

The Hebrew Names of God

Lesson 5: El Roi

- I. **The naming of El Roi:** El Roi helped Hagar in her affliction after she fled from the complications of Sarai’s attempt to force the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant by employing the social customs of her day—*Genesis 16:1–16*.
- A. Sarai gave her maidservant Hagar to Abram to provide an heir for the covenant God had made with him—*Genesis 16:1–3*.
 - B. Sarai chided Abram and essentially drove her pregnant maidservant away after Hagar began to despise her—*Genesis 16:4–6*.
 - C. The Angel of the Lord intercepted Hagar in the wilderness and ordered her to return to Sarai —*Genesis 16:7–9*.
 - D. The preincarnate Son of God promised Hagar to birth an immense people group through her son Ishmael (“God hears”) in spite of the tension and strife that would mark his life and theirs —*Genesis 16:10–12*.
 - E. After naming the Lord El Roi (“God sees”), Hagar returned to Sarai and gave birth to Abram’s son Ishmael—*Genesis 16:13–16*.
- II. **The basis of El Roi:** El Roi is based on the Hebrew word ra’ah, which is normally translated “to see” and has a basic, literal nuance (shade of meaning), followed by four metaphorical nuances.

El Roi (“God sees”) — *from the Hebrew verb ra’ah*

Nuance	Meaning	O.T. occurrence	N.T. application
looks	He turns His eyes toward us	<i>Genesis 27:1</i>	<i>Luke 15:20</i>
studies	He examines us in order to figure us out	<i>1 Kings 11:28</i>	<i>John 1:47–48</i>
understands	He figures us out and “gets” us	<i>Ecclesiastes 5:18</i>	<i>Luke 7:12–13</i>
experiences	He involves Himself with us and enters into our world	<i>Psalms 63:1–2</i>	<i>John 11:33–35</i>
provides	He supplies what is needed	<i>Isaiah 38:5</i>	<i>John 19:25–27</i>