

# False Teachings Destroy Souls

## Part 2 of 2 (Trumpets 5-6)

Thursday, July 28 at 7 + Sunday, July 31 at 8:00 & 10:45

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2011

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Jesus, *the Christ*, we live in a world of ♦tolerance, ♦compromise, and ♦political correctness. All such things teach us that *people's feelings are more important than the truth!* Therefore, we should ♦tolerate sin – *not condemn it*, ♦compromise the truth – *not speak it*, and ♦say what sounds good – *not what is good!* Such things promote false teachings AND condemn eternal souls!

1. **The Fifth Trumpet:** False teachings within the Church, *which God is allowing to occur* [*“the key...was given”*]; WHY? The Bible says: <sup>NAU</sup> **2 Th. 2:10** “...those who perish...did not... love of the truth so as to be saved. <sup>11</sup> For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, <sup>12</sup> in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.”
  - a. <sup>1</sup> **Then the fifth angel sounded** [*trumpeted*], and I saw a star from heaven [*the sky*] which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him [*probably the devil*]. <sup>2</sup> He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit. The sun produces *physical light* but from the pit came darkness – *spiritual darkness*, the absence of truth!
  - b. <sup>3</sup> Then out of the smoke came locusts [*false teachings*] upon the earth, and power [*authority*] was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. <sup>4</sup> They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing,

nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads [7:3]. ♦Grass, ♦green things, and ♦trees are *alive physically*, just as believers in Jesus are *alive spiritually*; so they were given authority to HURT only those who are already dead, SPIRITUALLY DEAD, *because they persistently reject Jesus Christ!*

- c. <sup>5</sup> And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. <sup>6</sup> And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them. Five months is a *limited* time; even false teachings are limited, but they return *again and again!* Regarding a scorpion's sting, the Mayo Clinic identifies the symptoms as ♦intense pain, ♦muscle thrashing, ♦rapid breathing, etc! Whether it's *a scorpion sting or guilt from sin*, some may desire *death over the pain*; but *for all who reject Jesus as Savior*, even death will NOT set them free (14:11)!
- d. <sup>7</sup> The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. <sup>8</sup> They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of lions. <sup>9</sup> They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle. <sup>10</sup> They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months. <sup>11</sup> They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss [probably the devil]; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon [“both mean ‘Destroyer’” (Becker, 141)]. Since false teachings can destroy eternal souls – *THEY SHOULD CAUSE soberness and alertness* (1 Peter 5:8), *as well as a diligent putting on of the armor of God* (Eph. 6:11-12). Note the underlined phrases ↑ in this section. Even though false teachers tend to *look like*

sheep ↑, note the blocks, may God enable us to see them as they are – *STARVING WOLVES!* They look harmless, but when they speak may we see “*the teeth of lions*” – *ready to devour our eternal souls!*

2. **The Sixth Trumpet**: False teachings from the various open enemies of the Church which exist in the world:
- a. <sup>12</sup> The first woe is past [*trumpet five*]; behold, two woes are still coming after these things. <sup>13</sup> Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, <sup>14</sup> one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” *THEY are the forces of evil. “God makes use of evil to carry out his purposes” (Becker, 148). (Genesis 50:20).*
  - b. <sup>15</sup> And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind. *God sets exact times!*  
NAU **Acts 17:26** “...He made from one *man* every nation..., having determined *their* appointed times...”
  - c. <sup>16</sup> The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million [*two myriads of myriads or 2 x 10,000 x 10,000*; representing “...*the great number and diversity of false teachings in the world...*” (Becker, 149).]; I heard the number of them. <sup>17</sup> And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: *the riders* had breastplates *the color* of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone [*hell*]. Dr. Becker: “...*these riders and their horses...stand in the service of Satan and wear his colors*” (150).
  - d. <sup>18</sup> A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths. <sup>19</sup> For the power of the

horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm. The old sticks-and-stones-saying is NOT true!

*False words can destroy eternal souls!*

- e. **20** The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; God's purpose is repentance unto salvation (Ezekiel 18:32), but what is common? People continue without repentance, *thus without EVIDENT change!* Furthermore, they worship idols – not necessarily a statue of gold or wood, *but anything other than the one true God* (F, S, & HS)! Dr. Becker wrote: *“When men believe the devil's lies in preference to God's truth, they are, in reality, offering their worship to the devil”* (153). Our worship is revealed in our devotion, our loyalty; ♦some worship their work – *or the money they are paid*; ♦some worship their sport – *or the recognition they receive*. Now, *be honest: What do you worship?* To *what* or to *whom* do you give your time, energy, and money? Think carefully; then, *if necessary*, REPENT!

- f. **21** and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts. **What does that mean?** Since people worship false gods, *we should not be surprised when they openly continue in many other sins!*

**Conclusion:** Now, *as the forces of evil try to destroy our eternal souls*, let us remember that **“the gates of Hades will not overpower [the Church of Jesus Christ].”** (Matt. 16:18 NAU). And all God's people said: *Amen!*