

El-Roi ~ The God Who Sees “EL-ROI” El-roy-EE or El-Raw-EE

The story of Hagar is full of God’s goodness. We can learn from the way God worked in Hagar’s life. By the world’s standard, Hagar was a nobody, an obscure Egyptian woman, a foreign slave girl. In fact, we probably shouldn’t have ever known her name or story if Providence had not brought her into the family of Abram. Yet the Lord of Heaven saw her in distress, provided for her needs and blessed her son because he was a child of Abram. This “nobody” gave us the term “**EL-ROI**”, which means **the God who sees**, and her story reminds us that no matter **who we are** or **where we are**, the **Lord God sees us and cares about us**. He will comfort us and provide for anyone who turns to Him and he always keeps His promises.

I think we are all familiar with the story of Sarai and Abram. God promised Abram he would bless him with a great nation, even through Sara was later in years and had not borne him a child. Although, Sara was fully aware of God’s promise to her husband, after 10 years of waiting, she had not been able to conceive. So, she took matters into her own hands, instead of waiting on the promise from God.

She became so desperate, that she resorted to the custom of her day. Customarily, a barren wife could get a child through one of her maidservants. In other words, allow an adulterous relationship to happen between the Master of her house (her husband Abram) and her maidservant, Hagar, so that a child would be conceived. The custom allowed a Master to **adopt** these children, borne from maidservants, as their own. That’s it. That is how **she** will start the process of this promise from God to her husband. A fool proof plan, right?!? **(GOD SEES EVERYTHING)**

In (Gen 16:2-3) She goes look... *This is what I’ll do Abraham, I’m going to give you my Egyptian maidservant, Hagar. Take her as your wife, she will bare you children. Then come back to me and this is how we’ll start your line, okay? (Gen 16:2-3)* Abraham, ignoring God’s divine promise and assurance that GOD would bless him with a child, sinfully yields to his wife’s insistence. He basically says, *Okay*. So, Hagar becomes pregnant. **(GOD SEES EVERYTHING)**

Well, immediate bad consequences befall everyone. Even though this **adulterous situation** was of Sarah's own doing, Sarah became jealous and angry when Hagar began to flaunt her expanding waistline (Genesis 16:4). I guess Sarah didn't anticipate contemptuousness or disrespect from her maidservant as a result of her solution for her bareness. Hagar no sooner perceives herself with child by her master than she looks scornfully upon her mistress, reproaches her perhaps with her barrenness, makes insults over Sarai and perhaps boasts of the prospect she had of bringing an heir to Abram, to that good land, and to the promise. Now she thinks herself a better woman than Sarai, possibly more favored by Heaven, and likely to be better beloved by Abram; and therefore, she will NOT submit as she has done prior to her pregnancy. Hagar grew haughty and insolent, forgetting her place and origin. **(GOD SEES EVERYTHING)**

Sarai blames Abram for the broken mistress-maidservant relationship and demands judgment to rectify the whole situation. (Gen 16-5) Abram resigns the matter of the maid-servant to Sarai, whose proper province it was to rule that part of the family: Thy maid is in thy hand. So, Abram transfers his responsibility back to Sarai, giving her freedom to react however she wanted with Hagar. Sounds like Abram just wanted to keep the peace. **(Gen 16-6) (GOD SEES EVERYTHING)**

Sarai's passion will be revenged upon Hagar: (Gen 16-7) She dealt harshly with her. Perhaps not only confining her to her usual place and work as a servant, but probably making her to serve with rigour. This became an oppressive and terrible situation. We know that God takes notice of, and is displeased with, the hardships which harsh masters unreasonably put upon their servants. **(GOD SEES EVERYTHING)**

Hagar's pride could not bear it, her high spirit having become impatient of rebuke: She fled from Sarai. She not only avoided her wrath for the present, but she totally deserted her service, and ran away from the house, forgetting, what wrong she did to her mistress, whose servant she was, and that she herself had first given the provocation to this situation, by despising her mistress. Note: 1 Peter 2:20 reminds us that those that suffer for their faults ought to bear their sufferings patiently, but Hagar wanted out of this toxic situation and ran.

