

"El Roi"

Genesis 16

**INTRODUCTION:** Tonight, in our study of God's names we are going to look at Genesis 16 and it will be in this chapter that we shall see the name "EL ROI" which means "The God who sees". The lessons which we shall see in the text before us are very encouraging for all of us.

The name which we are going to look at tonight will be found in Genesis 16 in which we find the conception of Ishmael. Let us get into our text for tonight.

**I. The Impatience**

When God called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees he promised to him that he would make a great nation from his offspring.

**Genesis 12:1-4**

*Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:*

<sup>2</sup> *And **I will make of thee a great nation**, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing;*

<sup>3</sup> *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

<sup>4</sup> *So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and **Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.***

Abram was 75 years old when he received this promise and at this time Sarai was barren.

When we come to Genesis 16 it is ten years later. Abram is now 85 years old and he still has no children.

**Notice Genesis 16:1-3**

Sarai came up with a plan to help fulfill God's promise. The idea was that Abram would marry Hagar and he could father children through her. Abram wanted to see the promised fulfilled so much that he chose to cooperate with Sarai's plan.

**Application:**

Let me just pause here for a moment and remind us all the danger of desiring something so much that we chose to go against the will of God in order to get it. When we make choices like this as Abram did there will always be consequences that are irreversible.

## II. The Tension

### Notice Genesis 16:4-6

Abram took Sarai to be his wife and she immediately conceived. This then caused hard feelings with Sarai. She then blamed Abram and she began to take out her frustration upon Hagar and she made life very difficult for her. Life for Hagar became so difficult under the heavy hand of Sarai that Hagar fled.

## III. The Comfort

### Notice Genesis 16:7-9

The Angel of the Lord here is the Preincarnate Christ. In other words, this was Jesus before He became a man. His instructions to Hagar was to return and submit to the authority of Sarai.

#### Application:

There is an application here that we must take some time to investigate. With the instructions from the Angel of the Lord we can clearly see that it was God's will for Hagar to go back and live under the oppression she was receiving from Sarai.

These are the very situations which many people desire to flee from, but it is often God's will for us to stay in these difficult situations because they become the places where we learn of the power and the love of God.

### Mark 6:45-51

*<sup>45</sup> And straightway he **constrained** his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.*

*<sup>46</sup> And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.*

*<sup>47</sup> And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.*

*<sup>48</sup> And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.*

*<sup>49</sup> But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out:*

<sup>50</sup> For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, *Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.*

<sup>51</sup> And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

The word "constrained" means "to force". It was the Lord's will that His disciples sail right into the middle of the storm because it would be there that they would learn of His power over the storms of life.

God does not send us into the storms to see us suffer but He sends us into the storms in order to bring about spiritual growth in our lives.

### **Notice Genesis 16:9-12**

The Angel of the Lord assured her that from her seed would become a multitude. The point we need to see here is that the Angel of the Lord was assuring her that she and her son would be fine under the oppression of Sarai. God was assuring her that He would take care of her.

#### **Application:**

There are two lessons here for us to see. One is a warning the other is a comfort.

#### **1. The Warning.**

The child of Hagar, Ishmael, would be the father of the Arab nations. It would be from him that many of the current terrorist groups have emerged today. So, when Abram stepped outside the will of God in an attempt to assist God in fulfilling His promise it caused tension in his own family and it has caused war and bloodshed in our day.

I point all of this out to remind us that the consequences of sin don't just affect us, but they can impact many people for years after we are gone. Let me give you a very serious example of this.

When a person who is a believer decides to step outside the will of God and step into sin it often has a major impact upon those who are not saved but they are watching. I have actually heard people who were watching believers say, "If that is what it means to be a Christian I do not want anything to do with Christianity." Can you imagine being held accountable for turning someone away from Jesus Christ and then they die in their sins and go to hell? It is sad to say but it happens because believers do not live separated holy lives. The lesson here from Ishmael is that sin affects many people for many years.

#### **2. The Comfort**

The comfort from the verses before us is that when it is God's will for us to live or work in difficult situations He watches over us. He is in control of the situation which we are in. Let me show you something which Peter wrote to his readers who were being persecuted under Nero.

