

El Shaddai, God Almighty is my protector!

Message 9: [You are my anchor series](#).

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Introduction

In August 2022, while praying with my wife, I received a word from the Lord that “You are my anchor” was a message I would preach to God’s people.

At the time El Shaddai gave me the message, he wanted me to paint a picture of God’s love.

I did not however have the full revelation of why he gave me this word for the season until I was with the Lord on 21/9/23 and I asked him why he had given me the word. It was only then that he revealed to me that the core message of this series is the spirit of prayer! Earlier on that day I had been listening to an anointed message on prayer from a Ugandan minister and having understood it, I realized that the Lord wants us to learn how to pray in this season and when we pray right, God manifests himself as our anchor and for today’s message, as El Shaddai, God Almighty - my protector!

Anchor verse

When the Lord gave me this message, he also gave me an anchor verse:

“for the Lord will be at your side and will keep your foot from being snared.” Proverbs 3:26 NIV

These words are words of certainty, and assurance. The Lord WILL be at your side. Not he “may be” and they also say, he WILL keep you foot from being snared, not “He may or he may not.” Too many times, we Christians are not anchored in God’s word and his character and thus, we are shaken by the storms of life and yet we should not because such assurance, such confidence and faith you can only receive when you understand the One who gives such words.

In another place in the Bible, which seems to be a companion reading for Proverbs 3: 26 the Lord explains how he will be by your side and keep your foot from being snared. Who is setting for you a trap? Who wants you to fall down by a hidden trap and miss your destiny? It is Satan but thank God, his word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path and so he sets this word for us to see Satan’s lies of fear and lack of faith in God.

This is what Psalm 91 says to give you assurance in God:

“If you say, “The Lord is my refuge,” and you make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot

against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.” Psalms 91:9-13 NIV

We see again certainty and assurance in the language. If you make God your dwelling – meaning he is your home and your protection or refuge then you can rest assured that no harm WILL overtake you. No disaster WILL come near you. Once again, we see language of confidence!

Application 1. God Almighty protects from Satanic traps and attack.

The first application for you from the two verses therefore is that God Almighty is a protector.

The Lord wants you and I to know that as El Shaddai, God almighty, who is also El Elyon, God Most High, he is by your side and mine. He is protecting you and I from Satan’s traps and he is giving us his protection to trample on those things that ordinarily would kill you.

So, when you pray, now that you know the word of God, pray with boldness like this:

- Thank God for this protection as promised in Proverbs 3 and Psalm 91 and ask him in confidence to help you to remember that he is ever present so that you SHALL NOT be not afraid.
- Knowing that the Almighty is with you, Pray to God Almighty and ask him to always remember his word about you - so when you are in trouble, he can send his angels to hold you up, just as his word GUARANTEES! Amen! Amen!

But what does El Shaddai mean?

Speaking of guarantees, what does this name of God mean?

Modern day translations translate the name El Shaddai to mean “God Almighty.” It is first used in the Bible when God appeared to Abram (who was later renamed Abraham). The Bible says this about its first appearance in Genesis 17:1-2.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am El-Shaddai—‘God Almighty.’ Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life. I will make a covenant with you, by which I will guarantee to give you countless descendants.”

When a name first appears, it is critical to pay attention. We can see then that when God revealed himself to Abram, he introduced few key principles to know about this name:

1. He is the Almighty One – El Shaddai.
2. He wants his people to give him faithful service and righteousness (living a blameless life).
3. In return for doing this, he makes a covenant with them.
4. In this wonderful covenant, for really, his burden is light and our part is small, he gives a guarantee of multiplication of blessings, countless blessings – just like he gave Abraham a GUARANTEE of countless descendants.

El Shaddai is therefore a name for a God who keeps covenants and it is also a name which gives us a guarantee that he multiplies blessings.

When God therefore says that he is the Almighty one, his name El Shaddai is speaking of mightiness through being eternal - meaning he has power to sustain life forever, unlike us humans. For us as humans, everything we know dies eventually, but God Almighty does not and so he is rightfully titling himself El Shaddai - the mighty one! It is no wonder the lyrics of the famous song El Shaddai by Amy Grant say:

*El shaddai, el shaddai
El-elyon na adonai
Age to age You're still the same*

Application 2. God Almighty is a covenant keeper.

