

LOVERS OF
THE DESOLATE JERUSALEM



INTRODUCTION:

PART ONE

Introduction

Jerusalem was the place where God Himself found a home. King David brought the Presence of the Lord into its place of rest in Zion with great rejoicing! God's people worshipped, had feasts, and God was with them in their midst for generations. And then, for days without number, the people of God grew cold in their love for Him. They forgot Him, and left Him in their hearts (Jeremiah 2:32). So much became religion and duties and empty vain things. The Lord began to abhor their feasts and empty worship. He cried unto them days without number but they did not hear Him for they had left Him in their hearts.

A time of chastisement came upon God's own for the way that they treated the Lord. And God, *being a sacrifice in nature*, took upon Himself their chastisement. Isaiah 53 declares that the Lamb was led to slaughter not only for our sins, but also for our chastisement (Isaiah 53:5). And so the Lord took upon Himself the punishment that His people should have borne for the way they treated Him. It is in this dealing with God's people that Jerusalem itself was burned and demolished, while the people of God were sent to Babylon which was a very comfortable, flourishing culture. During this time Babylon not only took the Judeans captive, but sought to assimilate them into its culture, business and government. The people of God were given opportunities in Babylon for comfort and even affluence. The people of God were absorbed into this culture for a 70 year time period that God had ordained in order to deal with their hearts while Jerusalem laid in death and ruins. While the people of God were forging out a new life in Babylon, back home in Jerusalem the temple was burned, demolished, and lying in rubble. It lay forgotten, overgrown, and overtaken by enemies and wild beasts. Herein is a powerful picture of Christ Crucified. We can see our slain Lord in type and shadow in those burnt stones and broken down walls. Jerusalem lay there in reproach and desolations for 70 years, while His people were far away in a foreign land. He lay forgotten and alone. This Jerusalem bore the penalty of a people who had opened their hearts and gates to foreigners, while rejecting and forgetting the God Who was in their midst. The God Who had cried out His heart to them for so many generations only to be unnoticed and rejected now lay in the shame and nakedness of that rejection. The ark was gone, the favor was gone, the people were gone, ... and only reproach and death remained.

“We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach”. Hebrews 13:10-13

After 70 years the time of chastisement was fulfilled (Daniel 9:2), but at that same time many of God’s people in Babylon were comfortable and had established their lives. Very few remembered the Jerusalem that lay desolate outside their camp,... yet herein we find a picture of the body of Him Who was crucified for our transgressions. Very few thought upon Him and even less returned to love Him, to remember and rebuild. But there was a remnant that forgot not this Jerusalem (Psalm 137). These are those who kept their hearts for Him and returned to rebuild when the 70 year period of captivity was over. We will be digging into the scriptures that share their stories over the next several months, but before we do let us look at some New Testament scriptures that also share this heart and passion for the Crucified Christ.

Hebrews 13:3 “REMEMBER those who suffer adversity in the BODY”.

There is a ministry that reaches the heart of God. This ministry speaks of those who remember the One who gave Himself for us and care for Him in His broken and poured out body. This ministry speaks of those who separate their hearts and lives to pour over Him for Who He is and not just what He does and gives. Mary of Bethany noticed Jesus in a way that caused her to minister to the Lamb of God **before** He went to the Cross, and she anointed His body for burial (John 12:7). In the Old Testament we find Judeans in Babylon who thought upon and prayed towards the Jerusalem that lay fallow and burnt, and remembered Him **after** the destruction (*Nehemiah / Daniel*). In both the cases of Nehemiah and Mary of Bethany we find a memorial set forth unto the heart of God forever (Nehemiah 2:20. Matthew 26:13).

Hebrews 13:10 “We have an altar of which they have no right to eat who serve the tabernacle.

Those Judeans in Babylon during the 70 years of captivity did not have a temple with an altar to worship upon. They were unable to celebrate the feasts in Babylon. But some remembered that there was an altar and a place where they could go and worship and feast outside the walls and safety of Babylon that lay approximately 800 miles away in the burnt and crucified Jerusalem.

Hebrews 13:11 “... for the bodies of those beasts.... are burned outside the camp”.

