

Genesis 16:7–16

The God Who Finds the Forgotten





OPENING QUESTION

*When life drives me into the wilderness, will I believe
God has abandoned me — or recognize that He is often
closest in the desert?*



Where We're Going

- v.7 — Found in the wilderness
- v.8 — Two searching questions
- v.9 — Return and submit
- v.10 — A promise multiplied
- v.11–12 — Named before birth
- v.13–16 — Hagar names God El Roi



Where This Fits

- After Abram and Sarai's plan collapses
- God moves toward people first
- A preview of Christ, the Seeker



Main Thought

- Human effort creates chaos
- God's grace restores order
- He finds. He questions. He moves forward.

GENESIS 16:7

NKJV

Now the Angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur.



GENESIS 16:7 — WORD STUDY



māṣā' (*maw-TSAH*) — **Found**



miḏbār (*mid-BAR*) — **Wilderness**



'ayin (*AH-yin*) — **Spring / Eye**



Ayin (eye/watch) + Yod (hand/work) + Nun (life/seed)

- Found — sought with intention
- Wilderness — God's classroom
- Spring — an eye that sees
- First mention: Angel of the LORD



Genesis 16:7

- God pursues the overlooked first
- Before she looked, He was looking
- The wilderness is not abandonment

And He said, 'Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?' She said, 'I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai.'



GENESIS 16:8

הָגָר (*Hāgār*) — *Flight / Fugitive* • בָּרַח (*bārah*) — *Fleeing*



Bet (house) + Resh (person) + Chet (wall/outside)

- Two questions, only one answered
- She knows what she's fleeing
- Not what she's fleeing toward

GENESIS 16:9

NKJV

The Angel of the LORD said to her, 'Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand.'



GENESIS 16:9

שוב (shûv) — Return / Repent • עֲנָה ('ānâ) — Submit / Humble



Shin (consume) + Vav (nail/secure) + Bet (house)

- One of Genesis' hardest commands
- Not approval of Sarai's sin
- Trust Him more than feelings

GENESIS 16:10

NKJV

Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, 'I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude.'



GENESIS 16:10

רָבָה(rāvâ) — Multiply • מְאֹד(me'ōḏ) — Exceedingly



Resh (person) + Bet (house) + Hey (behold)

- Abram and Sarai aren't present
- God speaks straight to Hagar
- Heaven visits who the world overlooks

And the Angel of the LORD said to her: 'Behold, you are with child, and you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has heard your affliction. He shall be a wild man; his hand shall be against every man, and every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.'



GENESIS 16:11–12 — WORD STUDY



Yishmā'ēl (yish-mah-EL) — **God Hears**



shāma' (shah-MAH) — **Heard**



Shin (consume) + Mem (mighty) + Ayin (see)

- Ishmael — 'God hears'
- Named before he was born
- Grace speaks the truth too



Genesis 16:11–12

- God hears before we recognize Him
- Comfort and honesty, together
- He hears every honest cry



Why Would God Allow This?

- Foreknowledge is not approval
- God redeems what He doesn't cause
- One choice echoes for generations
- His covenant still stands secure



Why Did God Bless Ishmael?

- God is faithful to His own character
- Blessing is not the same as covenant
- Common grace reaches every nation
- Ishmael became a living reminder



Can a Blessing Become a Curse?

- The blessing isn't the problem
- The human heart is
- Grace doesn't erase consequences
- Blessing outside God's order is risky

Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, 'Have I also here seen Him who sees me?' Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; observe, it is between Kadesh and Bered. So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.



GENESIS 16:13–16 — WORD STUDY

 *'El Ro'i (el roh-EE)* — **The God Who Sees Me**

 *Be'er Lahai Ro'i* — **The Well of the Living One**



Resh (person) + Aleph (strength) + Hey (behold)

- El Roi — 'The God Who Sees Me'
- The only place God gets this name
- First heard. Now seen.
- A well that still testifies



Genesis 16:13–16

- She names God, not just her son
- Circumstances didn't change first
- Her understanding of God did



Closing Synthesis

- Chapter opens with human effort
- Chapter closes with divine mercy
- This pattern repeats all through Scripture
- Human failure becomes His stage



Application

- The God who hears you sees you
- The God who sees you hasn't forgotten you
- The God who hasn't forgotten is faithful



Call to Action

- Stop running ahead of God
- Stop running away from God
- Begin walking with God

Genesis 16:7–16

The God Who Finds the Forgotten