Because El Shaddai is the name of a God who is a covenant keeper, you can use it if you want to make a covenant with God.

You can pray to him and if you are faithful and righteous, which we all are in Christ Jesus, you can:

- boldly approach his throne and enter a covenant with him, like he did with Abraham.
- You can ask for anything you wish, in accordance with his will (1 John 5: 13-15).
- You can be sure and confident that because he is the Almighty, a God who loves to enter covenants with his faithful people - a sovereign who alone has power to make a covenant, he will be powerful enough to ensure that the covenant you make is enforced - and he will protect you so that the covenant is kept, even if you die!

El Shaddai as a mother like nurturer (a less known meaning of El Shaddai).

A less known interpretation of the name El Shaddai comes from Jewish sources where his name can be interpreted to mean "a mighty source of milk" - like a young suckling goat, assured of its mother's teat or breast to give milk or nourishment.

God known in this way can be understood as mother like protection - God who protects a child and provides nourishment like a mother goat protects her kids, while providing for them. Think of how female animals in nature jealously protect their young and will even give up their lives for the sake of the kid. So, God as El Shaddai can also represent a mighty provider who gives you everything you need – just like a mother's milk provides everything for a baby until the baby becomes strong and eventually becomes fruitful, multiplying from one generation to the next, with El Shaddai continuing to provide this nurturing, this protection in covenant with those future generations of children, who always relying on his eternal milk – being his word.

Application 3: Praying for the future generations.

Having understand that God loves covenants that last beyond the individual with whom he makes the covenant, if you are looking for blessings from God for multiple generations, perhaps you are praying for God to also be in the life of your children or grandchildren, you can call on him as El Shaddai and see him work – just like he did for Abraham and then Isaac and then Jacob who became known as Israel, the father of the 12 tribes. In the New Testament we likewise see this principle of God's work in generations of families when Paul tells Timothy:

"I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also." 2 Timothy 1:5 NIV

So here we see that El Shaddai the ever-faithful covenant keeper can indeed “pass the faith” to your descendants, so do not be afraid to pray about this for your children and their children, and their children, for a thousand generations and boldly ask him to continue to nurture them with mother like love, setting them up in a place that is “flowing milk and honey” a safe place, where he will defend them from their enemies, and not to take his love from them!

What an inheritance you can leave your descendants! Spiritual inheritance not just physical property to inherit is a great gift you can leave behind.

I was inspired by the idea of praying for generations to present to the Lord a bold prayer, which I wrote in my spiritual journal. I prayed that he gives me 10 generations of descendants where in at least every generation is a man after his own heart – a minister of the gospel! Imitate me as I imitate Christ, pray bold prayers!

The Message Jesus wants me to pass on to you

When the Lord Jesus walked this earth as a man, being the son of God, he also appeared in the strength and power of El Shaddai of the Old Testament and in fact one time when the Jews of the day challenged him on who he was, thinking he was only an earthly person, he said this:

Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” John 8: 56- 58 (ESV).

Thus, Jesus confirmed that he was there with Abraham. For us today, this is good news! It shows that those who believe him, he will continue to be with them, until the end of time and he has guarantee this through the covenant that he made with those who believe – through his blood of the new covenant, which he shed when he died on the cross. We have the guarantee that he will come back because first Jesus went to heaven where he is seated at the right hand of El Shaddai, God Almighty, but also because he sent his Holy Spirit – as a down payment that he will give us what he has guaranteed – eternal life where we will be alive forever safe, including from Satan who we will finally overcome and no wonder the Bible says this about us who believe in Jesus:

And they have conquered him [that is Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Revelation 12: 11 (ESV).

Rejoice all you saints who are protected by El Shaddai, our protector!

If you want to receive El Shaddai, my protector in your life, pray this prayer to become a Christian:

“God of heaven, I confess that I am a sinner and have been one since birth, but I have heard that you can make me new, and you sent your son Jesus to die for me. He rose again and it is he who can give me his Holy Spirit. Please forgive me and welcome me into your Kingdom, teach me how to follow you. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Lord Jesus come – Maranatha!