

Ebon Pinion **Luke 22:39-46**

Well-known Communion Hymn

Recounts the sufferings of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane
Understanding the words and overall message is important

Christ Is The Man of Sorrows

*"Night, with ebon pinion, Brooded o'er the vale;
All around was silent, Save the night-wind's wail,
When Christ, the Man of Sorrows, In tears and sweat as blood,
Prostrate in the garden, Raised His voice to God."*

Most difficulty comes from this verse

"Ebon pinion" - black wing - feathers; Dark-winged Blackbird; Raven/Crow - harbinger of death

Imagery of "wings of darkness", "black wing, a metaphor for the deepest darkness

Late night but also a foreboding darkness, maybe even spiritual - **Mark 14:40; 15:1**

Some object to silent, since Scripture does not specify - Poetic license must be allowed

He was well away from most human activity, and it was late at night - **Mark 14:26,32,37**

Original sixth line reads, "In tears and sweat and blood."

Ellis J. Crum changed to "sweat as blood" for Sacred Selections, continued in Hymns for Worship

Doesn't mention "sweating blood" in Gethsemane, but "sweat became like great drops of blood."

"Bloody sweat" - under great stress, capillaries might break, allowing blood to seep into perspiration, giving it a pinkish tinge (hematidrosis)

Compare size of sweat drops to great drops of blood from one bleeding profusely.

Emphasizes the agony and anguish of Christ

"Man of Sorrows" prophetic foreshadow of sufferings for us - **Isaiah 53:1-3**

Weeping And Prayer

*"Smitten for offenses Which were not His own,
He, for our transgressions, Had to weep alone;
No friend with words to comfort, Nor hand to help was there,
When the Meek and Lowly Humbly bowed in prayer."*

Jesus suffered for offenses of others, the just for the unjust - **1Peter 3:18**

Suffering so intense He was said to be weeping as a result - **Hebrews 5:7**

No human friend with comfort or hand to help, even His closest disciples slept - **Matthew 26:40-45**

God's Will Be Done

*"Abba, Father, Father, If indeed it may,
Let this cup of anguish Pass from Me, I pray;
Yet, if it must be suffered by Me, Thine only Son,
Abba, Father, Father, Let Thy will be done."*

"Abba" Aramaic for "father," especially term of endearment by small child - **Mark 14:36; Galatians 4:6**

Jesus's purpose in going to garden was to find strength for His upcoming tribulations - **Mark 14:32-35**

He knew His death was part of God's plan for salvation, and, from human standpoint obviously did not wish to experience pain of death, He willingly submitted to will of the Father - **Luke 22:39-42**

Remember The Dark Night Of Sorrow

We often use this song to prepare our minds for the partaking of the Lord's supper

His ordeal began with the emotional weight of sorrow as He considered what was before Him

He did not take it lightly, nor turn from His responsibility

Let "ebon pinion" remind not just of night, but also overwhelming darkness of sorrow and woe.

Let it also remind of deep spiritual darkness of sin of mankind.

These caused the spotless Son of God to suffer and die for us

We are reminded of this whenever we sing, "Night, With Ebon Pinion."

WayneWalker