



Revelation 8-9

WORKSHOP

Overview

- ▶ Structure of Revelation
- ▶ Revelation 8-9
- ▶ Trumpets
- ▶ Locust-Scorpions / Horse-Lions
- ▶ Q&A

Intro and Greetings (1:1-8)

Four Visions (1:9-22:5)

Patmos (Ch 1-3) "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day"			Heaven (Ch 4-16) "At once I was in the Spirit"					Wilderness (Ch 17:1-21:9) "Here carried me away in the Spirit"			Mountain (Ch 21:10-22:5) "He carried me away in the Spirit"							
Jesus Unveiled			Heavenly Throne Room Unveiled							Harlot Unveiled			Bride Unveiled					
7 Letters to 7 Churches (1:9-3:22)			Throne Room (Ch 4-5)		7 Seal Judgments (6:1-8:5)		7 Trumpet Judgments (8:6-11:9)		7 Heavenly Visions (Interlude?) (12:1-15:8)		7 Bowl Judgments (16:1-21)		Overthrow of Babylon (17:1-19:10)		7 Wilderness Visions "I saw" (19:11-21:8)		New Jerusalem (21:10-22:5)	
1	Ephesus (2:1-7)	King (4:1-3)	1	White Horse (6:1-2)	Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse	Earth (8:6-7)		Woman & the Dragon (12:1-17)		Earth (16:1-2)		Harlot & Beast (17:3-18)		1	White Horse (19:11-16)	Bride of the Lamb (21:10-11)		
2	Smyrna (2:8-11)	24 Elders (4:4-5)	2	Red Horse (6:3-4)		Sea (8:8-9)		Sea Beast (13:1-10)		Sea (16:3)		Babylon Falls (18:1-8)		2	Supper (19:17-18)	12 Gates & 12 Foundations (21:12-17)		
3	Pergamum (2:12-17)	4 Living Creatures (4:6-9)	3	Black Horse (6:5-6)		Rivers (8:10-11)		Land Beast (13:11-18)		Rivers (16:4-7)		Kings & Merchants Weep (18:9-20)		3	Victory (19:19-21)	Jewelled City Wall (21:18-20)		
4	Thyatira (2:18-29)	Casting Crowns (4:10-11)	4	Pale Horse (6:7-8)		Heavens (8:12-13)		144,000 (14:1-5)		Sun (16:8-9)		Mighty Angel (18:21-24)		4	Satan Bound (20:1-3)	Millennium Gog	Pearly Gates & Gold Streets (21:21-27)	
5	Sardis (3:1-6)	Scroll (5:1-5)	5	Martyrs (6:9-11)	Loco-Scorpions (9:1-12)		3 Angels (14:6-13)		Darkness (16:10-11)		Great Multitude (19:1-5)		5	Martyrs (20:4-10)	River of Life (22:1)			
6	Philadelphia (3:7-13)	7-Horned Lamb (5:6-10)	6	Tribulation (6:12-17)	Three Woes	Angels (9:13-21)		Harvest (14:14-20)		Frogs (16:12-16)		Marriage Feast (19:6-10)		6	Judgment (20:11-15)	Tree of Life (22:2-5)		
7	Laodicea (3:14-22)	Worship (5:11-14)	Interlude: Sealing of the 144k; the countless multitude (7:1-17)			Interlude: "little scroll", measuring the temple, the two witnesses (10:1-11:14)		Sanctuary (15:1-8)		Temple (16:17-21)		New Creation (21:1-8)		7				
			7	30 Min Silence (8:1-5)		Temple (11:15-19)												

Conclusion and Words of Jesus (22:6-21)

Notes on Chart of Revelation

- ▶ Sources: This table is a revision of Andrew Butterworth's revision to a table first made by Andrew Wilson. This revision was made mainly for the inclusion of the interludes.
- ▶ John's visions go chronologically backwards through Israel's history: Exile (Patmos) -> Heaven (Temple) -> Wilderness -> Mountain, and land in a new Eden (tree of life). "Behold, I am making all things new."

Revelation 8

[1] When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. [2] Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. [3] And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, [4] and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. [5] Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

Revelation 8

[6] Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

[7] The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. [8] The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. [9] A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Revelation 8

[10] The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. [11] The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.

[12] The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.

Revelation 8

[13] Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!”

(ESV)

Revelation 9

[1] And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. [2] He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft. [3] Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. [4] They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Revelation 9

[5] They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. [6] And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.

Revelation 9

[7] In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces, [8] their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth; [9] they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle. [10] They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails. [11] They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

Revelation 9

[12] The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.

[13] Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, [14] saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." [15] So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind. [16] The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number.

Revelation 9

[17] And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. [18] By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths. [19] For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents with heads, and by means of them they wound.

Revelation 9

[20] The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, [21] nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

(ESV)

Trumpets in the OT



Trumpets in the OT



- “Shofar”
- Jericho
- Joshua 6:4

Trumpets in the OT



- “Shofar”
- Jericho
- Joshua 6:4



- Silver Trumpets
- Numbers 10
- Move Camp
- Blown by Priests

Trumpets in the OT

War

- “Shofar”
- Jericho
- Joshua 6:4

Worship

- Silver Trumpets
- Numbers 10
- Move Camp
- Blown by Priests

Trumpets in Revelation



War

Trumpets 1-6
(Rev 8-9)



Worship

7th Trumpet
(Rev 11:15-19)

Seven Trumpets, Seals, and Bowls

	Trumpets
1	Earth: hail*, fire and blood destroy 1/3 of earth (8:6-7)
2	Sea: fiery mountain destroys 1/3 of sea (8:8-9)
3	Rivers: Wormwood destroys 1/3 of water (8:10-11)
4	Heavens: 1/3 of the sun, moon & stars (8:12-13)
5	"Locorpions": the power to sting the unsealed (9:1-12)
6	"Horse Lions" kill 1/3 (9:13-21) (followed by interlude of little scroll and two witnesses)
7	Temple in heaven opened (11:15 19)

