



THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the entire Bible we see God to be *El Shaddai*, the all-sufficient One. It is a most tender title used of God exclusively in relation to His children. In *El Shaddai*, the all-sufficient One every need is met. This refers to God completely nourishing, satisfying and supplying aid to His people with all their needs, as a mother would her child. The all-sufficient One sustains, upholds and gives us life. Only our God is all-sufficient, uncreated, unborn. He is the living and eternal self-existent God (Genesis 1:1).

THEME SCRIPTURE

As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue (II Peter 1:3).

SECTION I – Definitions

1. WRITE your own definition of *sufficiency*. _____

Dictionary Definition

The dictionary definition of *sufficiency* is enough, satisfaction, contentment, thoroughness, plenty, ability, fitness, completeness and capacity.

Biblical Definitions

In the Hebrew there are several words that speak of *sufficiency*. One of the words is *sabea* which means to fill to satisfaction; have enough, have plenty of, satiate, satisfy. Another word *dais* means enough, able, sufficiently, too much.

Another Hebrew word is *Rab* which means abundant, abound, exceedingly, full, great, increase, plenteous.

The Greek word for God's *sufficiency* is *hikanos* which means competent, ample, content, enough, good, great, large, long, many, security, worthy.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures that describe God's sufficiency. UNDERLINE the word or phrase that speak of and/or describe God's sufficiency.

II Corinthians 3:5, 6 *Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant . . .*

II Corinthians 9:8 *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.*

II Corinthians 12:9 *And He [Jesus] said to me, 'My grace'¹ is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.'*

Ephesians 3:20 *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.*

¹ *grace*: unmerited favor of God; God's grace meets man in his wickedness and offers righteousness as a gift; an act of God, the divine influence upon the heart; God's unmerited acceptance, benevolence, favor, gift, joy and pleasure toward man. The source of goodwill, love and salvation.

Philippians 4:19

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

3. What did you learn about God's sufficiency from these Scripture? _____

PERSONAL

How has God shown His sufficiency to you by sustaining and upholding you? _____

SECTION II – God's Sufficiency for the Nation of Israel

The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD so the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Midianites for several years to be oppressed by them. Whenever the Israelites planted and grew crops, the Midianites would come and destroy the harvest and leave no food for them. God called Gideon, and in His sufficiency, enabled him to deliver the children of Israel from the Midianites.

Gideon the Wheat Thresher

READ Judges Chapter 6.

1. When the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, what did God do (vv. 1, 2)? _____

Feeling powerless against the oppression of the Midianites, where did the children of Israel seek refuge?

2. In what ways did the Midianites come against the children of Israel (vv. 3-6)? _____

In what condition did the children of Israel find themselves? _____

In their distress, whom did they turn to? _____

3. The LORD heard the cry of His children. How did He attend to their need (vv. 7-10)? _____

4. God also came to their aid by sending the Angel of the LORD.² Who did He send the Angel to (v. 11)?

Where was he? What was he doing? _____

5. What was the first thing the Angel of the LORD declared to Gideon (v. 12)? _____

6. Feeling discouraged and fearful, what was Gideon's unbelieving response to this powerful declaration (v. 13)?

² Angel of the LORD: a theophany; an appearance by the LORD taking on a divine or human form in order to be visible to man; the Person of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament.

7. How did the LORD place His divine call on Gideon (vv. 14-16)? _____

How did Gideon see himself? _____

How did God see Gideon? _____

LOOK DEEPER

How have you felt fearful, unbelieving and inadequate to what God has called you to do? _____

How has God been all-sufficient to meet your needs? _____

God will meet you as you trust Him.