The outpoured blood of Jesus the Lamb of God is readily available for everyone to receive the benefits of forgiveness and atonement; but where is the body of that Sacrifice that poured out that blood? The scriptures tell us that “**the bodies** of the animals used in sacrifice **were burned** outside the camp.” During the time period of the captivity the burnt stones of the desolate Jerusalem lay outside of the camp where the people of God were dwelling. These burnt and discarded stones were far removed from sight or mind. Who is going to think upon that distant and destroyed city? Who is going to seek out the emptied corpse of the Sacrifice once they received the merits of the outpoured Blood? Most would only consider the benefits of His death rather than the One Who died and poured out all. Others might think upon their failure to love and relate to the living God Who once dwelt so deeply in their midst, and be thankful for the Blood that forgave their trespasses against Him. Although this is tender it is still centered on their condition. Who is going to think about His condition and care for the body that is laying there poured out and crucified as pictured in the burnt Jerusalem? Who will think upon the burnt stones and the broken down walls? Who among us remembers the One Who gave Himself for us and not just the benefits He gives us? Notice the words in verse 11: “bodies... are burned.... outside the camp”. How intently these verses point us to consider Him and not just His benefits!

Hebrews 13:13-14 “LET US GO FORTH therefore UNTO HIM ... outside the camp bearing His reproach, for here we have no continuing city but we seek one to come”.

Those who returned to the desolate city are a picture of those who are not just returning to rebuild, but those who are returning to Him. They are returning to the body of Him Who lay burnt, bound, and crucified for their transgressions. Because they forgot Him days without number they were sent away. But it is only those who remember Him, feel Him, and **HEAR HIM IN HIS SILENCE** that return. These were those who longed for Him, the true Him, and wanted to be with Him in death, weakness, removal, brokenness, and poured out love. These are those who wanted to rebuild THAT relationship with the Crucified. Every stone burnt speaks of the one true glory, the glory of a slaughtered Lamb.

This slain Lamb is our continuing city... Not just His benefits but His Body, His Being... Him. We may be able to partake of His benefits while our hearts yet dwell in a far county from Him, but HE is our eternal home. He is our continuing city. We can take His things with us while our hearts yet abide far from Him.

We are all aware of the aspect of Christ's death for the sins of the world, and how the Father raised Him up bringing salvation to all who would receive Him. Yet there is another aspect of Christ's death that is in regards to His own, those who have already received salvation. This aspect of His death is for those who belong to Him, yet have trespassed the Lord in leaving Him to go their own way. In this knowing of His death it is not just the Father who raises Him, but the Bride who chooses to "go unto His poured out Body/Being", return to the burnt stones, and be built into the Crucified Christ as a place wherein He can dwell and find rest. As she returns to Him to be rebuilt as His temple, He is raised up in His Body and Bride as Life and fullness.

LET US, therefore, go forth unto HIM! It is our choice to love this desolate and crucified One Who has poured out all for us. It is our hearts and love for Him that will guide us to where He can truly be found for Who He is... a slaughtered Lamb. Such hearts are not seeking His benefits or things. Such hearts are not content to receive gifts and blessing while still dwelling in a far country from the One Who gave Himself for us. Such hearts love Him for Who He is.... lovers of the crucified Christ, lovers of the desolate Jerusalem. In the Old Testament we find it in type and shadow within the context of the Babylonian captivity and those who returned to rebuild the destroyed Jerusalem. In the New Testament we find it in fulfillment in saints like Paul who determined not to know anything but a crucified Christ, and counted all loss to gain Him (I Cor. 2:2, Phil. 3:8).

