



I AM

“Jesus Christ
is the same
yesterday,
today, and
forever.”

Hebrews 13:8

I AM the God Who Sees

Alone. Afraid. Unsure. Pregnant. A runaway. Hopeless. Hurt. Despondent. Hagar found herself in this very situation after conceiving a child by Abraham. Can you imagine her thoughts there in the wilderness? They were probably similar to these: What will I do now? Where will I go? What about this baby I carry? Surely I will die along with my baby. Why me? What did I do? This is so unfair!

Talk about drama! Not too long before this, God promised Abraham a son, even though he and his wife, Sarah, were both old and barren. Despite their efforts, Sarah remained barren. Instead of waiting in trust for God’s perfect timing to give them a son, Sarah decided to intervene. She instructed Abraham to have intercourse with her maidservant, Hagar (a common practice in those days where the heir would be legally Sarah’s child).

“So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt. Then Sarai said to Abram, “This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she’s pregnant she treats me with contempt. The Lord will show who’s wrong—you or me!” Abram replied, “Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit.” Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away.” (Genesis 16:4-6 NLT)

I can’t help but laugh, wondering what in the world these people were thinking. But it is unfair to judge them, for haven’t I done the same thing and tried to “help” God fulfill His promise? Haven’t I been impatient with God’s timing and decided to speed things along only to make a huge mess? And then blame someone or something else when it blew up in my face? Haven’t I at times treated someone else wrongly? And haven’t I been sitting in the wilderness, alone and afraid, not sure what to do next? Oh, too many times than I would care to admit.

Hagar is alone and afraid. So many questions, with no answers. In need of help with no where to turn, when an angel of the Lord appears to her. He instructs her to return to Sarah and submit to her authority, assuring her that she will have many descendants, names the baby Ishmael, which means “God hears”, and prophesies over her child’s life (v.7-12). She was in awe. In her darkest hour and greatest need of help, God showed up.

“Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, ‘You are the God who sees me.’ She also said, ‘Have I truly seen the One who sees me?’” (Genesis 16:7-10, 13 NLT)

There in the desert, in her need, Hagar saw the One who saw her first - El Roi, the God who sees. Today, God says to you, right where you are, I AM the God who sees. I see you. I know your every need. I love you perfectly. I am already working on your behalf. There is no mess nor drama too bad that I cannot rescue you from. Do not runaway. Run to Me, El Roi, the God who sees you. I will strengthen you and give you guidance and provision. I will see you through.

“The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” (2 Chronicles 16:9 NLT)

Further Reading: Psalms 33:13-15, 121:3-8, 138:6, 142:3
Matthew 6:4-6, Zephaniah 3:17, Isaiah 43:1-4, Job 10:12

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who sees.
I see you.
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”