

Midweek Study

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OUR GREAT GOD

THE NAMES OF GOD

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El Roi – The God Who Sees

*Genesis 16:13 - Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, **You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees (Heb. El Roi)**; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?"*

*Genesis 16:1-16 (when Ishmael was in the womb)
Genesis 21:9-20 (when Ishmael was 14, Isaac was born)*

No other character in the Old Testament, male or female, confers a name onto deity. In Genesis 16:13, after God promises Hagar a son, she gives God a name. The text states: "she called the name of [or named] Yahweh who spoke with her El-Roi."

Names often express an essential characteristic or attribute; thus, naming is a significant event in Scripture. The God of the Bible is known by many names. Some are common (e.g., El Shaddai, Adonai, Jehovah-Jireh) and some are not so common (e.g., Jehovah-Tsidkenu). It is common in the Bible for people to give names to family members, to animals, to sacred sites, but humans do not normally give names to God (Hamilton, Book of Genesis 1–17, 455).

The Hebrew root ראה (r'h) ("to see") is used in a multitude of contexts. Some of the more significant include:

1. physical sense perception with the eyes (e.g., Gen 3:6)
2. seeing in a vision, receiving a revelation (e.g., Num 24:17)
3. becoming mentally aware of, realizing, taking note of (e.g., Gen 16:4–5)
4. experiencing an activity or state (e.g., Psa 16:10)
5. the act of taking care of, looking after (e.g., Gen 39:23)^a

Application Points:

1. Life's problems don't go away simply because we run away.

Genesis 16:8-10 (NKJV)

⁸ And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."

^a Kevin W. Larsen, "El Roi," ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

⁹ The Angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand."

¹⁰ Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude."

(see Jonah 1:3 and Eph. 6:10-11)

2. God sees everything – the injustices done to us, the abuse, the hurts – EVERYTHING.

Genesis 21:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the lad. Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, "What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is.

(see Psalm 139:1-8 and Exodus 3:7-8)

Some of the Things that God Sees:^b

- Right deeds - Deut. 13:18
- Evil deeds - 1 Kings 16:25
- Everywhere and Everything - 2 Chronicles 16:9; Proverbs 15:3
- The Ways of the mighty man - Job 24:23
- The Righteous - Job 36:7
- The Nations - Psalm 66:7
- The Faithful - Psalm 101:6
- The Baby in the Womb - Psalm 139:16
- Iniquity - Jeremiah 16:17
- Years and Time - Psalm 90:4
- The Death of the Saints-Psalm 116:15
- Our Hearts-1 Samuel 16:7
- Affliction-Exodus 3:7

3. God has plans for our lives that He will fulfill if we will work with Him.

Genesis 21:18-20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Arise, lift up the lad and hold him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation."

¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad a drink.

²⁰ So God was with the lad; and he grew and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.

Names So Far:

Elohim – The Strong, Creator God (Genesis 1:1)
Jehovah / Yahweh – Covenant Keeper (Ex. 6:1-8)
Jehovah Rapha – Our Healer (Exodus 15:26)
Jehovah Shalom – Our Peace (Judges 6:24)
Jehovah Tsidkenu – Our Righteousness (Jer. 23:6)
Jehovah Mekadesh – Our Sanctifier (Lev. 20:7-8)

Adonai – The Sovereign Lord (Genesis 15:2)
Jehovah Jireh – Our Provider (Genesis 22:14)
Jehovah Nissi – Our Banner (Ex. 17:15)
Jehovah Rohi – My Shepherd (Psalm 23:1)
El Shaddai – All Sufficient One (Genesis 17:1-2)
Jehovah Tsebaoth – Lord of Armies (Psalm 46:7)

^b From <https://www.preceptaustin.org/el_roi_-_god_who_sees>