This series entitled;
***“Lovers of the
Desolate Jerusalem’***
is a meditation taken
from Old Testament
scriptures that were
written mostly after the
Babylonian Captivity
and during the time

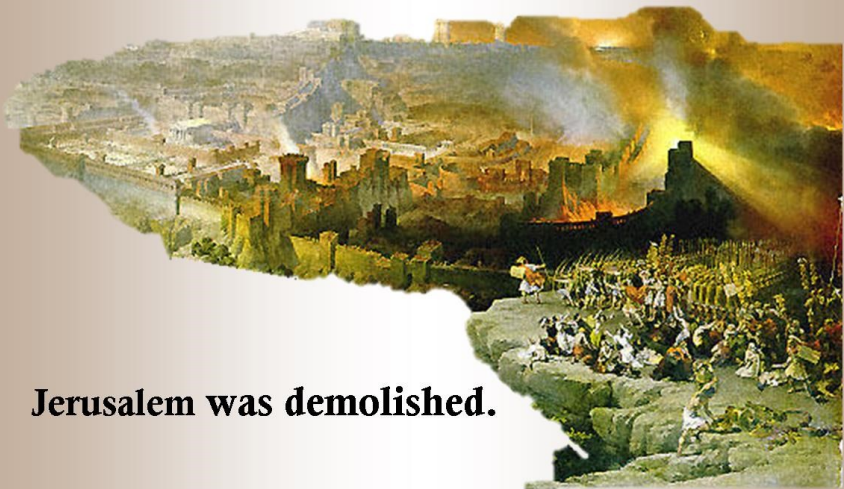
period of returning to the burnt and destroyed Jerusalem. This series is divided into eight sections, each focusing on a view of Christ Crucified that will melt your heart if you take the time to soak and ponder before the Lord in each section’s presentation of the scriptures. The overwhelming theme of each meditation is based on

people whose hearts
deeply loved the
“burnt Jerusalem”,
which is a picture of
Christ laid bare in His
Crucified nature. *These
booklets are supplemental
to the video presentation
that can be viewed on
our website at:
[www. fireministries-
international.com](http://www.fireministriesinternational.com)*

“Blessed are those who mourn in Zion”

Isaiah 61:3

In 589 BC Babylon laid siege on Jerusalem for three years.



Jerusalem was demolished.

**Nehemiah 1:3, the Book of Lamentations, 2 Kings 21:13,
2 Kings 24:10, 14 & 25:1-2, Jeremiah 25:9, Jeremiah 39:1-2,
Daniel 1:1, Jeremiah 39:8,**

His own departed...

with hearts taken captive by other loves.



**Jeremiah 25:1-11, 2:25, 3:1-10, 16:11, Ezekiel 14:4-5,
16:33, Malachi 2:11, I Chronicles 9:1, Jeremiah 5:23**

**The demolished and desolate Jerusalem is a picture of
Christ Crucified.**



**The slaughtered Lamb bore us in our rebellion,
forgetfulness, and rejection of Him.**

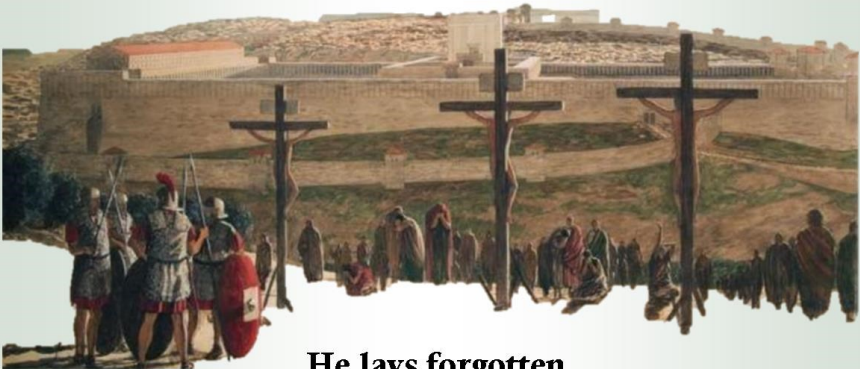
**Jeremiah 44:6, Ezekiel 9:8, Isaiah 53, Ezekiel 15:8,
Isaiah 53, Lamentations**

Jerusalem lay destroyed and desolate for 70 years.



**Jeremiah 25:11, Jeremiah 9:11, 2 Chronicles 36:21,
Daniel 9:1-2, Jeremiah 29:10**

He lays fallow.



He lays forgotten.

**Jeremiah 9:11, Jeremiah 2:32, 3:21, 13:25, 18:15, 19:4,
Ezekiel 22:12, 23:35**

He is hidden in rubble and diminished to ashes.



Lamentations 3:16

His stones are fallen, burnt and crushed.



