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Bible Institute & Seminary

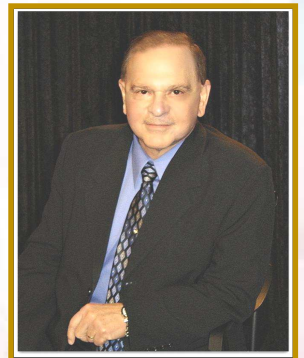
Internal Excellence...External Convenience

newsletter

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF OMEGA BIBLE INSTITUTE & SEMINARY
APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2022**

ACCOMPLISHING YOUR MISSION

By Dr. Henry Harbuck, Omega President



As we study the Word of God and do the work of the Kingdom, it is important to feel a sense of accomplishment and understanding. The Holy Spirit will help us; however, we must apply ourselves and be faithful if we are to reach the goal and complete our mission. Paul writes, *“Run in such a way that you may win.”* The Isthmian Games, to which Paul referred, were open to everyone. Of course the object of running the race was to win! We all know it is not just a matter of putting on the right shoes or outfit and enjoying the scenery; it is preparation and perseverance that makes a winner.

So, what is the secret of winning? First of all, everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things (1 Cor. 9:25). Athletes, who run

to win, exercise restraint of their emotions and desires. Second, they watch their diet, get plenty of rest and train their bodies in a certain way. Paul says those who ran in the Isthmian Games did so to win *“a perishable wreath.”* Actually, the victors were treated like royalty. Many times their debts were cancelled and they were allowed to live tax free the rest of their lives, as well as enjoy many more benefits.

Paul goes on to point out, as valuable as the leafy crown was, it can't compare to the eternal rewards that await those who are in Christ. So we must run our race with eternity in view. When we reach the end of our race there is a crown laid up for us. This is the crown that will never perish! ♥

1 Corinthians 9:25-27

“And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

What Others Say About Omega?



I earned my Bachelor of Biblical Studies and my Master of Theology degrees through Omega. I really appreciate the no nonsense standard of excellence I found as a student. If you mean business and are serious about learning, Omega is the school for you. I am using many of the tools gained through Omega. They provide a quality external studies program, I highly recommend this institution. *-Lorenzo—IL*



Omega Bible Institute & Seminary is one of the best Bible Institutes & Seminaries in the nation and global because of the staff, their belief, and faith in God. They all are spirit filled Christians that are full of love, joy, and happiness. You communicate with real people who care about God's people and God's business. *-Marilyn—TX*



I was led to Omega at a time when I was searching for the best way to complete the necessary training for God's call upon my life. Upon consultation, a method of study was designed for me which will soon lead to the completion of a Master of Divinity. The course of study has been thorough, exacting, and extremely beneficial as I seek to fulfill my role in assisting the pastor of my local church. Not only have I learned through the academic work and the instructions of the professors, but I have been given the tools to be ever-learning in the future. My pastor has recognized the benefit of the training I have received through Omega. I am indeed grateful to Omega for its wonderful curriculum, guidance, and the spiritual standing of its faculty. *-Theda—NY*

I received my Bachelor of Biblical Studies and Master of Theology from Omega. Although I went to another college for my Doctor of Theology, my heart remains with the good people at the home I found in Omega. They know you by your first name. My one experience I wish to share with you is the time my grade was not up to par. The people from Omega took their time to call me and prepare me for receiving my only B- for that school. With love, Omega cared for me and I will always care for them. *-George—SC*



Question and Answer

1. Do I have to use a certain type of Bible in my studies at Omega?

No. We only recommend that you use an accurate translation (King James, New International Version, or the New American Standard) rather than a paraphrase or "free" translation like the Living Bible.

2. How are the courses completed?

Omega uses a number of resources: textbooks with course methodologies, video and audio cassettes, etc. Each course assignment is written out and accompanies each textbook.

