

Community Group Study Questions

For the Week of May 22nd - 28th

Context

This week we are focusing on God as he was revealed to the patriarchs as *El Shaddai*, God Almighty.

1. What is the historical context of the Genesis narrative of the patriarchs (Gen 12-50)? Who wrote it? To whom was it written? Why was it written?
2. What comes before the patriarchal narrative? What comes after it?
3. What does this text say about the author or the circumstances of his audience?
4. What was the preceding text in Genesis talking about (Gen 10-11)? How does Genesis 12-50 relate to that?
5. What do we know about the historical context of the book of Job?
6. Why do you think the book of Job was included with the wisdom literature (Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs) rather than with the historical books (Joshua – Esther)?
7. Do you think that Job was an Israelite? Are there any times when God is mentioned as Yahweh (the LORD, rather than the Lord) in the text?

Observation

1. The name, *El Shaddai* is mentioned five times in Genesis (Gen 17:1; 28:3; 35:11; 48:3; 48:14), once in Exodus (Ex 6:3) and once in Ezekiel (Ez 10:5). What do these passages have in common? What are the main points being covered in these passages?
2. The title *Shaddai* (without the *El*) is mentioned more often (Num 24:4, 16; Ruth 1:20-21; Job 5:17; 6:4, 14; 8:5; 11:7; 13:3; 15:25; 21:15, 20; 22:3, 17, 23, 25-26, 23:26; 27:2, 10-11, 13; 29:5; 31:2, 35; 32:8; 33:4; 34:10, 12; 35:13; 37:23; 40:2; Ps 68:14; 91:1; Isa 13:6; Ezek 1:24; Joel 1:15). What are the main points that these passages have in common? How are they similar to the passages mentioning *El Shaddai*? How are they different if at all? (Compare, in particular Ezek 1:24 and Ezek 10:5).

Meaning

1. Do these passages in context offer any insight into the meaning of the term *El Shaddai*?
2. What does this term teach us about God?
3. Do you think the term *El Shaddai* relates to Jesus in his person or his work? If so, how?

Application

1. How do these passages challenge or confirm your understanding of the omnipotence of God?
2. Given the almighty power of God revealed in these passages, is there anything in your thoughts, actions or attitudes that needs to change?