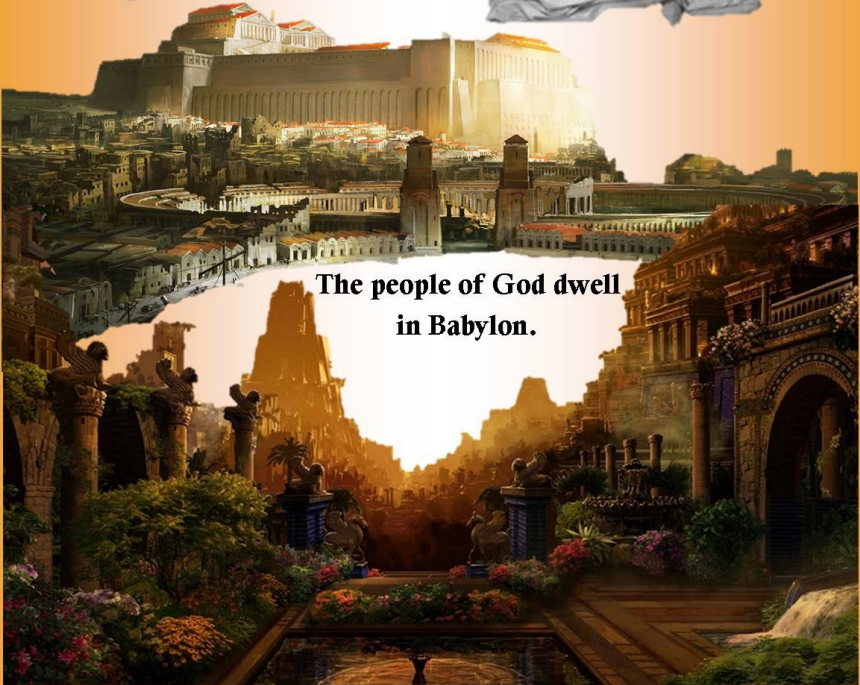
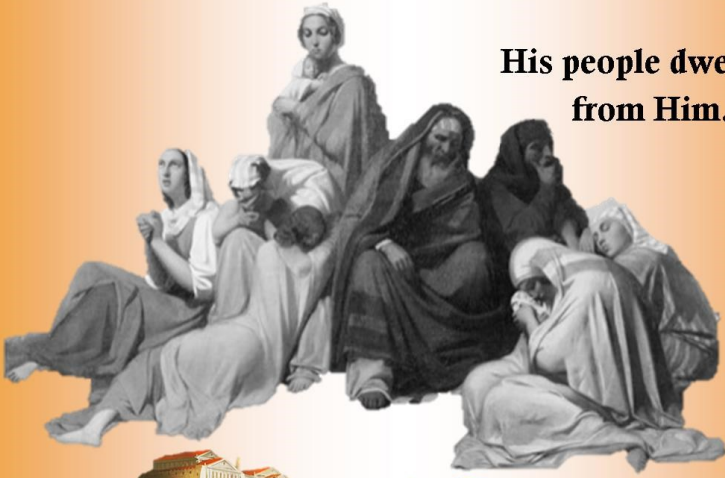
Lamentations 4:1, Jeremiah 39:8, Nehemiah 1:3

His land is overgrown and forgotten.



