

EL ROI

THE GOD WHO SEES ME

**PRAYING
THROUGH
THE NAMES
OF GOD**

by Faith Girl

BACKGROUND

An Egyptian slave, Hagar encountered God in the desert when she had been thrown out and left destitute, and addressed him as El Roi, “the God who sees me.”

Alone, impoverished, pregnant— there is almost no worse nightmare for a woman. And yet Hagar discovered she wasn’t alone. God had seen her predicament with perfect clarity. He knew about the abuse in the past. He pinpointed her exact position in the present. And he saw what the future held for her— a son named Ishmael, descendants too numerous to count. Hagar and her child would live and not die. No wonder she was willing to return to Abraham’s household as the angel of the Lord instructed. No wonder she called God El Roi and then exclaimed, “I have now seen the One who sees me.”

El Roi, a God so watchful that he is said to note when even the smallest sparrow falls to the ground— this is the God who watches over you today, whether or not you recognize his presence. Aware that you may sometimes find yourself in desolate places, he is always near, helping you find a path through troubles, working out his plans for your future. Hagar’s God is the One who numbers the hairs on our heads and who knows our circumstances, past, present, and future.

When you pray to El Roi, you are praying to the one who knows everything about you.

Remember this when you fail for a time to find God’s help or to receive answers to your prayers.

SCRIPTURE

[Hagar] gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me [El Roi],” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.”
GENESIS 16: 13 NIV

“The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind. From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth— he who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds.... Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.” (Psalm 33: 13- 15, 18- 19 NRSV)

“For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.”
(2 Chronicles 16: 9)

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“He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber.... The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. (Psalm 121: 3, 5– 8)

The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.” (Proverbs 15: 3)

Ask **El Roi**, the God who sees you, to open your eyes to his work and to increase your faith even and especially when His promises seem impossible to fulfill.

Today as you pray, cry out to the God from whose eyes nothing is hidden.

Ask him to reveal himself as “the real God” to the millions of women and children around the world who are being victimized by the hidden slavery of sex trafficking.

Even the most watchful parent has to sleep. But Scripture makes it clear God never slumbers, never looks one way while we head off in another, never misses a millisecond of what is happening on earth. It also assures us God is on the lookout for men and women who are totally committed to him. Why? Because he wants to strengthen their hearts as they serve him.

If you are feeling weak in the face of life’s challenges, the best way to grow strong is to strengthen your commitment to Christ. Decide to obey fully, to follow completely, to keep your eyes fastened on him.

Let **El Roi** take pleasure as He watches over you, and you will soon find your heart stronger and your confidence deeper without quite knowing how it happened.

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Prayer Suggestions

Remember that your Father sees the hidden good you do and will reward you. (Matthew 6: 3– 4)

Ask God to help you do what is right in his eyes. (Deuteronomy 12: 28)

Pray that God will enable you to see him for who he is. (Matthew 5: 8)

Lord, I praise you for you know the whole story. From beginning to end, you see it all. Give me the humility to admit my limitations. For I don't always see the past accurately, my vision of the present is often blurred, and I am blind when it comes to the future. Help me fasten my eyes on you, trusting in your vision for my life and in your watchful care.

El Roi, through this great name, you reveal your heart in a uniquely powerful way. In this name, you remind us that you see us as individuals. You see, and thus you know. When you saw Abraham on the mountaintop and witnessed his trust in you, you provided a ram as Jehovah Jireh. Likewise, as El Roi you see where I am, and you respond. Because you see me, I know that I am truly known. To be known by you— to not be forgotten— is one of my greatest needs, so this name comforts me greatly. I praise you because you are not a distant God who sits far off, isolated from those you have made. Instead, you see me, you are with me, and you care.

El Roi, when I feel alone and forgotten, please forgive me for neglecting to acknowledge your name. Forgive me for grumbling when I don't see the one who sees me. Help me to remember that you are there. Yes, you are the God who sees me in whatever situation I'm facing. Pardon me for failing to see the God who sees me.

El Roi, when Hagar sat alone and afraid in the desert, you made yourself known to her as the God who sees. Thank you for making yourself known to me, too, as the God who sees. Whatever trial I face, you see it. Whatever opposition rises up against me, you see it. Whatever health issue comes upon me, you see it. Thank you for your attentiveness to me and for your willingness to reveal yourself as the God who sees.

El Roi, you see. I ask you to act on my behalf when you see me wronged unfairly. I ask you to defend and vindicate me when you see me accused unjustly. When others toil less and yet receive more reward, I ask you to see the diligence and tenacity of my heart and open doors for me that only you can open— because you see. You do not see me as humanity does. You do not judge by external appearances or by what the world esteems. You see my heart, and I pray now what Nehemiah prayed so long ago: "Remember me with favour."