

GOD OF WONDERS

El – Roi “The God Who Sees”

“**Omnipresent**” God is everywhere. We are always in His presence.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” **Psalms 46:1**

Hagar and The Birth of Ishmael (NRSV)

16:7 The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur.

8 And he said, ‘Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?’

She said, ‘I am running away from my mistress Sarai.’ 9 The angel of the Lord said to her,

‘Return to your mistress, and submit to

her.’ 10 The angel of the Lord also said to her,

‘I will so greatly multiply your

offspring that they cannot be counted for

multitude.’ 11 And the angel of

the Lord said to her,

'Now you have conceived and shall bear a son;
you shall call him Ishmael,
for the Lord has given heed to your affliction.

12 He shall be a wild ass of a man,
with his hand against everyone,
and everyone's hand against him;
and he shall live at odds with all his kin.'

13 So she named the Lord who spoke to her,
'You are El-roi'; for she said,
'Have I really seen God and remained alive after
seeing him?' 14 Therefore
the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies
between Kadesh and Bered.

15 Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named
his son, whom Hagar bore,
Ishmael. 16 Abram was eighty-six years old
when Hagar bore him, Ishmael.

El-Roi

**Hagar gave God the name, El Roi - "The God
who Sees Me"**

1. Dangers of taking God's promises into your own hands. Exodus 16: 1-6

A. Sarai, that was barren.

There was a lot of pain in these words.

- The pain of hope deferred making the heart sick (**Proverbs 13:12**).
- The pain of prayers not yet answered.
- The pain of wanting to hold her own child.
- The pain of public shame.
- The pain of blaming God for one's problems.

B. Sari took Hagar which is an Egyptian slave and gave her to Abram (86) to have relations with him to fulfill God's promise.

C. Hagar was experiencing a lot of heartache at the hand of her mistress.

2. Hagar's wilderness experience

Hagar fled Sarai's presence and runs into the wilderness to die.

The angel found Hagar by a spring of water of her way to Shur.

Note: The First angel of the LORD too appeared in the Bible was to Hagar a single mother-to-be who had a pride problem and was mistreated by the woman who put her into this awful situation.

Why does Hagar call God El-Roi?

1. Because she knew God was there for her – He saw her hopeless situation. God stepped in to her dark place and said, “Hagar, I see You” God was saying – you are not alone.

2. Relationship with God

He said ‘Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai

“I AM” “I Am that I Am” – “I Am Who I AM”

The angel asked her important questions. And then gave instruction.

1.The Angel said, ‘Hagar, slave-girl of Sari, where have you come from and where are you going?’

2.The angel said, ‘Return to your mistress, and submit to her.

The angel of the Lord told her to repent. If she changed her direction, there was an inherent promise – **obey Me and I will protect you.**

3.The promise from the angel of the LORD to Hagar.

The angel said,

a. 'I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude.'

The unborn son of Hagar would be the father of uncountable descendants.

As the promise was fulfilled, Ishmael became the ancestor of the Arab people, just as his later half-brother Isaac would become the ancestor of the Jewish people.

This makes the conflict between Arab and Jews even more tragic: they are brothers and share a common father in Abraham.

b. 'Now you have conceived and shall bear a son; you shall call him Ishmael (God will hear), for the Lord has given heed to your affliction.'

Note: Ishmael was the first person in the Bible to be given his name before he was born. God had a plan for this boy and his descendants. God doesn't give a name if He doesn't have a plan.

c. 12 He shall be a wild donkey of a man, with his hand against everyone, and everyone's hand against him; and he shall live at odds with all his kin.' (How does this look like a good visit from God – El Roi – The One who sees!

4. God told Hagar to go back and stay in “The Story”. (13-16)

God's going to bless and protect Hagar and Ishmael.

(Does this look like God is caring for her?)

a. She's pregnant.

b. If she stays in the wilderness, she would die.

c. She has to go back to Abram & Sarai (**past**).

d. Remember: Lighting a candle gives birth to His purpose. **(Take your eyes off the problem – get your eyes on the promise)**

What about Ishmael?

He's going to be a wild child and at odds (Hagar says, I have to go back and give birth to this child? (Ishmael – will not be submissive to oppressive people.)

Ready for the God who sees? Unlike Hagar Ishmael's Father is an Israelite. Ishmael would be born free and not have to endure the slavery conditions like his mother. He will not stand for people mistreating him.

Ishmael is a generational curse breaker

Hagar is carrying her ticket to freedom!

John 10:10, "The thief comes to destroy / Jesus came to give life"

Hagar named God El-Roi because of a new awareness of God.

What do you call God today?

The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of (Living) water in the wilderness. She would have died with no food.

Where can I obtain this living water?

What does it look like to receive this living water while I am in my wilderness experience?

5. Don't lose your wilderness experience (God is laying a strong foundation for His purpose)

a. Revisit that place - It's a precious season where God speaks to you.

One might say, "I want to forget my past!" But I would say to you, Jesus didn't wipe away His past. It was an experience for our deliverance. Every detail of Christ life had a purpose. Let **your past remind you of your purpose**)

b. Shur – Wilderness, "Wall"

Jesus brings you to Shur, not to leave you there, but manifest himself to you there.

c. A place where precious faith develops a soul to say, **"My Soul is anchored from drifting"**

Mary was carrying her & our ticket to freedom.