**Beer Lahai Roi – *The well of the One Who lives and sees me.***

*Genesis 16:14*

**Introduction**

1. God gave Abram the promise of his seed blessing the earth (**cf. Genesis 12:3**).

* Through Abram’s seed would come the Messiah who would bless all people by offering Himself as a sacrifice for the sin of man.
  + **He would be that One Who would bruise the serpent’s head, as His heel would be bruised by the serpent. (cf. Genesis 3:15)**
* After some time Abram expressed doubt, not yet having a child, and God reassured him (**cf. Genesis 15:2-6**).
* Still not having given Abram a child, his wife Sarai decided to take matters into her own hands.
  + In a dealing with the Pharaoh of Egypt Abram acquired some female servants. (cf. Genesis 12:16).
  + Sarai wrongfully assumed that in order for God’s promise to be carried out they must have children by other fleshly means. So she gave her Egyptian maid to be Abram’s wife to bear a child **(cf. Genesis 16:1-3**).
    - **This attempt to fulfill God’s promise for Him ironically went against His plan for the sanctity of marriage from the beginning.**
    - **This was a custom of the East, but one born out of sin and disregard for God’s marriage Law.**
  + This act showed the ignorance in the two of God’s intention to give them a child by promise (**cf. Romans 9:6-9).**
* As sin often does, it made the situation worse (**cf. Genesis 16:4-6**).
  + Abram complied with Sarai’s irreverent, sinful and futile attempt to assist God in His divine work.
  + Hagar grew prideful in her newfound relationship with Abram, and her ability to do that which her mistress could not. (Sarai ***“became despised in her eyes.”***)
  + Sarai grew jealous of Hagar and dealt harshly with her even though she instigated the whole situation.
  + This lead to Hagar’s faulty reaction to Sarai’s contempt 🡪

1. Hagar flees and has an encounter with the Lord (**cf. Genesis 16:7-16**).

* The Lord manifests Himself to Hagar by an angel.
* The Lord subtly exposes the folly in her decision to flee from Sarai, while at the same time reminding her of her duty (v. 8).
* Although her actions are shown to be unacceptable, the Lord acknowledged her affliction and comforts her with promise of a great son and descendants.
  + **As an Egyptian slave-girl this is a great deal. She, a former Egyptian servant, and now a maid would be an ancestress to a great people.**
* She did not take for granted this appearance from the Lord, but recognized it as a great privilege!
  + As a memorial to her encounter with the Lord, it is apparent that she named the place – **Beer Lahai Roi**.
    - ***The well of the One Who lives and sees me.***
      * **God is living, and therefore active. He works in the lives of men, and even more so in the lives of His adopted children.**
        + After God delivered Daniel from the lions. King Darius **– *“I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the Living God, and steadfast forever” (Daniel 6:26).***
      * **He sees everything. Our omniscient, omnipresent God is not lacking in knowledge of our actions, and needs.**
        + ***READ Psalm 139:1-12***

*The account of the Lord and Hagar presents a few points regarding God as the One Who lives and sees in relation to us as man. 🡪*

1. God Sees Our Affliction **(cf. Genesis 16:6-12).**
2. The Lord reproved Hagar.

* ***“Sarai dealt harshly with her”***
  + The action Sarai took in giving Hagar to Abram evidently went to Hagar’s head (she grew prideful in her newfound position).
    - Yet, Hagar was still Sarai’s maid (in reality her lower position never changed).
  + **Sarai sought to “put her in her place.” She was meaning to humble her back to her position.**
    - ***This was not wrong in and of itself, but in the heat of the moment Sarai acted too harshly (evident by Hagar’s reaction).***
    - She was wrong in acting this way (**cf. Colossians 4:1)**.
* Hagar ran away from her duty. Her flight was unjustifiable even if mistreated by her mistress (**cf. Colossians 3:22-24**).
* ***“where have you come from, and where are you going?” (v. 8)***.
  + The question was designed to convict Hagar.
  + She was fleeing from:
    - The house of Abram which feared God.
    - Her duties as Sarai’s maid.
    - And although God’s promise wouldn’t be fulfilled by her child she, not knowing at the time God’s intention, was running away from being a part of God’s plan in her knowledge.
  + She was fleeing to:
    - Egypt – the land of her past which offered nothing, and had no association with the one true God.
* **The angel commanded her to return and submit, and followed with an explanation of God’s intention for her.**

1. God did not ignore her affliction.

* **Call his name Ismael – God hears. (He heard her affliction.)**
  + **God has regard for His people. Therefore, He observes them, and listens for their cry. As a living God He acts upon their cry with compassion. 🡪**
* David cried to God in his affliction and the Lord responded – **Psalm 18:4-6, 16-19**
  + **It is worthy of notice that God’s answer to Hagar’s affliction was in part His reproof. He unveiled her misbehavior and commanded her return to submission because it was the only way to relieve her hardship.**
    - **His comforting promise necessitated her returning in submission to Sarai.**
    - God told Abram after Hagar was later sent out, ***“Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he is your seed” (21:13).***
      * *Because Ishmael was Abram’s she was to return there and bear Abram a son. God would honor Abram by making a great nation through Ishmael.*
  + **Reproof from God may be difficult to swallow sometimes, but we should never forget its intended purpose, and the blessing that awaits one who submits rather than fleeing.** 
    - **(The reproof of God is a manifestation of His love – 2 Timothy 3:16-17)**
  + **Psalm 18:20-24 –** God rewarded David because he kept His ways.
    - ***God will not relieve the affliction of the one who does not appeal to Him for relief.*** (This is accomplished in submission to Him.)
    - *Obedience to God is the balm we need to heal all hardships* **– Psalm 50:15-23**

*Divine regard for man, and the loving-kindness He bestows is worthy of recognition among the world. 🡪*

1. God Sees and Makes Himself Seen **(cf. Genesis 16:13-14).**
2. Hagar paid homage to God by naming the well (It is likely that Hagar gave this name.).

* She was in awe of the experience she just had with God. God had graciously made Himself available, as He does for us **(cf. Acts 17:26-27** – not far from each of us.)
* The well was given the name: ***The Well of the One Who lives and sees me***.
  + This well maintained its name. Which brought remembrance of God and those specifics about Him to the one who would come upon it. (cf. ***Genesis 24:62 – “Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South.”***)

1. The recipients of God’s goodness should expose it to the world.

* **1 Peter 2:9-12** – We are called to proclamation of God’s word and holy living which brings the world’s attention to God.
  + **We were once in darkness without hope; not a people of God; but He heard our affliction, and made Himself available to us so that we might have hope. We ow our life to Him, and should want to use it for His service.**
  + **The World should see Christ in us – *“it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me”* (Galatians 2:20).**
* **1 Timothy 3:14-16 –** The church is the pillar and ground of the truth. We proclaim God’s word to expose His greatness and love to the world.
  + ***Experience of communion with our living and all seeing God should strike us with awe. His nature, and His dealings with us warrant constant remembrance and proclamation to others of His goodness.***
    - This logically requires us to keep the truth from becoming tainted with false doctrine **(cf. Jude 3).**
    - This also requires us to speak exactly as the Bible speaks. We must not water down the truth. A watered down version of truth does not pay homage to God!

**Conclusion**

1. It would be prudent for us to remember our God lives and sees us.
2. His sight is not limited. We should maintain integrity before Him always.
3. He is there for His children, and is active in our lives. We should pay homage to Him each day.