3. Must I have had previous college/seminary training to enroll in Omega?

No. Prior seminary and/or Bible college experience is

certainly helpful, but not required.

4. Can an average person like ME complete the required coursework to get a degree?

Absolutely! We have quite a few non-minister students, including some with fairly serious physical handicaps.

5. Does Omega represent a particular denomination?

No. Omega is non-denominational (we prefer the terms *inter-denominational* or *trans-denominational*). Omega's students represent a broad spectrum of Christian denominations and/or faiths.

6. Is Omega accredited? With whom?

Yes. Omega maintains its accreditation with the

Transworld Accrediting Commission (T.A.C.). Probably the strictest accrediting commission in America.

7. What payment options are there for my Omega degree program?

We offer the following payment options: cash up front, which earns you a 10% discount and monthly payments, which may extend no longer than the number of years of your degree program. We accept

cash, checks, money orders, cashier's checks and all major credit cards.

8. Are there "real" people working at Omega, or is it really just one desk and some busy paper-pusher?

We're all quite real, thank you very much! At present we have a clerical staff, our President, and our Dean here at Omega's offices. We also have a number of faculty advisors/graders working in their area (s) of expertise. Voice-mail is never used during office hours.





The God Who Sees

By Dr. Jerry Hatfield, Omega Professor,
Department of Hebrew Literature

This theological insight centers around the name 'El Roi (pronounced "el-row-ee" NOT "el-roy"!), and occurs only once in the Bible in Genesis 16:13. The context is the account of Abram's Egyptian servant Hagar's plight as she fled from Sarai's mistreatment of her after she bore Abram a son: Ishmael. Destitute in the wilderness where she fled with her son, Ishmael, Hagar is confronted by an angel of the LORD and commanded to return back to Sarai for in doing so, said the angel, her offspring would increase and be too numerous to count!

Hagar, not unlike other women of the biblical world, would not have received an inheritance, a future for either herself or her son without ties to a man who would grant her legal status by relation. So, it wasn't just water and the basic sustainable

resources she was concerned about that dreadful day, it was the provision of an inheritance with all its rights and privileges.

The compound name for God uttered by Hagar in this passage is comprised of the general word for God in the Ancient Near East. Here, unlike our previous title in our last study, the word is in the singular. The word that follows is descriptive of a particular aspect of God and literally means: "who sees me." Hence, El Roi means "God who sees me." But what does this mean? To see means to *provide*. So, this is the patriarchal equivalent of *Yahweh Yireh* or as some may more readily know it: *Jehovah Jireh*. I tend to shy away from the spelling *Jehovah* though due to its close connection with the unorthodox beliefs of *Jehovah's Witnesses*. Hagar's encounter that day

with the divine representative (i.e. "angel of the LORD") led to her exclamation: "I have now seen the One who sees me." In light of this encounter with God, she was most assured that He would not turn her away as did her mistress Sarai but would provide all that was needed for life and legitimacy. She could have penned the Psalmist's words written many years later, "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want!" (Ps 23:1). When God *sees you* in the biblical sense as here, He *provides for you*!

The irony of this lesson is that it comes from a traditionally non-Israelite witness. Why did God so incline the Mosaic tradition to retain this story within the pages of Holy Writ? This is a question that many down the ages have undoubtedly raised. From the mouth of a non-Israelite woman came the divine appellative "El Roi, the God

Genesis 16:13

"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?'"

Who Sees Me." In answer to the question posed immediately above, it must be acknowledged that by Hagar's returning to her mistress Sarai, she was forever accepted into the patriarchal faith that would one day become Israel. Perhaps something more meritorious here is that this story represents one of the first witnesses of Abram; "be a blessing" (Gen. 12:1f.) to the whole world! Regardless of our views on the Arab world, God's love is still for Ishmael. May God and Christ soften our hearts for those we too, like Sarai, have turned away in order that they may be brought back to the "God Who Sees Me" and provides all that is needed for life and legitimacy! Amen! ♥





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