

KNOWING GOD ... better

Yahweh Roi - The God Who Sees

Text: Gen. 16:13

INTRODUCTION: Sometimes the revelation of one of the names of God came in moments of splendor. On Mt. Sinai, after astonishing Moses by appearing in the midst of a burning bush, God revealed His personal name, YHWH, with the explanation of its meaning I Am Who I Am.

Having just relieved the aching heart of obedient Abraham on the peak of Moriah by staying his hand from slaying Isaac his son, God revealed Himself as Jehovah Jireh, the Lord Who Provides.

On the hill near Rephidim as Moses held the rod of God above the Israelites, locked in battle with the enemy of God, Amalek, and his fierce warriors, God revealed the He was Jehovah Nissi, the Lord, My Banner For Victory!

The name of God we consider today came not in such a moment of grandeur. It came in the midst of one of the more lowly times of life. It would be no exaggeration to say that it came at a sorry time in the lives of Abraham and Sarah and Sarah's maidservant, Hagar.

The time was a sad time for it was one of the few moments of his life when the faith of both Abraham and Sarah grew weak at the same time. They had for a brief period given up on God keeping His promise that He would give them a son in their extreme old age who would be the son out of whom God would build a great nation and through whom God would send the Messiah.

So out of a lack of faith, Sarah suggested a plan borrowed from pagan neighbors. Since she thought herself to be infertile, she offered to let Abraham take her maidservant Hagar as a second wife and have a child with her. Abraham, with both a lack of faith and lack of wisdom, agreed. They both considered that they could make a child thus conceived a substitute for the child God had promised to give.

The plan seemed at first to work. Abraham married Hagar and soon she conceived. But the schemes of man can never produce the same fruit as the plans of God, and the fruit born by Abraham's and Sarah's scheme turned rotten very quickly. As soon as she was pregnant, Hagar became haughty and adopted an "I'm better than you" attitude with Sarah. Abraham gave Sarah a free hand to discipline her arrogant maid, and Sarah mistreated her terribly.

There were four people embroiled in this hostility and bitterness, counting the unborn baby as one; and three of them were there because of willful sin.

So from this sorry mess, Hagar fled out into the wilderness. Without means of support or protection, she went to the desert to die. That is where God showed up. Hagar did not think God even knew she existed. But she was wrong. The Lord not only knew her, He knew her baby. Today, some would have just called the little one a fetus, but God called him by name: Ishmael. God told her to go back to Sarah where God would provide for her and her son. God assured her

that Ishmael would be the father of a multitude of people. They were not overlooked. God saw them.

Hagar responded by reciting the name of God revealed in her encounter, "You are the God Who Sees." **Genesis 16:13 NKJV** Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, **You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees...**

I. OUR GOD IS THE GOD WHO SEES ALL.

- A. God is omnipresent.
- B. God is omniscient.
- C. That means God sees and knows everything that happens in this universe.
 1. Every action
 2. Every thought
 3. Every motive

II. HE IS THE GOD WHO SEES THE UNBORN CHILD.

- A. **God saw Ishmael.** He called him by name.
 - Ishmael was not just an embryo.
 - Ishmael was not just a fetus.
 - Ishmael was not a potential person.
 - **Ishmael was a person, and God had plans for him!**
- B. **God sees and knows every unborn child.**
 1. **The personhood of a child begins at conception.**
 - a. This is medically true.

The unborn child has distinctive DNA, Genome different from parents
separate blood type and system

All an unborn baby needs to live and fully develop is

nutrition

protection

time

The same thing all of us need to continue to live.

- b. That the personhood of the child begins at conception is biblically true also.

Jeremiah - called from the womb

John the Baptist - reacted to the presence of Christ while in the womb

2. And God has plans for each and every unborn child!

Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

III. HE IS THE GOD WHO SEES THE WOMAN IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY.

Do not think that I oppose abortion because I care more about the unborn child than about the mother who carries that child. I care for both. And more important than that is the fact that

- A. God cares for both: mother and child.** God very much cared for Hagar in her despair. He also cared about the baby in her womb.

1. **Both are people.**
2. **Both are created in His image.**
3. **God has plans for good, for the future, hope for both!**

B. Abortion hurts women.

1. Women who have an abortion face a number of possible **physical complications** including hemorrhage requiring transfusion, perforation of the uterus, cardiac arrest, major unintended surgery, infection resulting in hospitalization, convulsions, undiagnosed ectopic (tubal) pregnancy, cervical laceration, uterine rupture, and death.
2. All women, especially young teenagers, are at risk for damage to their cervix during an abortion, which can lead to **complications with later pregnancies**.
3. A Finnish study of suicide after pregnancy found that **“the suicide rate after an abortion was three times the general suicide rate** and six times that associated with birth.”
4. Women who ended their first pregnancy by abortion are five times more likely to report **subsequent substance abuse** than women who carried the pregnancy to term... God greatly cares for the woman as well as the child in every pregnancy.

