

EL SHADDAI

Title: *The REAL Big Bang, Pt 17*

Series: **Heavenly Visitors, Pt1**

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I. POINT OF INTRIGUE

A. In our last study (Genesis 16**) we saw how a person can have the right motive but frustration and impatience can lead to the wrong method.**

(Now take a deep breath!)

What we often fail to realize, at least at that moment, is how far reaching one mistake can survive—centuries, even millenniums are affected. Abram’s and



Sarai’s “wrong method” is still a thorn in the side of the Jew, and everyone else who lives in the Middle East today. **(show photo)**

LET’S BE HONEST! We’ve all been there—gotten impatient and frustrated with God and thought we would help Him out only to wish we had waited because the result of our “helping God out” wasn’t too pretty. Right?

(Whew! That's a long sentence.) Like my friend Ralphie would often say, "Take your time and hurry up!" LOL! In contrast God says, "They that wait upon the LORD" In other words, "Don't rush God—His timing is always PERFECT." Be patient!

Now, waiting doesn't mean doing nothing:

- 1) *Joshua* waited on Moses—that was not doing nothing
- 2) *Ruth* waited on Naomi—that was not doing nothing
- 3) *The 120* waited for the Holy Spirit—that wasn't doing nothing. They *Shared Christ, Connected with people* and *Served others* preparing for the Feast of Pentecost.
- 4) *David* was anointed King at the age of 17, but didn't take over King Saul's throne until the age of 30. During those 13 years David didn't do nothing; he served King Saul, fought in Israel's army and ... waited patiently for God to place him on the throne. David may have missed it in other areas of his life, but he didn't here. God's timing was David's timing.
- 5) Where have *you* heard God? If He's told you to "Go!" then go. What are you waiting for? If He's told you to "Wait," then wait. Don't get in front of Him—you'll mess it up. But if you will let Him, He will transform your trash into indescribable treasure.

(Back to Hagar!)

Now, the ones caught in the middle of Abram’s and Sarai’s miscalculation—nice way to put it, RIGHT?—were Hagar and her yet to be born son, Ishmael. But God in his mercy met Hagar when she sought Him crying out in desperation. [\(show photo\)](#)

Previously, Hagar had referred to Jehovah as the God of Abram, but

when the Angel of the LORD met with and spoke to her directly,



she personalized the moment and gave God the name, “The One Who Sees Me.” And God rewarded Hagar with the same promise He gave to Abram—her children would be as numerous as the stars in the sky.

We closed the service seeking Him. [\(show video of last week’s Altar recap—60 seconds\)](#)

B. Let’s pray!

II. GENESIS *CHAPTER 17* — I AM EL SHADDAI [SHADDAY]

A. God’s verbal encounters with Abram:

1. *First* while Abram was living in Mesopotamia—Abram was 60. (Gen 12)

2. *Second* while Abram was living in Haran after his father died—Abram was 75. (**Gen 12**)
3. *Third* and *fourth* times while Abram was living in Canaan—Abram was 85 and 99 respectively. (**Gen 15 & Gen 17**)

B. The fourth time God speaks He introduces Himself as El Shaddai.

EL SHADDAI appears in the Bible 218 times; this is the first. In Hebrew the word means “**Almighty;**” indicating there is none greater. But the word “[7706] Shadday”

has yet another inference: “**strong breasted one.**”

It’s the picture of a male warrior with an invincible breastplate **while at the same time**, is a picture of God being a “*great nourish-er— “the fruitful one.”* (**Genesis 17:2**)



Now, when you Google *El Shaddai* – “images,” you’ll get this (**show “The All Sufficient One”**). Very few searches will reveal this meaning (**show mother holding a baby on her bosom**). Its meaning is far deeper than “all sufficient.”



It’s all sufficient with a mother’s TLC (Tender Loving Care). It’s what a man can’t give that only a mother can give,

because the man can never have the same bond as a mother does with her nursing child.

(Let's look at the account!)

III. GENESIS *CHAPTER 17* — MEET EL SHADDAI

Genesis 17:1-8

The Covenant of Circumcision

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty (El Shadday); walk before Me faithfully and be blameless. **2** ... I will make my covenant between Me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

HERE WE SEE EL SHADDAI, THE ALMIGHTY, as the One who will be Abram's nourish-er, the One who will make him fruitful. The One supplying the mother's milk needed to nurture a baby to weaning and maturation.

3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, **4** “As for Me, this is My covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. **5** No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. **6** I will make you very fruitful;

NOTE: The Almighty will be Abraham's “strong breasted one.” The one providing the protection and TLC needed to fulfill God's promises to Abraham.