Hagar didn't stop running until she was in the wilderness, running in the direction of her homeland of Egypt. Weary, she sits down near a fresh spring of clear water to refresh herself with. Hagar was now out of her place, and out of the way of her duty, and going further astray, when the angel found her. (Gen 16:7) Now, the angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness. In verse 8. Notice how God lovingly examines her heart. "*He says Hagar, Sarai's maid*", as a check to her pride. He reminds her that she is Sarai's maid to humble her. Also, as a rebuke of her flight, Sarai's maid ought to be in Sarai's tent and not wondering in the wilderness.

"He goes on to ask her "Where have you come from and where are you going?" Hagar makes an honest confession. She says " I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress." She acknowledges her fault in fleeing from her mistress, and yet, excuses it, that it was from the face, of displeasure, of her mistress. The Lord knows where she is going. Scripture tells us she is on her way to her homeland of Egypt. If she returns to her people in Egypt, she will also be returning to their false gods. Hagar was headed into danger both to her people and in the wilderness, through which she would travel. Deu. 8:15 describes the "wilderness as full of fiery serpents and scorpions with thirsty ground where there was no water".

In Gen 16:9 we see how the angel of the Lord sent her back, with suitable and compassionate counsel.

He says... "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her authority. Here he tells her go home, and humble yourself, seek forgiveness for what you have done to your mistress. Resolve for the future to conduct yourself well Hagar. Rebellion and escape were not the solution to her problems.

In Gen 16:10 this verse shows us that the angel of the Lord went on to encourage her with an assurance of the mercy God had in store for her and her seed. (She was pregnant remember?) Read verses...

“I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they too will be many to count.” A prediction concerning her future generations to come. A comfort in her present distress! This would have stopped me in my tracks.

In verse 11 we see that God wants her to know He takes notice of her pregnant condition. He says “ *Behold you are with child and you will bear a son and you shall call him Ismael because the Lord has given heed to your affliction.*” Did you notice that? God names her son! What an honor for her and her son! Ismael’s name means GOD HEARS and the reason was because the Lord heard her cry of affliction. The angel assures her of a safe delivery, and that of a son, which Abram desired. This rebellion of hers might have destroyed her hope of an offspring; yet she is reassured all would be well.

Although Hagar was still a servant, a mother of many she would also become. What great encouragement this must have been for Hagar!

In verse 13 Hagar called the name of the Lord that spoke unto her. She made confession of his name, this, she said to his praise, “**You are a God who Sees” El Roi:**

Hagar recognizes the Angel as God and ascribing this new name arose from her astonishment of having been the object of God’s gracious attention. Hagar being an Egyptian slave girl, her religion was worshiping images, only things she could see, she was not a worshiper of YAWEH says ‘**YOU ARE THE GOD WHO SEES ME**’ It is so amazing that God would reveal himself to this woman, not an Israelite, but an Egyptian slave who finds herself in the desert, in a very difficult situation.

Hagar is the one THAT NAMES THIS HOLY ATTRIBUTE TO THE NATURE OF WHO GOD IS.

It was a great comfort to this woman, with child, to know that she and her son were under the awareness and care of the divine Providence.

The God we serve is an all-seeing God. Sometimes, God brings us into a wilderness, and there He meets us. It is a great mercy to be stopped in a sinful way either by godly conscience or by Providence.

God suffers those that are out of the way to wander awhile, that when they see their folly, and what a loss they have brought themselves to, they may be better disposed to return.

God knows every circumstance. Even those that may be overwhelming to us. We just need to trust that He sees us and that He is working in ways that we may not fully understand in the moment. Hagar learned that the goodness of God outweighed the troubles that surrounded her.

So, where is El-Roi today in your life? Where does he meet you? Where is Jesus in the midst of your situations? In John chapters 14, 15 and 16 we read of a beautiful intimate moment that Jesus has with his disciples. Jesus heart gets overwhelmed for people that are going to give their lives for him and he knows that he's not going to be with them physically because he's going to go home to be with his father and the holy spirit is going to come. He tells them it is not going to be easy. In John 16 he says "I told you these things **so that in me you may have peace**. In this world you will have tribulation but take heart, I have overcome the world. EL-Roi, the God who sees me - - Jesus says **I see you, find your peace in me.**

So wherever you are today, maybe you are in the season where you want to run away from something or you are already standing in the desert and it's hot and you are thirsty, like Hagar, you may have no idea what do to. I encourage you to pray to El-Roi so you can hear HIM say to you, **do not be afraid, I see you, I am right here. I will take care of you.**