

# **Sermon: God Sees Me and I See God**

## **Introduction: Understanding Jehovah Roi**

The name “Jehovah Roi” can be defined as “The Lord is my Shepherd”, but it encompasses so much more. It signifies a God who intimately observes us, cares for us, and guides us through life’s challenges. This profound truth resonates from the life of Hagar, an Egyptian maidservant, who in Genesis 16:13 proclaimed, “Thou God seest me.” This statement encapsulates an experience that is both deeply personal and profoundly universal; Hagar, though marginalized and in a vulnerable position, experienced God’s attentive watch over her.

Hagar’s life was marked by trials. She left her homeland and family to serve in a foreign environment—a decision she made out of necessity and poverty. Her journey with Abraham and Sarah was fraught with tension and jealousy, magnifying her vulnerability as a servant. Yet, despite her precarious situation, the unwavering gaze of God was upon her. The Hebrew term “Ra’ah,” which translates to “to see,” is often used in contexts involving shepherding, instilling a sense of protection and watchfulness. In Psalm 23:1, David offers us this reassurance: “The Lord is my shepherd (Ra’ah); I shall not want.” This paints a vivid image of a God who watches over us as a loving shepherd would care for his sheep.

## **God Watches Over Us: Jehovah Roi**

Throughout the Scriptures, we see numerous examples of how God, Jehovah Roi, watches over His people. The story of David serves as a powerful testament to this. In Psalm 139:16, David proclaims, “Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.” This verse illustrates that even before we were formed in our mother’s wombs, God was intimately aware of our existence. This knowledge should bring us comfort, knowing that we are seen, cherished, and known by our Creator.

As a shepherd, David understood the gravity of this relationship well. His commitment to his flock amidst threats from lions and bears exemplified the vigilance required to protect those entrusted to him. The analogy of a shepherd reflects God’s own watchfulness over us. Just as David fought fiercely to protect his sheep from stealthy and powerful predators, so too

does Jehovah Roi ensure our safety against the unseen dangers of life. When David faced the fierce pursuit of Saul, his trust in Jehovah Roi became apparent. In 1 Samuel 26:12, we discover how God orchestrated a profound moment, causing Saul and his men to fall into a deep sleep. David, ever vigilant, was able to approach Saul without harm, showcasing the divine protection at work.

Even during the darkest moments of David's life, such as his sin against Uriah (2 Samuel 11), God remained the omnipresent shepherd. Although David faltered, God's watchful eye did not waver. This emphasizes that God is not only present in our triumphs but also in our failures. Jehovah Roi extends grace, reminding us that His love isn't contingent on our perfection but instead offers redemption and reconciliation. David's life exemplifies a profound truth: that despite our failings, God remains our Shepherd, ready to lead us back to paths of righteousness. The same God who saw David's struggles against Saul now saw David's abuse against Uriah. God is always Jehovah Roi.

### **Recognizing the God Who Sees Us**

Now, let us transition into the critical aspect of acknowledging the God who sees us. Hagar's encounter with God was transformative. After being cast away, God intervened in her life, revealing Himself as her caregiver. In Genesis 21:19, we see a pivotal moment: "And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water." This moment symbolizes a breakthrough—when Hagar looked up, she discovered the sustenance that would allow her and her son to live. It was an act of divine provision that spoke to her heart in her most desperate hour.

This theme of opened eyes recurs throughout Scripture, calling us to recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Just as God opened Hagar's eyes, He longs to open our eyes to the reality of His care and provision. The man born blind in John 9 experienced this journey from darkness to light. He was not only healed physically but spiritually as well. Through this miraculous healing, he came to faith in Jesus, proclaiming, "Lord, I believe," and worshiping Him. This illustrates that when we acknowledge the God who sees us, we enter into a deeper faith that transforms our understanding of His work in our lives. He sees us before we see him, and he blesses us, and opens our eyes, that we may in turn see him.

