

**Worship Material**  
**I had heard, but now I see**  
**Material from Roots Bible Study**  
**Sunday 27th October**

**Begin with an opening prayer**

Lord God, you are awesome beyond measure  
and we are so small in comparison,  
yet you welcome us into your presence.

Reveal yourself to us today:  
help us to see who you are.

As we bow down before the God of the universe,  
the God of love beyond our understanding,  
help us to worship you.

**Amen.**

**Read Job 42:1-6,10-17**

**Bible notes**

Hurray, a happy passage in Job! So, all's well that ends well. Or does it? Might this passage taken at face value reinforce a prosperity (and beauty) theology? And is the acquiescence to God's perceived omnipotence healthy or helpful? The questions continue! In verse 2 and following, Job accepts God's power – which he has done throughout. What matters to Job is the sense that he has met God. He still maintains his innocence in all things other than questioning God's rule of the world. This is one of the points when we might want to question if this is a good thing. After all, a large proportion of Scripture is lament with recurring questions of why and how long.

The restoration of Job's fortunes is not a reward for good behaviour. It is God's gift and it is restoration, even if it goes beyond what Job possessed at the beginning. One little note of significance is that the daughters are given a share of the inheritance. At the time daughters could only inherit if there were no sons. The restoration of Job still leaves the big question: What is the purpose of the book? CS Rodd argues 'If in the end we are unwilling to remain with mystery, as the writer of Job left us, placing fellowship with God above intellectual understanding of the problem of suffering and being satisfied with the religious encounter, then the value of soul-making [or character formation]

explanation remains the best resort. From a moral aspect it has to be asked whether the extent and severity of the suffering can ever be regarded as the necessary cost for the making of souls, especially when many souls seem to be crushed under their sorrows rather than lifted to heroic virtue. Only a cross and a wounded God remain for us to cling to'(1). We may wish to add that we also have the risen Christ to cling to.

1. CS Rodd, The Book of Job, (Epworth), p.73.

### **Prayer**

God of power, our great High Priest,  
you are holy and blameless, exalted above the heavens.  
You have been made perfect forever.

Thank you that you came to our world, in vulnerable human flesh, to give sight to the blind,  
hope to the weary and comfort to those in pain.  
You show us the way to the Father,  
and model the way of compassion.  
All praise to you.

**Amen.**

### **A prayer to conclude**

Go with God and search for his wonders.  
Go with God and look for his glory.  
Go with God to proclaim his greatness.  
Go with God as your Lord and your friend.

**Amen.**