

RUSSELL SANDERS

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THE LIFE OF JOSEPH – LESSON 12

EL SHADDĀY – THE ALL SUFFICIENT ONE

Genesis 43. It was now ending the second year of famine. Jacob's family had run out of the food from the first trip to Egypt. He told his sons to return there to buy more food.

Judah reminded him that they could only return if Benjamin was with them, and they refused to go without him. Jacob accused them of doing him wrong by telling of a younger brother. Judah replied that the man had asked directly if they had another brother. Their integrity and intentions were already being questioned, so they had to tell the truth.

Judah said send the lad with me and I will be a surety for him (staking his life and his family as a surety bond) because if we do not go, we will all die of starvation. In fact, if it were not for your obstinance father, we would have already gone and been back with food. This is all your fault. (Russell's paraphrase.)

Jacob reluctantly agreed. He said to take double the money plus they were return the previous money put in their sacks. He told them to take an additional present of honey, spices, myrrh, nuts, and almonds along with Benjamin, and said in verse 14, ***"God Almighty give you mercy before the man..."*** God almighty used here by Jacob is the Hebrew word El Shaddāy. It means "the mighty all sufficient God," usually spelled El Shaddai in English.

This is the second time that God's name El Shaddai is used. He was sending his sons on a special journey. The first time this name was used, it was spoken to Jacob by Isaac as he was being sent on a special journey to Chaldea to find a wife (Genesis 28:3) of his family's household. (God was sufficient on that trip also.)

As we shall see later in the story, God was indeed "all sufficient" because He provided a way not only for their survival, but also for them to prosper and grow from a family clan of seventy souls into a mighty nation of over two million people, as Genesis 28:3 called it ***"a multitude of people."***

Are you a child of God? If so, then you will find that as you set out on your "special journey" of life that God is the "all sufficient one" to carry you through your life's journey. Believe it; I mean truly believe it, trust Him, and be obedient. He will never fail you, not even when it looks its bleakest.