

Names of God: *El Roi*

Sarai, Hagar, & Abram (v. 1-6)

- Despite God's earlier promise for Abram to become a father of many nations (Gen 15), he and his wife still had no children at an old age
 - Abram was about 85 and Sarai was about 75
- Rather than trusting the Lord's timing, Sarai took matters into her own hands
 - She gave her Egyptian slave Hagar to Abram as a second wife to bear him children
 - As a slave, Hagar would have no power in this decision
- When Hagar became pregnant, the relationship dynamics changed
 - Hagar "thought little" of Sarai, perhaps not giving her the respect Sarai thought she deserved
- So rather than rejoicing at her plan succeeding, Sarai got angry
 - Blaming Abram for the situation
- Abram did nothing to protect Hagar or his unborn child
 - Rather he told Sarai to handle it as she saw fit
- Sarai mistreated Hagar, forcing her to flee into the desert

God's Intervention (v. 7-12)

- When Hagar had stopped to rest at a spring, God sent an angel to speak to Hagar
- His message:
 - Go back to Sarai and submit to her
 - Addressing Hagar's attitude
 - God will bless Hagar with numerous descendants
 - Like His promise to Abram
 - She will give birth to a son who will have a wild disposition and whose descendants will live in animosity towards his brothers' descendants
 - Ishmael: "God hears"

El Roi (v. 7-12)

- *El Roi*: "The God who sees me"
 - God saw her struggle and met her in it
- Beer Lahai Roi: "The well of the Living One who sees me"
- Hagar returns and gives birth to Ishmael
 - This is not the only time God interceded for Hagar & Ishmael (Gen 21:8-21)

So What?

- Have you ever been mistreated or felt unseen?
- We can cry out to *El Roi*, The God who sees us!

Mediation Verse: *Genesis 16:13*