



The Seven Trumpets (2)

PART 21

Introductions

Let's get started by sharing our names and answering this question: [*Choose your own question*].

Songs of Praise

Let's begin our time singing to the Lord. [*Sing additional songs if you prefer. Contact the church office for copies of our church songbooks.*]

Thy Mercy, My God

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart. and the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But, through Thy free goodness,
my spirits revive,
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,

And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies,
Thy goodness I own,
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon,
and righteousness mine.
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness
mine.

Text John Stocker, 1777
Music Sandra McCracken, 2005

Church News

- Parent & Youth Equipping Conference, January 16-17, Sign-up online.
- Women's Retreat, February 26-28, Sign-up online.
- Attend a Men's or Women's Bible Study, details and contacts online.

Study

[*This guide utilizes the Sunday sermon notes, please [click this link](#) to access them.*]

Q: Would someone read aloud Revelation 9:1-12?

Like the seven seals, the seven trumpets present another vantage point of the Lord's judgment. Yet the trumpet cycle reads with greater intensity than the seven seals. This is perhaps due to trumpets serving as instruments of warning or due to the vantage point of unbelievers experiencing the judgment of God. Either way, or both, we must know the importance of the present judgment of God.

Q: Who does the fallen star represent?

Q: What is the significance that "he *was given* the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit"? (v1)

Q: What is peculiar about the appearance of the locusts, and what is their purpose?¹

Q: What is comforting about *who* the locusts cannot harm? Why should Christians not despair?²

Commentator Grant Osborne says this about the evil hordes depicted by the locusts:

Through the terrible actions of the demons, God is calling the nations to repentance. In the locust plague...God shows the true nature of those evil beings – they hate and want to torture their own followers! The fallen nature of these beings is obvious...The message is clear: demonic powers are behind all idolatry, and their purpose is to destroy.

Q: How can we be wise to the true face of temptation and sin? What steps should we take? What steps do you take?

We live in a sin-infested world, marked by war, murder, conquest, predation, desperation, isolation, depression, and everyday arrogant indulgences. All of these, and more, have their origins in the pit. Against such varied expressions of evil, Christians are called to stand in the power of God's might.

Q: As you think about this reality, what influences or temptations encourage you to forget that "you are a combatant in a spiritual war"?

Q: How do you remember that as a Christian, you are in a spiritual war?³

Q: Are there any further questions or comments before we break for prayer?

Prayer

[Take time to pray - men with men, and women with women.]

Notes...

¹ The five months may be meant to refer to the dry season lasting five months during which locusts appear. If so then the five month lifecycle of the locust may be a way of saying that the demonic horde dedicate their entire existence to tormenting humanity. That the terror they inflict lasts the entire five months indicates an unrelenting severity and supernatural purpose at work.

² Consider reading aloud *John 10:27-29*. This is the power of gospel to all who believe. Prior to any vision of Apollyon and the demonic horde we see that Christ has primacy not Satan. Before any vision of stinging locusts, we can be confident that death's sting has been removed by the One who died in our place. Though the mountains fall, God's people are reassured that they have been irrevocably sealed in the Holy Spirit.

³ Consider reading aloud *Proverbs 18:1*. This is an appropriate moment to talk about the local church and the responsibility of Christians to genuinely belong to one another as members of the local church. Daily fellowship and weekly worship are so much more than helpful suggestions.