

August 10th 2008: Names of God: El Roi The God who sees me. Gen 16.

I want to share...the story of a young lady...**whose name** is hardly ever heard.....or
In fact I looked at Alexander Whyte's famous Book of Bible Characters....no mention

Yet no one else in Scripture—male or female—names God

But she does.....She gives God a name that God preserved in His written Word.....

The name El-Roi God who sees me

- **It's the story of a slave girl**....whose name was Hagar.....mother of Ishmael
 - **Many commentators** believe that we first discover Hagar in Gen 12...
In an a/c of one of Abraham's more foolish moments

Because of a severe famine.....Abram had gone to Egypt....& realizing how attractive Pharaoh did indeed hear of her beauty.....and believing.....sister...took her into
And 12:16 says.....

He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, menservants and maidservants, and camels.

Here's Hagar's group.....Just in front of the camelsas far as value goes
A young girl.....torn from her family...culture ...country....religion....
to become a possession.....Owned completely by another

- **After these** gifts had been given.....The Lord intervenes.....inflicts serious diseases Pharaoh in anger.....sends Abram on his way.....with everything he had....incl'd Hagar
NOT the best way to become part of a family !!!

→By the time we get to Genesis 16.....Hagar's value has increased....not as a person
But as a potential Baby Producer

Ancient Near Eastern Laws authorised a barren wife to use.....in this capacity....
and stipulated...that afterwards the child belonged to.....who had the power to keep or

- **So Hagar.....at** the age of 13, 14. Or 15.....taken from.....and made to sleep with
→For a slave.....such behaviour was very common.....Didn't make it any less hurtful
Hagar knew that any baby born.....would never be hers

It's a sad commentary on how Sarai and Abram viewed....that although the narrator refers to Hagar by name.....And although the Angel of the Lord.....**They never did**
For them she was just the slaveThe invisible woman

So Hagar performed her duty.....and this young.....**this** foreigner...**this** slave
.became pregnant....child her mistress could not bear.....but would take as her own

- **It was then that a dramatic change occurred**

The worm began to turn.....Hagar....the submissive slave.....found her voice
And she began to despise her mistress

What that meant in terms of her behaviour.....we don't know

But we do know.....that it really annoyed Sarai.....16:5

Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my servant in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me."

Now suddenly it's all Abram's fault

And all Sarai can think about.....is herself.....SHE even brings the Lord into it

- **And Abram is as weak as dish water**

He just wants to keep the peace.....

Do with her whatever you think is best.....

(Warning here for us men ...not to avoid making decisions with..)

Then Sarah treated her harshly.....This poor woman was abused to such a degree
That she did something most slaves would never dare to do.....She ran away
And Sarai and Abram....it seemswere happy to see the last of her

But then the story changes dramatically

7 The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. 8 And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

Hagar..... a runaway pregnant slave.....heads into the desert towards Egypt
She reaches a spring of water.....beside the road to Shur.....A Few days away
And there the angel offound her.....**She wasn't looking for God.....**

- **The exciting thing.....is that most see....The Angel of the Lord.....**

Being a manifestation by the Son.....before His incarnation

**And the reason for that.....is because Hagar comes to the understanding that
he who speaks.....is in fact.....God Himself**

So in v13

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

Its not hard to think of another woman who was an outcast.....sitting beside a well
Who also met the Lord.....and had her life transformed.....by the God who sees

On that day when the Lord sought for and found Hagar....He gave her two gifts

- The gift of knowing that His eyes were upon her
- That He cared about her situation
- That He had a purpose in mind for her.....and a blessing for her son

That though others had forsaken....wronged her.....God hadn't and never would

The second gift might well surprise you

He sent her back

Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her."

Although God.....I'm sure....is not in the habit of sending women esp.....back into
This was a time when He did

And Hagar....who had given God the name....El Roi.....

literally means God who sees me

After this life changing spiritual exp.....returned a changed person

And it seems for the next 13 years.....was able to co-exist with her Mistress

She now knew that she wasn't alone.....The God who sees.....was with her

And being in that environment.....she was able to learn more about this God of Abram

Who now she knew.....was also her God

Then 13 years later after Isaac.....God arranged for Abraham to send forth Hagar
But this time the going forth was right for Hagar.....**and with it went His blessing**

What a wonderful and precious name for God this is
El Roi.....The God who sees me.....Sees not to
condemn.....but to help...save

Even when others hurt and harm.....
Esp those like Sarai and Abram....who should know better

God sees.....God cares.....And as our inner eyes are opened.....We see Him
As Hagar saw Him.....Coming alongside

And so like Hagar we also know....that we are never ever completely alone

For the God who sees us.....and Has revealed his love by sacrificing Himself
Is never further away...than a sigh...or a prayer.