

been the interpretation of people all through the ages, and is the interpretation of most conservatives today, that this says that He appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with stress on the characteristics which are emphasized by the name El Shaddai. By the way, that name occurs many, many times in Job, but otherwise very seldom in the Scripture. It occurs in the account of God's appearing to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He says, "I am El Shaddai, walk thou before me and be thou perfect." He uses that when He speaks to them in the book of Genesis. It is not a common name of God, but a name which occurs every now and then, particularly in His relationship with them. It probably means "to be the God Who cares for and nourishes," "the God who oversees one to provide what he needs." That is probably the meaning of El Shaddai. It does not mean God Almighty. The idea of "God Almighty" was a guess that somebody made in the Septuagint about one of the uses in Job. Then it was taken over into the Vulgate, and from that place it was carried through wherever it occurs. But it does not occur in anything before the Vulgate, except for those very few uses in Job. People who try to justify it, say that the word *shaddai* comes from *shadad* which means to deal violently and that from that you get the idea of God Almighty. If it did come from that it would not mean God Almighty, but God, the Violent One. And that certainly is not what the word means and it does not fit any context where it is used. There is no idea of almighty in it. It was a bad guess made by some unknown translator of a small part of Job and then taken over from there. It probably means the nourishing God – the God who cared for them. It was God protecting Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as they wandered in the midst of hostility. It describes God dealing with His covenant people. That was His relation with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It stresses God's relation with men in general, but especially with His covenant people. God is going to show Himself in fullness in the meaning of those qualities Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were familiar with. Their relationship with God had been based upon those qualities which are typified by El Shaddai.

I believe I have mentioned that a very earnest Christian man who has lectured at the University of Liverpool insists that the correct inter-