Jeremiah 44:2

**His people dwell far
from Him.**



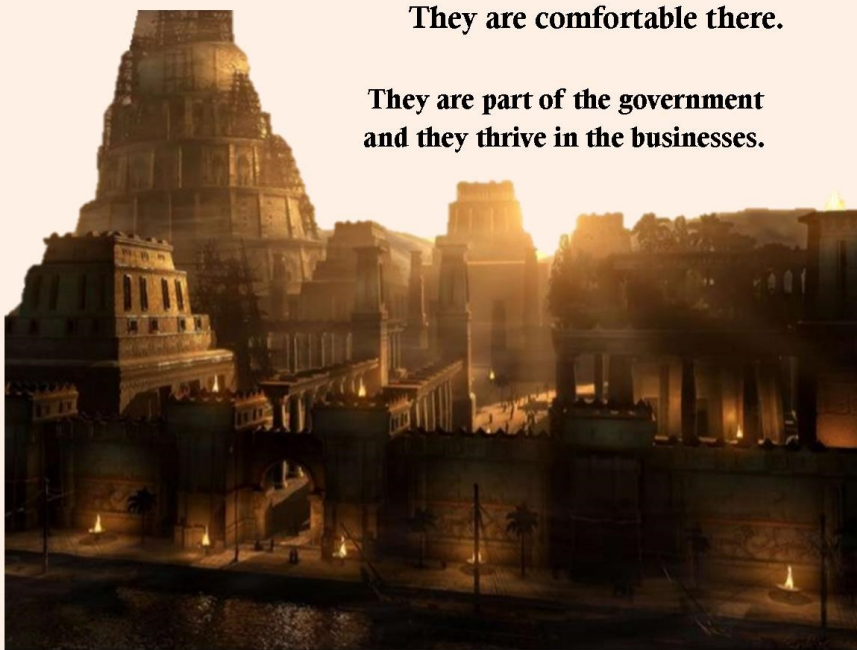
**The people of God dwell
in Babylon.**

2 Chronicles 36:20

The have developed a life in Babylon.

They are comfortable there.

**They are part of the government
and they thrive in the businesses.**

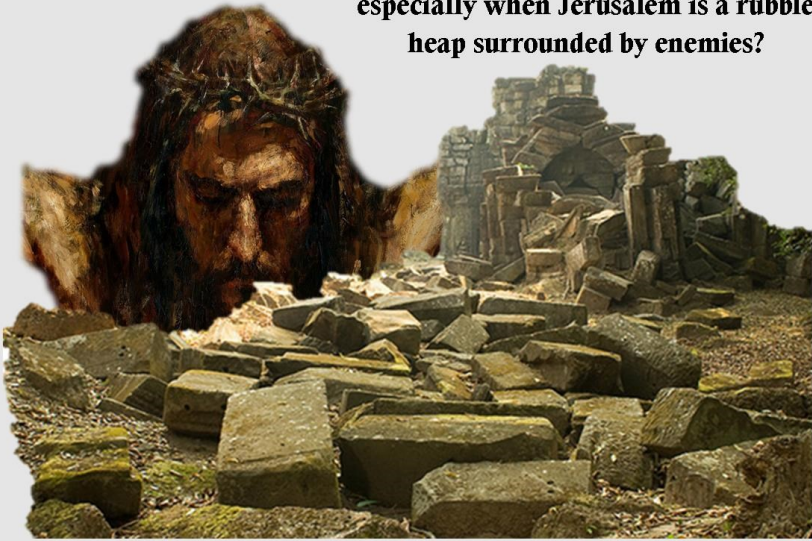


Their children have been raised there.



Jeremiah 29:5-6

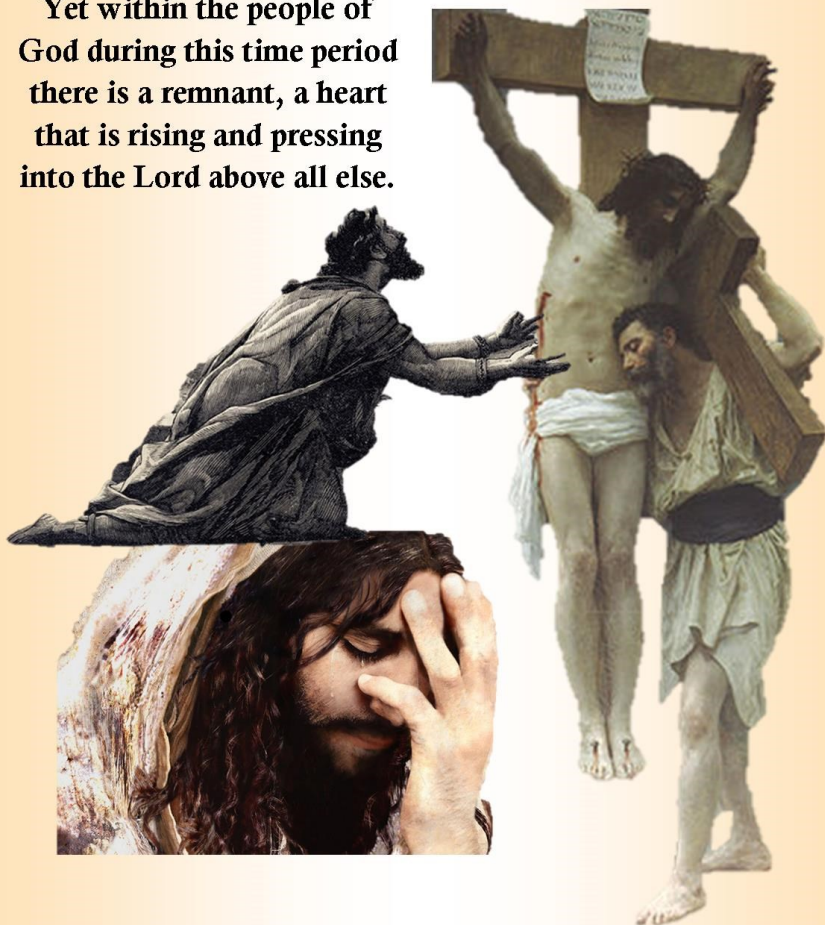
**Why should they remember Jerusalem,
especially when Jerusalem is a rubble
heap surrounded by enemies?**