**1 Peter 5:6-8**

<sup>6</sup> *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

<sup>7</sup> *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

<sup>8</sup> *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

The persecution they were facing was under the control of the mighty hand of God. So, whatever we face we can rest assured that our God is in control of the situation.

**Notice Genesis 16:13**

Here is the name which we are going to focus on, "THOU GOD SEEST ME" which is **EL ROI**. Hagar was touched deeply with the thought that God saw her in the midst of her oppression. Now, there is more here that we need to see before we bring this name into our lives.

We must understand where Hagar came from.

**Notice Genesis 16:1 again.**

Hagar was an Egyptian. Let me show you how she became a part of Abram's family.

**Genesis 12:9**

<sup>9</sup> *And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.*

<sup>10</sup> *And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.*

<sup>11</sup> *And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon:*

<sup>12</sup> *Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.*

<sup>13</sup> *Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.*

<sup>14</sup> And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair.

<sup>15</sup> The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

<sup>16</sup> And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.

When Pharaoh thought Sarai was Abram's sister, not knowing she was his wife, that he entreated Abram well and gave him great gifts. One of the gifts was Hagar.

So, looking at Hagar we can understand that she was in a family that she did not choose.

**Notice Genesis 16:1-3 again.**

She was given to Abram to be one of his concubines and she had no choice in the matter. So, looking at all of this we can see that Hagar found herself in a situation and under oppression because of the choices of others. It started with Pharaoh, then it was Sarai and then Abram. The choices of three different people landed her in a situation where she was now under great oppression.

**Notice Genesis 16:7**

We must not miss the word "FOUND" here in this verse. The Angel of the Lord sought her out to give to her the encouragement she needed.

**Application:**

You may at this present time be experiencing a very difficult situation and the stress level you are feeling has brought you to the place that like Hagar you feel like running away. You are in this situation not because of your choices but because of the choices of others. Through a series of events you have found yourself in this stressful situation and it is almost more than you can bear.

Let me give you another scenario. Maybe the stress you are dealing with is from your choices. You found yourself in a situation where you had to make a choice and it turned out the choice you made was a bad choice and now you are in a very difficult situation. You feel like moving to another state or country, but you can't. The situation robs you of your peace, your sleep and even your appetite.

Let me give you some encouragement from the name EL ROI. God knows, and He sees all that is going on in your life. No matter where you are He will find you even if you are in a situation that you have created through your choices. Let me show you another passage.

**Genesis 3:6-11**

<sup>6</sup> *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

<sup>7</sup> *And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

<sup>8</sup> *And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.*

<sup>9</sup> *And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?*

<sup>10</sup> *And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*

<sup>11</sup> *And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?*

When Adam and Eve sinned, and they heard God walking in the garden they hid among the trees. It was then that God sought them out. He sought them out and gave to them the opportunity to repent. He did not seek them to punish them, but God sought them out so that they could place their faith in Him and He could give them the comfort which they needed.

In the same way when we find ourselves in situations that are very stressful and oppressive whether it be by our choices or someone else's choices, God seeks us out for He wants to offer comfort, encouragement and strength for us in those times.

**2 Comfort 1:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;*

<sup>4</sup> *Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

**Isaiah 40:29-31**

<sup>29</sup> *He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.*

<sup>30</sup> *Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:*

<sup>31</sup> *But they that wait upon the LORD **shall renew their strength**; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

**Conclusion:**

No matter where we are and what we are facing our God sees us in our situations.

**Psalm 139:7-16**

<sup>7</sup> *Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?*

<sup>8</sup> *If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.*

<sup>9</sup> *If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea:*

<sup>10</sup> *Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.*

<sup>11</sup> *If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.*

<sup>12</sup> *Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.*

<sup>13</sup> *For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.*

<sup>14</sup> *I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.*

<sup>15</sup> *My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.*

<sup>16</sup> *Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.*

**Proverbs 5:21**

<sup>21</sup> *For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.*

**Proverbs 15:3**

<sup>3</sup> *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*