

#2 NAMES OF GOD: “EL ROI”

A. A Christian should never see himself as being insignificant or unimportant, but we have all had that sense at some time.

1. Maybe when you joined the military (serial #), or became a freshman in college. Maybe it was when you moved to a new town. Perhaps you have always felt unimportant.

B. Today we want to study the name of God that announces His power to know everything.

1. This is a name that implies His ability to observe us at all times in our lives & never to lose sight of us – whether in the mighty throng of humanity or in the most secluded spot on earth.

[This name of God should remind us that to Him we are never insignificant or unimportant.]

I. BACKGROUND (Gen 16:1-16)

A. This was perhaps Hagar’s first exposure to the “omniscience” of God.

1. She now understood that God cared as much for her as she did for her master & mistress.
2. The word “omniscience” is not used in the Bible, but this characteristic of God is evident in many passages.
 - a. It means that God cannot be *confused*, *surprised* or *taught*. He does not need to learn anything. He has a perfect *memory & foresight*, & an absolute *knowledge* of all things!

Psa 33:13-15 – The LORD looks from heaven; *He sees all the sons of men*. 14 From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; 15 He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works. **NLT** – 15 He made their hearts, so he understands everything they do.

Isa 40:13-14 – Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has taught Him? 14 With whom did He take counsel, & who instructed Him, & taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, & showed Him the way of understanding?

Prov 15:3 – *The eyes of the LORD are in every place*, keeping watch on the evil & the good.

Jer 23:23-24 – Am I a God near at hand, says the Lord, & not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?” says the LORD; **“Do I not fill heaven & earth?”** says the LORD

B. **This being true**, why would God ask Hagar “Where have you come from, & where are you going?” (16:9)

1. For the same reason He asked Adam “Where are you?” when Adam & Eve were running & hiding from Him (Gen 3:9).
2. God wasn’t seeking information, He wanted Adam – and now Hagar – to stop running away from Him in their fear & distress.
3. God wanted Hagar to see that her inappropriate actions toward Sarai led to this present state: *she didn’t have a choice but to go in to Abram’s tent, but she did have a choice as to how she would treat her mistress Sarai.* – *But chiefly, God wanted Hagar to know that He was observing her.*

[Some people may be bothered by this attribute of God, but Hagar was comforted.

She called God “*El Roi*: [ʿALE RO`AYE] *The God Who Sees*”, & by using that name she was giving honor to God who comforted her in her distress.

She came to know that, with God, no one was insignificant (Matt 10:29-31; Psa 139:1-10).]

II. WHAT DOES GOD SEE IN OUR LIVES?

A. He Sees Our Sins.

1. God saw Hagar’s sin (Gen16:4b; Matt 7:12; Jas 2:8), but He wasn’t observing her to condemn her the moment she erred; He wanted to help her deal with the consequences of that misdeed.
 - a. But she would need to repent (change her mind); she would have to return to Sarai & submit to her; Hagar would have to face the consequences of what she had done (16:9).

Psa 90:8 (Prayer of Moses) – *You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins* in the light of Your countenance

2. Man’s unwillingness to confess sins, which God has already seen, & then to submit to His will is the underlying cause for most of life’s problems.
3. God didn’t *overlook* Hagar’s sin; He took the first step in helping her deal with it, but then she was expected to do as He commanded.

- a. God also took the first step in helping us deal with our sins, & we too are expected to obey Him if we want that problem solved (**Rom 5:6-8; 6:1-4; 1 John 1:9!**)

[God knows ALL ABOUT the difficulties we face because of sin, & so He devised a plan to help us overcome those difficulties—because He is “*The God Who Sees*”.]

B. He Sees Our Works.

1. God saw every bit of effort Hagar put forth to properly serve Sarai.
 - a. She must have done good work, because Sarai called her “my maid” or servant (**Gen 16:2**).
 - b. Sarai even entrusted Hagar to her husband of all people (**16:1-4**). Now I ask you ladies, would Sarai have done that if she felt that her servant was impudent (impertinent, insolent, disrespectful, impolite, presumptuous, ill-mannered, & sassy)?
2. No, the text implies that God was patient with Hagar because she had been quietly & respectfully serving her master & mistress.

3. The God Who Sees does not miss THE TYPE of service in His children offer Him.

Heb 6:10 – For *God is not unjust to forget your work & labor of love* which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, & do minister. (Cf. **Rev 2:2, 9, 13, 19: 3:1, 8, 15**).

Matt 6:1-4, 5-6, 16-18 (charitable deeds, praying, fasting) – And your *Father who sees in secret* will Himself reward you openly.

[When we understand “*The God Who Sees*” then we’re not concerned about being praised for our service, we’re only concerned about THE TYPE of works **God** sees us doing.]

C. He Sees Our Hardships.

1. God saw Hagar’s suffering, but He saw it in view of the final outcome, which was going to be good for her, a blessing to her (**16:10-12**).
2. But when we have a hardship it’s very difficult to see any good that can come from it.
 - a. In fact, we are not looking that far ahead; we’re wrapped up in the pain of the moment.

- b. But God can bring about a magnificent result, if we will trust Him.

Jas 1:2-4 – My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that *the testing of your faith produces patience* [endurance]. But *let patience have its perfect work*, that you may be perfect & complete, lacking nothing.

1 Pet 1:7 – that *the genuineness of your faith*, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire [various trials], *may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ*, (Consider [Phil 1:12](#)).

