

There is a scripture from the weeping prophet that to me reflects the depth of Christ's suffering¹, especially in the sense of Him crying over us (as He did over Jerusalem)²:

*My eyes fail from weeping, I am in torment within; **my heart is poured out on the ground** because my people are destroyed ...*

As Jeremiah is the spokesman for God, I believe that these words echo God's feeling, and indicate that the tears are really from God in His concern for His people. This anguish for us is later shown in the sacrifice of the blood and body of Christ, God's Son (even as He prayed in the garden³).

Jesus spoke similar words during the night before His trial:

*This is my blood of the covenant, which is **poured out** for many for the forgiveness of sins⁴.*

When I think of Christ shedding His blood for us, I consider that the contents of His heart indeed poured out on the ground, and presumably lost. He allowed this because He loved us so! Like Abel's blood, it cried out to God from the ground⁵. Now it cries out to us!

The scriptures indicate that the blood of sacrifices was to be poured out on the ground like water⁶. It is clear that when something precious is poured out on the ground, it is lost and not recoverable⁷; this likely makes us sad at the loss. But the blood of the sacrifice is somehow recovered (or absorbed) by God, and is able to save us.

Christ's body was also recovered by God, and not allowed to see decay⁸. When we partake in our communion with Him, we can think of us sharing in that recovery of body and blood as we become beneficiaries of His Grace.

Another scripture from the prophet describes what should be our response to God's Grace:

*The hearts of the people cry out to the Lord. ... let your tears flow like a river day and night ... Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin; **pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord⁹**.*

So we must pour out our own hearts, letting sorrow and repentance flow in the presence of God and into the depths of His Grace.

1. Lamentations 2:11a,b
2. Luke 9:41
3. Luke 22:44
4. Matthew 26:28
5. Genesis 4:9-11
6. Leviticus 4:25, 30, 34; 8:15; 9:9; also Deuteronomy 12:24 where meat slaughtered for food was poured out like water
7. see 2 Samuel 14:11, 12-14

8. Ps 16:9; referred to in Acts 2:27, Acts 2:31, Acts 13:34, Acts 13:35, Acts 13:36, Acts 13:37
9. Lamentations 2:18a,19a

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