



And God...
Exodus 2:24-25

After writing the first draft of a blog post, I run it through a computer program called *Grammarly*. *Grammarly* warns me when my subject don't match my verb, when i forget to capitalize properly, when I misspell a werd, - and when, I use, too many, commas. (I'll pause here for any English teachers to regroup before moving on.)

The other thing *Grammarly* does is to warn about stylistic problems. One of my frequent red flags is "too much repetition." I may have heard too many three-point sermon outlines during my life, because I often write:

"He said...;"

"He said...;"

"He said...;"

Grammarly begins flashing, "Too much repetition. Consider an alternative."

As I was reading this morning, I realized that Moses must not have used the ancient Hebrew version of *Grammarly*. Listen to his description of God's reaction to Israel's suffering in Egypt:

And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel—and God knew (Ex 2:24-25).

Out of curiosity, I ran those verses through *Grammarly*. Sure enough, it warned, "Too much repetition. Consider an alternative."

"And God heard..., and God remembered..., God saw..., and God knew." *Grammarly* may not approve, but I love the terse repetition. It shows me how God responds to His people in trouble. The people of Israel thought they were alone. They thought God had forgotten them. But God was there all the time.

God heard. All through Scripture, we see the "God who hears." When Jewish mothers wept as their infant sons were murdered on the orders of Pharaoh, God heard. When a hurting Jabez prayed, "Please bless me and keep me from harm," God heard (1 Chron 4:10). Even when a wicked and undeserving Manasseh pled for mercy, God heard (2 Chron 33:13).

When you cry out to Him, God hears. When no one else seems to hear your groaning, God hears. When it seems that your prayers remain unanswered, God hears. Keep praying; God hears.

God remembered. He is also the “God who remembers.” When Israel cried for deliverance from bondage, God remembered His covenant promises. In a world so wicked that God sent a flood to destroy the earth, He “remembered Noah” (Gen 8:1). When Hannah prayed for a son, God “remembered her” (1 Sam 1:19). When Judah’s sin led to the horrors of Exile, Habakkuk pled, “In wrath remember mercy” (Hab 3:2).

When you pray for a wandering child, when years pass without an answer, when it feels like your prodigal will never return, God remembers. In a world of broken promises and forgotten vows, God remembers. Whatever your need, keep claiming His promise; God remembers.

God saw. When Israel thought that God’s eyes were closed to Pharaoh’s cruelty, God saw. When a jealous Sarah drove Hagar and young Ishmael into the wilderness, the “God who sees” sent His angel with a message of hope (Gen 16:13). When a pagan nation heard of impending judgment and repented in sackcloth, “God saw what they did” and did not destroy Nineveh (Jonah 3:10).

When life brings more than you can bear, God sees. When no one else knows your needs, God sees. When you serve faithfully – and it seems that no one notices, God sees. Don’t quit; don’t be discouraged; He is the God who sees.

God knew. This is my favorite phrase of the sequence. It doesn’t tell us *what* God knew; it just says, “God knew.” God knew Israel’s pain; God knew Pharaoh’s cruelty; God knew the solution to Israel’s crisis; God knew....

When Israel traveled through a trackless wilderness, God knew their path (Deut 2:7). When David cried for deliverance from wicked enemies, he trusted that the God who “knows the secrets of the heart” would do justice (Ps 44:21). When Gentiles responded to the gospel, “God who knows the heart, bore witness to them” (Acts 15:8).

He is the God who knows. When you don’t know which way to turn, trust the God who knows. When you lack wisdom for the challenges of life and ministry, ask the God who knows. He is the God who knows.

Let me encourage today to remember that whatever you need, God _____. Fill in the blank. Do you need One who hears your cry? God hears. Do you need to claim His promises? God remembers. Do you need Someone who sees your situation? God sees. Whatever your need, He is the God who knows. And God...