IV. OUR GOD IS THE GOD WHO SEES THE LIE THAT DECEIVES.

The great lie that has deceived our nation and cost us millions of human lives is

- A. “It is a matter of personal choice.”**

1. This is not a matter of choice.
2. Everybody is for choice.
3. God is for choice.
4. God gives us the right and responsibility to make choices for ourselves.
5. **None of us has the right to choose to end another person's life apart from just war, self-defense, or judicial decree.**
6. We do not have the right to murder. God says, "You shall not!"

B. What about the babies produced by rape or incest?

1. In May of this year, USA Today reported that only 1% of all abortions in America are done because of rape.
2. Less than ½ of 1% are done because of incest.
3. Even in these painful situations, why punish the innocent?
 - a. I support the death penalty or castration for rapists.
 - b. Give justice to the offenders.
 - c. But do not kill the innocent, unborn child.

V. HE IS THE GOD WHO SEES THE TRUTH THAT SETS US FREE.

The truth is

- A. Abortion is murder, and God absolutely forbids it.** By and large, the world covers its eyes.
1. The trial of David Daleiden and Sandra Merritt continues in San Francisco. You are probably asking, "Who are they?" They are the brave souls who secretly filmed officials of Planned Parenthood discussing selling body parts harvested from unborn babies killed in their clinics.
 2. If you are not convinced that most people are hiding their eyes concerning this atrocity, just ask, "Why are the people who exposed this brutality the only ones in court?" Why do the ones who obtained the video evidence face civil and criminal prosecution, and Planned Parenthood and its staff of murderers are yet to be charged?"
 3. During the trial, research scientist Dr. Theresa Deisher testified that the hearts of children were cut out while they were still beating and without anesthesia.
 4. Six weeks ago (September, 2019) Planned Parenthood admitted in court that it sold body parts harvested from babies aborted in its clinics.
 5. Now Planned Parenthood and other abortion industry leaders are even defending infanticide.

6. There is a bill languishing before both the US House and Senate called the “Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.”
7. Planned Parenthood and the Democrats oppose it. In the House, the Democrats, led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, have blocked a vote on this bill that would require babies born alive to be given medical care and treatment.

B. Everyone who conspires to terminate the life of a child, born or unborn, is guilty of conspiracy to commit murder in the eyes of the Lord.

1. Mother, father, parents, doctors, nurses, counselors – everybody who has a part.
2. Congressmen and women, Senators and anyone in authority who uses their place of authority and responsibility to further or to allow the murder of babies is guilty of violation of the fifth commandment.

C. As believers, we must oppose this evil in every godly way possible.

1. Through the support of Crisis Pregnancy Centers like our own A Sheltering Tree. God bless you ladies who give of your love, caring, time, and energy to help mothers in crisis pregnancies to choose life and to know Christ!
2. Through our voting. Thirty-nine years ago, God convicted me that the killing of an unborn child is murder. As a young pastor, I had to repent, and I did, in tears before my congregation for not taking up this cause for justice sooner. But since then, I can tell you my number one qualification for public office is that a person be pro-life. I wouldn't vote for a person to be dog catcher if they were not pro-life.
3. Most of all we must be a part of “speaking the truth in love.”
 - a. Speak the truth wherever God gives you opportunity.
 - b. Speak it in your family.
 - c. I want to offer you a tool to help. Here is a tiny baby head stocking on a folded card reminding us to pray to end abortion and infanticide. You could put it on your office desk to provide opportunity for discussions with fellow workers. You can put it on your kitchen counter to remind you daily to pray. These are available while they last at the welcome desk, courtesy of Pam Anderson, who bought them. Please only take one if you will use it to provide opportunity to speak the truth in love or to remind you daily to pray. We have a very limited supply, and we don't want them taken and forgotten.
 - d. Pray for preachers across our land to speak it. (Every 37 seconds, a baby dies in America by abortion.)

The truth is

D. God forgives those who repent and come to Christ for forgiveness.

1. Those responsible for murder.

2. Those complicit in murder.
3. Those who have hidden their eyes to this wholesale murder going on within our land.

CONCLUSION: Our God is the God who sees, and He sees those who need to repent and whether they do or not.