We have learned that God is our source and provider. Now we explore another name given by God to us.... **El Shaddai.** This name in English is **God Almighty** in the Bible and is the One who is Most Powerful, All Sufficient and full of Bountiful Blessings in all ways. He first revealed this name to 99 year old Abram (exalted father) when he changed his name to Abraham (father of many nations). In the natural this would be impossible for him and Sarah to have a child at their age, but not with El Shaddai - Genesis 17:1-8. God also revealed this name to Jacob - Gen.28:1-3; 35:11 and to Joseph - Gen.48:3. El Shaddai/ God Almighty is most seen in the book of Job, where God has to correct and remind Job about his amazing power as displayed in nature - Job chapters 38 - 41.

The Lord said to Job: 'Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him.'. - Job 40:1-2 Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? - Job 38:3

We can see God's overflowing bounty in the creation of the universe with its vastness and the earth with its amazing variety of creatures and characteristics. No matter the challenge or situation, God is more than able to not only meet the need but to do so with overflowing abundance. This is a promise to those in Christ who have become his joint-heirs and follow his plan of living to give.

- 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9

God is able to make <u>all</u> grace abound to you, so that in <u>all</u> things at <u>all</u> times, having <u>all</u> that you need, you will <u>abound</u> in <u>every</u> good work. - 2 Corinthians 9:8

The miraculous birth and life of Jesus was filled with numerous accounts to show God's awesome power. God showed abundant grace to Joseph, Mary and Elizabeth by sending angels to give them faith and encouragement regarding the future virgin birth. Joseph and Mary later fled safely with Jesus to escape King Herod's murderous decree. They were forced to stay in Egypt for up to three years until Herod had died. God knew this would happen, so he had previously arranged for wise men to come from the east to the home of Joseph where they gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to them. Jesus was likely near the age of two at that time - (Matthew 2:1-17) The gold gave Joseph and family enough to live on in Egypt. The essential oils of frankincense and myrrh were like a mini medical kit, as they have anti-inflammatory, anti- bacterial effects, calming properties and can be used for pain and respiratory ailments such as bronchitis, asthma and congestion.

Jesus first miracle took place at a wedding when the wine had run out. Jesus then instructed the servants to fill six containers with water (about 20 to 30 gallons in each). He then caused the water to turn to wine and it was the best wine of the whole wedding celebration. Jesus displayed El Shaddai's abundance not only of quantity but also of quality. With just 5 loaves and 2 fish, Jesus fed a multitude of at least 20,000 people and had plenty leftover after that. While his disciples could fish all night and catch nothing, Jesus came and caused so many fish to be caught that their nets broke! - Luke 5:1-11, John 21:1-11. Jesus lived a simple life but he was not poor as he was able to support the twelve who travelled with him, along with 70 others. He had some treasure as he had a treasurer. He likely spent much time sleeping in the open air as he did not own a home, but he did have access to a lake house in Capernaum which served as a base for his ministry - Matthew 4:12-16, Mark 2:1. Jesus' disciples had homes but they were willing to leave the comforts of family and home to follow Jesus. Why? For lost sheep. 'All we like sheep have gone astray and gone our own way.' - Isaiah 53:6

The 'much mores' of God.

How much more valuable is a man than a sheep. - Jesus - Matthew 12:12

'You cannot serve God and money/mammon, therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?' - Matthew 6:24b- 26 NIV In the desert, 'They ate till they had more than enough for he had given them what they craved. Psalm 78:29

Jesus said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' Mark 10:23

He then went on to say that with God, all things are possible. He then gave some promises to his disciples about those who forsake all to follow him. Sometimes preachers use the verse of the 100 fold return when taking up an offering but omit to mention the conditions. Also, Jesus often spoke in hyperbole to emphasize a point. Kenneth E Hagin in his book, The Midas Touch, exposes the error of taking the 100 fold blessing literally. He also criticized the gimmicks that are used by many 'faith' teachers that took his teachings and others to an extreme. Hagin grew up in a day when preachers were poor. Unlike many of today's greedy preachers, Hagin never required a certain amount of money to come speak. He went as a servant of God to feed the sheep, not fleece them and abuse them. Even if Hagin was short of money, he never begged nor even mentioned his need. If he was in need and had accepted an invite to a small church, he would not cancel it even if a larger prosperous church invited him in the meantime. While in Kenya, I made a commitment to speak at a small home group of about 8 people on a Sunday morning. Just after that I was asked by another pastor to speak at his church of 1000 people that same morning. I declined, because I wanted to keep the commitment I had made. My topic that day was about Walking in the Love God. I have experienced the blessings of forsaking all to follow Jesus. I never owned a house, but had access to so many places to stay for free or with very low rent. I did not own a car for 10 years, but since then, God has always given me amazing deals on good used cars from individual owners. Since I live both in NY and Florida, I have had two vehicles for each of the past 20 years. Since 1999, the average cost of each of the 4 cars comes to \$1900. I have never seen a car as a status symbol but as a reliable means of transportation. I have learned to be content, for overseas my means of transportation was bike, bus or

Peter said to Jesus, 'We have <u>left everything to follow you!</u> Jesus replied, I tell you the truth, no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields <u>for me and the gospel</u>, will fail to receive a <u>hundred times as much*</u> in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields - and with them, persecutions and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and last will be <u>first.</u> - Mark 10:28-31 * Jesus often used hyperbole/ exaggeration to emphasize a truth

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if when were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! - Romans 5:9-10 NIV

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

- Romans 5:15

For if, by the trespass of the one man (Adam), death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness, reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. - Romans 5:17 (note: this is a key theme verse for our website: jesusreigns.net)

The apostle Paul was a missionary to the Gentiles, but also knew that God has a place for a remnant of Jews who will come to the Lord. All Israel will be saved - Romans 11:25. Even in the Old Testament several non- Jews came to and were considered part of Israel. God's Israel are those who put their trust in him, which was a small remnant of Israelites. **Abraham's seed** from Genesis 12:1-3 refers to **Jesus and his believers**, whether they be Jew or Gentile. - Romans 2:28-29, Romans 9:6, Galatians 3:16-17, 28-29. Paul goes on to give **warnings** to both groups about being **cut off** due to unbelief - Romans 11:17-24

But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring! - Romans 11:12 (a remnant to come to him)how much more readily will these natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree! - Romans 11:24 (God loves all people groups but he does not approve of anti-Christ Muslim beliefs nor of anti-Christ beliefs today in Israel among the Jews of whom many are atheists. Some Christian leaders go bonkers in their approval over

in Israel among the Jews of whom many are atheists. Some Christian leaders go bonkers in their approval over everything that the nation of Israel does. Some even suggest that we do not even need to evangelize Jews because they are God's chosen people - eg. John Hagee and Mac Hammond

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. - Ephesians 3:20 (we must not limit God as Israel did. - Psalm 78:41 NKJV)

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

- Jeremiah 33:3

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him - but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

(for more on this go to our website to the **Knowing God** section and scroll down to 4th message: **God Surpasses Google)** It is not updated to also include AI (artificial intelligence) **jesusreigns.net**