[When we understand “*The God Who Sees*” then we know that hardships will be followed by something gained.

There are two things we learn when we finally see God as Hagar saw Him.]

III. APPLLICATION

A. We Learn To Be Honest.

1. Because, first & foremost, God wants to help us avoid the tragic & everlasting consequences of unrepented sin, but He will not help us until we learn to be completely honest with Him & follow His instructions.

2. And who better to help us than the One Who made us; the One Who knows the cause & effect of every thought we have & action we ever take?

A shallow comparison: A fellow was having trouble starting his Model T when a limousine stopped & out popped a well-dressed fellow who wanted to help. He tinkered around with the vehicle & finally got it started. As he departed he stuck out his hand & said, “My name is Henry Ford, I built these cars & I know how to make them go.”

3. We must be honest with our Maker because He knows all about us; nothing can be hidden from “The God Who Sees”.

Heb 4:13 – And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but *all things are naked & open to the eyes of Him* to whom we must give account.

4. Adam & Eve did what most people will do when confronted with their sins; they were dishonest with God & they lied to themselves.

[Secondly, when we understand “The God Who Sees”...]

B. We Learn To Be At Peace.

1. Peace will result in a Christian's life when he becomes aware that God sees everything about his life.
2. The Thessalonians endured "persecutions & tribulations" to follow Christ (2 Thess 1:4).
 - a. And evidently they knew God was aware of their trials, because of the way they dealt with them (2 Thess 1:3-4; cf. 1 Thess 1:3).
 - b. And so did "The God Who Sees" reward them for their faithfulness?

2 Thess 3:16 – Now may the *Lord of peace Himself give you peace* always in every way. *The Lord be with you all.*

Examine **Col 3:15** – then go back to **3:12-14**

Examine **Rom 15:13** – then go back to **15:1-6**

How & when is peace finally delivered to the Christian?

Phil 4:4-7 – *Rejoice* in the Lord always. Again I will say, *rejoice!* 5 *Let your gentleness be known to all men.* The Lord is at hand. 6 *Be anxious for nothing*, but in everything by prayer & supplication, with thanksgiving, *let your requests be made known to God*; 7 *& the peace of God*, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts & minds through Christ Jesus.

[I hope we have learned that "The God Who Sees" is not only watching us, He is watching over us.]

CLOSING

- A. Hagar was able to return to Sarai because of her new understanding of God.
 1. She would have been happy to live out the rest of her days with that knowledge.
 2. But even then, she couldn't know everything there was to know about her future.
 - a. One day she would be cast out for good; but when that time came, she departed with no fear & distress over her future.
- B. Aren't you glad that God allowed Himself to be identified by the name "El Roi" [ALE RO`AYE]?
 1. That Name should remind us to submit to the counsel of God, to live honest lives, & to live in peace (1 Tim 2:2).

[The Name of chief importance to us today is "Jesus Christ" (Acts 4:12; it is His mind that we must seek to have if we hope to attain life eternal, & the praise of God (Phil 2:5-11).]

GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION:

Hear the gospel of Jesus Christ; read it in your Bible: Acts 2; 3; 13; 17; Rom 10:17

Believe Jesus to be Lord and Christ, the Son of God and Savior: Acts 2:36; John 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31; Acts 4:12; Titus 1:4

Repent of your sins: Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 1 John 3:4

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ: Matt 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom 10:9-10

Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins: Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:27; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:21

Be obedient to the Lord, He will be your Judge: Titus 2:11-12; Heb 5:9; 2 John 9; Rev 2:10; John 12:48

“EL ROI”

Today we want to study the name of God that announced His power to know everything. This name of God should remind us that to Him we are never insignificant or unimportant.

I. BACKGROUND (Gen 16:1-13)

A. **Hagar met the “omniscient” God** (Psa 33:13-15; Isa 40:13-14; Prov 15:3; Jer 23:24).

1. She learned the inappropriateness of her actions.
2. She learned that God was observing her to help her.
3. She called God “El Roi” [Ale Ro`aye]: “God Who Sees”.
4. She saw that, with God, no one is insignificant (Matt 10:29-31; Psa 139:1-10).

II. WHAT DOES GOD “SEE” IN OUR LIVES?

A. **He Sees Our Sins.**

1. God saw Hagar’s sin & offered her a remedy (Gen16:4b, 9).
2. He sees our sin & offers us a remedy (Psa 90:8; Rom 5:6-8; 6:3-4; 1 John 1:9).

B. **He Sees Our Works.**

1. God saw Hagar’s service to Sarai & Abram (Gen 16:2, 8).
2. He sees the type of service we offer Him (Heb 6:10; Matt 6:4, 6, 18; Rev 2, 3).

C. **He Sees Our Hardships.**

1. God saw Hagar’s suffering & its blessed outcome (16:7-8, 10-12).
2. He sees our suffering & its pleasant result (Jas 1:2-4; Phil 1:12; 1 Pet 1:6-9).

III. APPLICATION

A. **We Must Be Honest.**

1. Our Maker knows all about us, & only He can help us (Heb 4:13).
2. Adam & Eve were dishonest with God by hiding from His help.

B. **We Must Be At Peace.**

1. Knowing that God sees everything should give us peace (2 Thess 3:16; cf. 1:3-4).
2. Peace is granted when we reject anxiety & choose to pray to God (Phil 4:4-7).

“The God Who Sees” is not only watching us, He is watching over us.