I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. **7** I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. **8** The whole land of Canaan,

where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

A. Note when El Shaddai appeared to Abram, he fell prostrate before the LORD. There are three types of prostration in Scripture:

1. Being **overpowered** by God’s presence (*1 Samuel 5:3; Mark 3:11*)
2. **Voluntary**, as in this moment when Abram realized he was in the presence of the LORD Almighty (*Genesis 17:3*)
3. Under the **burden of prayer** (*Deuteronomy 9:18; Matthew 26:39*)

ILLUSTRATION: There are some in the Kingdom today who believe they have the right, as God’s children, to say, “Hey God! I’m your child, therefore You’d better do this or that.” Jesus, as the Son of God, took authority over what Satan had corrupted; He didn’t tell His Father what to do and not do. In fact, it was just the opposite, He constantly said, “*What I have received from my Father, I’ve given to you.*” Furthermore, in the Garden we see Him prostrate in prayer asking the Father if there was some way to not face Crucifixion ... only then to say, “*Not my will but thine be done.*” It’s humility God exalts not pride. Bowing prostrate before God is a posture God welcomes and honors.

B. It is at this very moment (v5) of prostration, of humility, that God changes Abram's name to Abraham.

1. Abram means "exalted father;" Abraham means "father of multitudes."
2. *V 15* God changes Sarai's name to Sarah. Sarai means "princess;" Sarah means "princess or mother of princes/nations."

WHENEVER GOD CHANGED A PERSON'S NAME IT USUALLY MEANT A "NEW BEGINNING." e.g.:

- 1) Jacob to Israel—Jacob means "supplanter" or "one who grasps the heel;" Israel means "one who wrested with God and prevailed."
- 2) Simon to Peter—Simon means "God has heard;" Peter means "rock." The one who denied Jesus becomes the rock upon which Jesus builds His church.

In most cases when God changed a person's name He was giving them a new identity.

QUESTION: Have you ever thought you'd like to change your name? PERSONALLY I've never been overly thrilled with the name "Bruce." It means: "thicket or woods." "I've often thought that if I retire (whatever that looks like LOL!), I'm going to call myself Joseph. Joseph means: "God shall add." I like Joseph. **What about you? What would you change your name to, and why?**

3) Finally, there is a name change for all believers. God says: "To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it" (**Revelation 2:17**). When we reach heaven, God will also change our names. The name God gives you no one will know but YOU and GOD. It will be your own PERSONAL name. Scripture indicates that you will be the ONLY one who has that name. How cool is that?

IV. GENESIS *CHAPTER 17:10-14*—*GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM*

10 This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ... **12** For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner—those who are not your offspring. ... **14** Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

15 God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. **16** I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

17 Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" **18** And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

A. In a way, this is sad. Abram has lost the belief that the son promised him was not Ishmael. The years

of waiting convinced him that Sarai's suggestion, **their motive and method**, was correct. That's why he says, "If only Ismael would live under your blessing." **However, even though Abram's faith waivers, God faithfulness does not.**

God tells Abraham that he will bless Ishmael, but Ishmael is not the son God promised him 25 years earlier. (v19-22)

WHERE HAVE YOU GIVEN UP ON WHAT YOU HEARD FROM GOD? Whether you get to see the promise fulfilled in your lifetime or from Heaven, God's word will NEVER fail.

(Let's finish our text.)

23 On that very day Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in his household or bought with his money, every male in his household, and circumcised them, as God told him.

B. Today we will remember and celebrate our covenant with God through Jesus Christ our Lord. The Old Covenant was a *blood covenant*—the blood of bulls and goats. The New Covenant is also a *blood covenant*, but it's the blood of Jesus the Christ who cleanses us from ALL unrighteousness.

Hebrews 7: 22-25 tell us:

Jesus has become the sponsor/guarantee of a better covenant.

25 Therefore [Jesus] is able to save **completely** those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.

C. The song writer said, “*Because He lives I can face tomorrow, because He lives all fear is gone; because I know He holds the future, And life is worth living just because He lives.*” All other priests died, but Jesus lives. All other priests bones are in the grave, but Jesus’ bones are not. Listen to God’s promise:

To as many as received Him [Jesus] to them He gave the right to become sons of God.” ***1 John 1:9***

V. INVITATION (ATSL)

Will you, today, receive Christ for the forgiveness of sins? Give ABC’s of Salvation.

ser3748, ***El Shaddai*** (*The REAL Big Bang, Pt17—Heavenly Visitors, Pt 1*) Words w/o Invitation 1926)