Consider the story of Moses, who encountered God in the burning bush (Exodus 3). As an exile, he felt as if he had been forgotten, yet God revealed Himself to him in a profound way. This moment shifted Moses' perspective entirely. God's call for Moses to lead His people God's call for Moses to lead His people out of Egypt was rooted in His awareness of

their suffering. “I have seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows” (Exodus 3:7). God saw their suffering and soon after he sent Moses, they saw the hand of this powerful God of Abraham. God’s acknowledgment of the plight of His people demonstrates that He is not a distant deity but one who sees, hears, and responds to the cries of His creation. This revelation is profound; it signifies that God is intimately aware of each individual’s struggles and that He intends to act in compassion and deliverance.

Moses’ life journey from a reluctant leader to a faithful servant showcases the transformative power of recognizing the God who sees us. After his encounter with God, Moses became a conduit of God’s deliverance, not only for himself but for the entire nation of Israel. This narrative teaches us that when we see God in our lives, we are empowered to fulfill our purpose and call, even in the face of adversity. Moreover, God’s seeing is further illustrated through the story of Elijah after his confrontation with the prophets of Baal. In 1 Kings 19, we find Elijah hiding in a cave, feeling alone and defeated. God approached him not through thunder, fire, or earthquakes but with a gentle whisper, asking, “What doest thou here, Elijah?” (1 Kings 19:13). In that moment, Elijah realized that God was aware of his fears and feelings of isolation. God reassured Elijah and commissioned him to continue his ministry, reminding him that he was not alone, as there were still 7,000 in Israel who had not bowed to Baal (1 Kings 19:18). Soon the whole of Israel could see the God of Elijah who answered by fire on Mount Carmel. This moment emphasizes that even when we feel abandoned, God sees our struggles and is actively working towards our revival and purpose.

### **Seeing the God Who Sees Us**

When we acknowledge that God sees us, we must also turn to see Him. Viewing God requires us to cultivate a relationship built on faith, trust, and reliance. It is simple; we cannot overflow with the recognition of His care and provision without actively seeking Him. The relationship between Hagar and God illustrates this beautifully; after Hagar declared, “Thou God seest me”, she found renewed hope and assurance that her and Ishmael’s lives mattered to God. It was not just about being seen; it was about responding to that sight with faith.

As we cultivate our relationship with Jehovah Roi, our spiritual vision becomes clearer. Seeing God can manifest through various blessings in our lives. We recognize His presence in answered prayers, the beauty of creation, the love of family and friends, and the peace that surpasses understanding during turbulent times. As Psalm 34:8 invites us, “O taste

and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.” In times of despair, God’s light helps us see through the darkness, revealing His character and purpose. Just as Hagar saw the well of water, we, too, can be encouraged to look for the “wells” in our lives—moments where God’s provision and mercy shine through our trials. When we start seeing God at work, we become more sensitive to His leading in our lives, even in the mundane.

Consider the account of the blind men who called out to Jesus as He passed by (Matthew 20:30-34). Despite being rebuked by the crowd, they persisted until Jesus stopped, asked what they wanted, and healed them. They were not merely aware of Jesus passing by; they pressed into the moment because they believed. Their faith led them to not only see God but to receive from Him. This persistence is a necessary component of recognizing God. The man saw the God who saw him. It is possible to see Jesus without physical eyes – through the eyes of faith.

### **The Mutual Recognition of God’s Sight**

In conclusion, we are reminded that our relationship with Jehovah Roi is reciprocal. God sees us in our struggles, joys, and every detail in between. He is the Shepherd who tirelessly watches over us, never asleep at the wheel, always aware of our needs. Yet, we must also be diligent in seeking Him, in looking to see the God who sees us with our own eyes of faith. As we reflect on this truth, ask yourself: Have you truly seen the God who sees you? Embrace the reassurance that you are not overlooked or forgotten.

Engage with Him, like Hagar, Moses, or David, and let Him open your eyes to the abundance of His grace and mercy in your life. May we find comfort in knowing that we are under the watchful care of Jehovah Roi, and may our hearts be open to witnessing His divine presence and love each day. As we move forward in faith, let us also remember the words of Hagar in Genesis 16:13, confidently proclaiming, “Thou God seest me!” Our God sees us indeed, and in return, may we see Him clearly and faithfully in all circumstances. Amen.