**How could they even consider putting their family, finances and
comfort in jeopardy for a ruined old city that has fallen?**

Lamentations 5:2, 18, Isaiah 1:7, Psalm 137

**Yet within the people of
God during this time period
there is a remnant, a heart
that is rising and pressing
into the Lord above all else.**



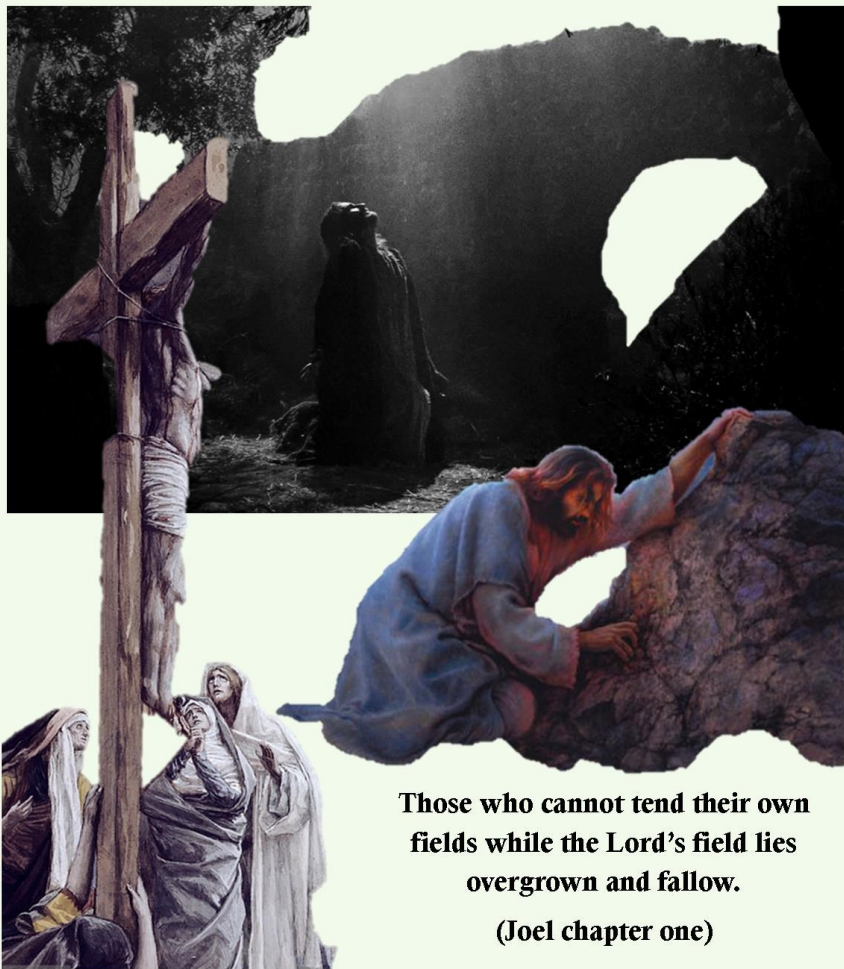
**A heart that cannot give itself rest until
the Lord Himself has His rest.**

