

Worship Material
When you don't understand
Material from Roots Bible Study
Sunday 6th October

Begin with an opening prayer

Unfathomable God,
we feel so small beside your greatness.
Help us to trust in you,
to hold onto your steadfast love
and your faithfulness.
Lord, we want to praise you,
even when we don't understand you.
We pray in the name of Jesus
who brings us to your throne.
Amen.

Read Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Bible notes

Job is part of the philosophy or wisdom subsection of the Writings of the Hebrew Scriptures, along with Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. In 1:1, Job is presented as the epitome of the wise person celebrated in Proverbs. The existential question of Job is why do good people suffer? The biblical commentator CS Rodd suggests that Job is one of the very greatest works of world literature, but it is also the most difficult text in the Old Testament, particularly as it comes from a culture far removed from our own. Job is a poetic piece that reads like a play, in which truth is presented differently. It is a book to be grappled with. Jesus himself often left those he spoke to with questions to ponder. Philip Yancey points out that, 'Job decisively refutes one theory – that suffering always comes as a result of sin'. In chapter one, we have the particular challenge of illness. The exact nature of the illness is not known but part of its consequence is social isolation – think leprosy in biblical times and, more recently, AIDS and Covid. Job was further ostracised because of the view that his illness was the result of sin. However, Job persists in his view that everything – good and bad – comes from God. The narrator's position here is a bit complicated. Job's suffering is inflicted by Satan but clearly permitted by Yahweh.

Prayer

Creator of the world,
thank you for coming to us in your Son Jesus.
Thank you that you are with us in our deepest darkness
and suffering, even when we cannot see you or understand.
You are a God who walks alongside us in our pain.
We are grateful.

Amen.

A prayer to conclude

Bear with me, O Lord,
as I try to live for you in all I do.
Help me to keep you in my heart and mind
and to walk in faithfulness to you.
As I follow your way,
Lord, in your mercy, help me
to keep my feet on the ground,
so that wherever I find myself
I will bless you.

Amen.