

Series: The Alpha and Omega, a study in Revelation

Sermon: The Seven Trumpets Pt I

Primary Text: Revelation 8:6-9:21

Discussion guide:

- What's one unexpected "curveball" life has thrown at you recently (big or small), and how did you react to it?
- Have you ever experienced a situation where doing what you believed was "right" led to unexpected difficulties or suffering? How did that impact your perspective?
- Consider the story of Joseph from the Bible. Even when facing slavery and false imprisonment, he continued to serve God. What do you think sustained his faith in such challenging circumstances?
- The passage from Genesis 50:20 says, "...you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." How can a belief that God can use difficult situations for good influence your response to adversity?
- When faced with suffering or injustice in the world, do you find yourself more inclined to run towards God for hope, or away from Him in blame? What influences that inclination?
- The book of Revelation describes a series of events involving trumpets. Read Revelation 8:7-11. What is described in these verses, and what do you think might be the purpose of such events?
- Revelation 9:1-11 describes a unique kind of "locust" plague. Read this passage. How are these locusts different from typical locusts, and what do you think they symbolize?
- These events in Revelation are sometimes described as "warnings." How can difficult or painful experiences in life serve as warnings or alarms, prompting us to re-evaluate our priorities or direction?
- C.S. Lewis famously wrote, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." What does this quote suggest about the role of suffering in our lives?
- Life can feel out of our control, fragile, and unpredictable. When you recognize these truths about life, how does it affect your sense of peace and security?
- How can having a spiritual foundation, or being "firmly grounded in the Objective Bedrock of all reality Himself," help someone navigate the uncertainties and evils of the world with peace, joy, and unquenchable hope?
- Thinking about the life of Joseph again, what qualities or choices allowed him to maintain purpose, meaning, and hope even through immense unjust suffering?
- How might choosing to let your view of God determine your view of evil (rather than vice versa) change how you experience your daily life?