

El Roi: "The God Who Sees"

Scripture Reading — Genesis 16

[Hagar] gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me."

—Genesis 16:13 —

Today's story centers on the painful triangle of relationships between Abram, Sarai, and Sarai's slave Hagar. The story contains weakness, jealousy, competition, contempt, scorn, rejection, meanness, and other emotional violence. When the situation becomes unbearable, Hagar runs away. But now she is in a desperate situation: pregnant and alone in the desert.

But there's grace and mercy in this raw story too. The name for God in this text draws from the Hebrew word *roi*, which has to do with "looking," "appearance," "seeing," and "sight." Alone and utterly forsaken in the desert—in her darkest moment—Hagar realizes that El Roi, "the God who sees," has never lost sight of her.

Don't we all find ourselves at times in desperate situations? Even if our circumstances are not desperate, they can certainly be difficult at times, and we can feel as if we have no hope. But even in times of hopelessness, we can be assured: El Roi, "the God who sees," is watching over us, seeing us, and providing for us in our darkest hour of need.

In our bleakest moments we too feel all alone. But El Roi, "the God who sees," has never lost sight of us and promises to care for us. What greater assurance can we find?

Prayer

Dear God, you see and care for us in all of our squabbles, struggles, and needs. Help us to know this through Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Devotion topics: [Bible](#), [God](#), [God's Names](#)

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Printed on June 24, 2021