8. In Judges 6:17-23, the Angel of God reassured Gideon of his call to defeat the Midianites. SUMMARIZE how He did it.

What did Gideon perceive and proclaim? _____

9. The Angel of the LORD having dispelled Gideon's fear led Gideon to build an altar, what did he name it (vv. 23, 24)?

10. DESCRIBE the steps that Gideon took in obedience to God (vv. 25-27). _____

11. Gideon destroyed the altar of Baal.³ How did the men of the city respond (vv. 28-35)? _____

How did Gideon's father, Joash, a worshiper of Baal, respond? _____

What new name did Gideon's father give him as he witnessed his son's God given courage? _____

The enemies of Israel gathered together and encamped against Israel. The Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, what did He empower Gideon to do?

12. What did Gideon do to reaffirm God's divine call to become the mighty man of valor (vv. 36-40)?

³ Baal: lord; master, owner; fertility god; the name is appropriated to the principle male god of Canaan and of the Phoenicians; worshiped in the time of Samuel the prophet. A sun god, identified with Molech. In the worship of Baal, incense and burnt sacrifices were offered to him (Jeremiah 7:9), and on extraordinary occasions, the victims were children offered by their parents (Jeremiah 19:15).

PERSONAL

How has the LORD reaffirmed what He has called you to do? _____

Gideon the Mighty Man of Valor

READ Judges Chapter 7.

1. In order for God to demonstrate to Gideon that His strength alone would be sufficient to defeat the Midianites, what was the first thing the LORD instructed Gideon to do (vv. 1-3)?

2. What did the LORD instruct Gideon to do next (vv. 4-8)? _____

WRITE out verse 7. _____

What did Gideon do? _____

3. What did the LORD command Gideon to do (vv. 9-11a)? _____

What did the LORD say to fearful Gideon to reassure him? _____

4. How many Midianites, Amalekites and their camels were there (vv. 11b, 12)? _____

5. SHARE the dream that Gideon overheard at the enemies' camp (vv. 13, 14). _____

How was the dream interpreted? _____

6. How did Gideon respond and what did he say (v. 15)? _____

7. DESCRIBE Gideon's warfare strategy (vv. 16-20). _____

What was Gideon's warfare cry? _____

8. DESCRIBE the results of Gideon's God-given warfare strategy (vv. 21-23). _____

What did the Lord cause the Midianites and Amalekites to do to each other? _____

9. What further instructions did Gideon give to ensure the defeat of the Midianites (vv. 24, 25)? _____

Who did they capture and what was their fate? _____

As you can see, since God is all-sufficient; He does not need self-sufficient people. He delights to use weak instruments to show His sufficiency through them. God does not see us in the weakness of our flesh, but as what we can become through Him. II Chronicles 32:8 says, *With him [our enemy] is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles . . .*

SECTION III – The Sufficiency of God's Word

Jesus referred to this passage when Satan tempted Him, knowing God's Word was sufficiently able to deliver Him from Satan's assaults.

FILL-IN Jesus' response to each of Satan's attempts to make Him fall in Matthew 4:1-11.

After the baptism of Christ, where did the Spirit of God lead Jesus? Why (v. 1)? _____

After Jesus had fasted forty days and forty nights, who came to Him (v. 2, 3a)? _____

verse 3b Satan: . . . *If You are the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*

verse 4 Jesus' response: _____

Where did the devil take Jesus next (v. 5)? _____

verse 6 Satan: . . . *If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over You.' and 'In their hands they shall bear You up, lest You dash Your foot against a stone.'*

verse 7 Jesus' response: _____

The devil then took Jesus to an exceedingly high mountain (v. 8).

verse 9 Satan: *'All these things [the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them] will I give You if You will fall down and worship me.'*

verse 10 Jesus' response: _____

What happened after Satan left Jesus (v. 11)? _____

SECTION IV – Scriptural References of God's Sufficiency

What do the following Scriptures teach you about His sufficiency?

John 6:68 _____

Colossians 2:9, 10 _____

I Thessalonians 5:24 _____

I Timothy 1:12 _____

II Timothy 3:16, 17 _____

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE the THEME SCRIPTURE.

_____ (II Peter 1:3).

*No good thing will He
withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

Psalm 84:11

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