, in our English language, is spelled E-L-Y-O-N. This is translated “God Most High” and makes reference to the supreme sovereignty of God. In Genesis chapter 14, verses 18-20, we have this name. **“And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ He blessed him and said, ‘Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰ and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.’”** Three times this name for God is used.

And El Elyon is used all throughout the Psalms. Like, so many times. Let me discipline myself to just share with you a few. Psalm 7, verse 17, **“I will give thanks to the Lord according to His righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.”** And Psalm 46, verse 4, **“There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy dwelling places of the Most High.”** And Psalm 83, verse 18, **“That they may know that You alone, whose name is the Lord, are the Most High over all the earth.”** This certainly speaks to God’s sovereign reign over all the earth!

Did you know or remember that Satan used this name for God? Isaiah, recording the sentiment of the fallen angel, Lucifer, in Isaiah chapter 14, verses 13 and 14 puts it this way, **“But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’”** There it is, El Elyon. Of course, Jesus made reference to this in Luke’s Gospel. Satan believed in the sovereignty of God and he wanted it for himself, but could not get it/cannot/will not get it. Only God is forever sovereign!

We have time for one more. Another name for God is Father. This is the name for God that you are probably most familiar with. Do you begin your prayers, “Our Father who is in heaven”? As the entire Bible makes repeatedly clear, and especially as the Lord Jesus taught us, God is Father to His people. The Hebrew word is Ab (spelled in English A-B), but sounds like this: awb. Deuteronomy 32, verse 6 in the Song of Moses, **“Is not He your Father who has bought you? He has made you and established you.”** This text makes clear: God is the Father of Israel. (Deuteronomy 32.6.)

And, as indicated, the New Testament is rich in God our Father. God is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. God, as Father, is the first Person of the Trinity. His Son, Jesus, is the Second Person of the Trinity. Jesus prayed to His Father in heaven and we do likewise. And then, just a couple of the many references we could choose from, two that pick up on a similar sound to awb. Romans 8, verse 15, **“For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’”** And in Galatians 4, verse 6 the Apostle Paul writes, **“Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’”**

When it comes to the names of God in the Bible, we could talk for weeks. But having given you some of His names what I now want to do is to focus us on *the name* by which God most wants to be known. This will be his proper name, and it is Yahweh. When we meet together, Lord willing, next time I will take us to an outstanding Old Testament text and we will exposit it with one another, unveiling the name Yahweh.

Has this been helpful to you thus far? Do you have any comments or questions? Why don’t you write to me with these? My addresses follow so stay tuned. All hail the power of God’s Name! His Name is wonderful! Let’s take what we have learned and turn it into worship of God Most High. And then be sure and come back next time as we continue to discover who God Is!

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