(Psalm 132:4-5)

Psalm 132:4-5

**Those who cannot build there own house while
the Lord's house lies in ruin.**

(Haggai chapter one)



**Those who cannot tend their own
fields while the Lord's field lies
overgrown and fallow.**

(Joel chapter one)

Isaiah 66:1, Haggai chapter one, Joel chapter one

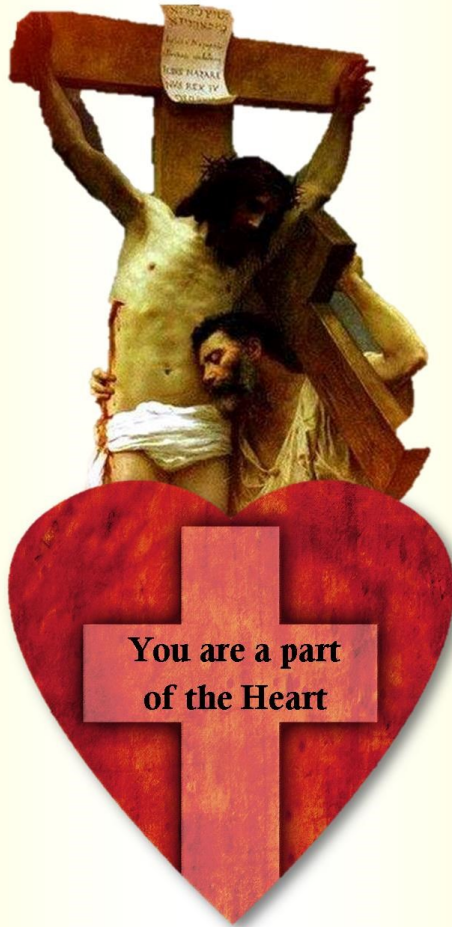
**This heart rises and rises,
revealing itself in those who love Him above all.**

**Let us look at this bride heart in people whom the Bible spotlights
during this time period.**



Psalm 137:5-6

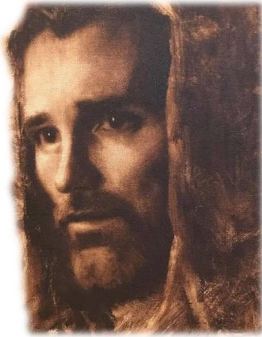
**People with one heart for the
Lamb to have a wife.**



Psalm 122:6

More To Come!

JEREMIAH



DANIEL



ESTHER



EZRA

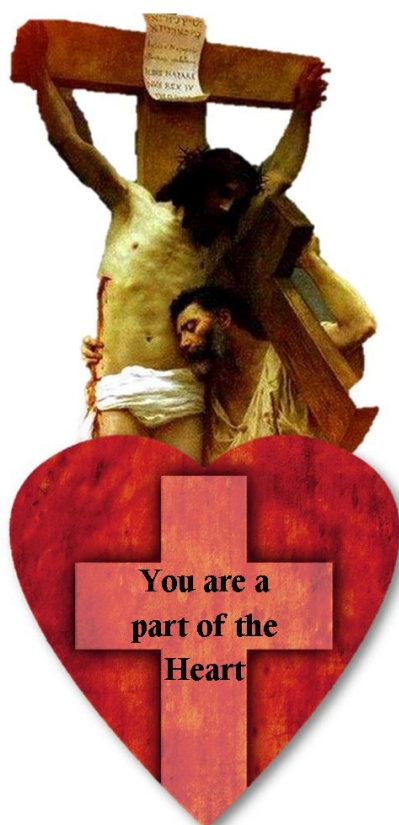


NEHEMIAH



ZERUBBABEL





THIS IS US

To view the slideshow that accompanies this booklet,
please go to:

www.fireministriesinternational.com

and view the page titled :

“Ireland Conference 2018”

or

“Lovers of the Desolate Jerusalem”