Seven Trumpets, Seals, and Bowls

	Seals	Trumpets	Days
1	White horse: conquest, present and future (6:1-2)	Earth: hail*, fire and blood destroy 1/3 of earth (8:6-7)	Light / dark
2	Red horse: division and conflict (6:3-4)	Sea: fiery mountain destroys 1/3 of sea (8:8-9)	Sea / sky
3	Black horse: famine (6:5-6)	Rivers: Wormwood destroys 1/3 of water (8:10-11)	Water / earth
4	Pale horse: death to 1/4 of the earth (6:7-8)	Heavens: 1/3 of the sun, moon & stars (8:12-13)	Heavens
5	Martyrs: "How long?" (6:9-11)	"Locorpions": the power to sting the unsealed (9:1-12)	First day of blessing "Swarming Things"
6	Cosmic collapse (6:12-17)* (followed by interlude of sealing of 144k and the great multitude)	"Horse Lions" kill 1/3 (9:13-21) (followed by interlude of little scroll and two witnesses)	Humanity created and commissioned
7	Silence in heaven (8:1-5)	Temple in heaven opened (11:15 19)	Rest

*The penultimate seal results in a call for the rocks to "fall on us." The request is granted in the first trumpet.

Note: this table is adapted from one created by Andrew Wilson

Seven Trumpets, Seals, and Bowls

	Seals	Trumpets	Days
1	White horse: conquest, present and future (6:1-2)	Earth: hail*, fire and blood destroy 1/3 of earth (8:6-7)	Light / dark
2	Red horse: division and conflict (6:3-4)	Sea: fiery mountain destroys 1/3 of sea (8:8-9)	Sea / sky
3	Black horse: famine (6:5-6)	Rivers: Wormwood destroys 1/3 of water (8:10-11)	Water / earth
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2	Red horse: division and conflict (6:3-4)	Sea: fiery mountain destroys 1/3 of sea (8:8-9)	Sea / blood and death (16:3)	Sea / sky
3	Black horse: famine (6:5-6)	Rivers: Wormwood destroys 1/3 of water (8:10-11)	Rivers and springs / Blood to drink (16:4-7)	Water / earth
4	Pale horse: death to 1/4 of the earth (6:7-8)	Heavens: 1/3 of the sun, moon & stars (8:12-13)	Sun / Scorching heat (16:8-9)	Heavens
5	Martyrs: "How long?" (6:9-11)	"Locorpions": the power to sting the unsealed (9:1-12)	Beast's throne / Palpable darkness (16:10-11)	First day of blessing "Swarming Things"
6	Cosmic collapse (6:12-17)* (followed by interlude of sealing of 144k and the great multitude)	"Horse Lions" kill 1/3 (9:13-21) (followed by interlude of little scroll and two witnesses)	Euphrates River and Kings of the East / gathering for battle (16:12-16)	Humanity created and commissioned
7	Silence in heaven (8:1-5)	Temple in heaven opened (11:15 19)	Air / "It is done" / earthquake shatters the great city (16:17-21)	Rest

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Seven Trumpets, Seals, and Bowls

	Seals	Trumpets	Bowls	Plagues
1	White horse: conquest, present and future (6:1-2)	Earth: hail*, fire and blood destroy 1/3 of earth (8:6-7)	Earth / sores (16:2)	Hail and fire (Ex 9:22-25) (7th Plague)
2	Red horse: division and conflict (6:3-4)	Sea: fiery mountain destroys 1/3 of sea (8:8-9)	Sea / blood and death (16:3)	Nile turns to blood (Ex 7:20-25). (1st Plague)
3	Black horse: famine (6:5-6)	Rivers: Wormwood destroys 1/3 of water (8:10-11)	Rivers and springs / Blood to drink (16:4-7)	
4	Pale horse: death to 1/4 of the earth (6:7-8)	Heavens: 1/3 of the sun, moon & stars (8:12-13)	Sun / Scorching heat (16:8-9)	Darkness over the land (Ex 10:21-23) (9th Plague)
5	Martyrs: "How long?" (6:9-11)	"Locorpions": the power to sting the unsealed (9:1-12)	Beast's throne / Palpable darkness (16:10-11)	Locusts (Ex 10:12-15) (8th Plague) cf. also the prophecy of Joel
6	Cosmic collapse (6:12-17)* (followed by interlude of sealing of 144k and the great multitude)	"Horse Lions" kill 1/3 (9:13-21) (followed by interlude of little scroll and two witnesses)	Euphrates River and Kings of the East / gathering for battle (16:12-16)	Moses and Aaron witness before Pharaoh, confront pagan gods and warn of judgment (Ex 11:1-10)
7	Silence in heaven (8:1-5)	Temple in heaven opened (11:15-19)	Air / "It is done" / earthquake shatters the great city (16:17-21)	Passover

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Trumpets: Putting It All Together



- ▶ God's judgment will be complete (days of creation)
- ▶ Idols are destroyed (idolizing creation)
- ▶ 7 trumpets mean a city is coming down (Babylon)
- ▶ Plagues mean God is judging his enemies *while* delivering his people
- ▶ The trumpets are answer to prayer and are the result of divine-human collaboration

Schools of Interpretation



Preterist

The symbols
point to the fall
of Jerusalem
and/or the
Roman Empire

Schools of Interpretation

A white scroll with a black outline and a small circle at the top right corner, representing a rolled-up document.

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Idealist

The symbols
anticipate the
entire church
age

Schools of Interpretation



Preterist

The symbols point to the fall of Jerusalem and/or the Roman Empire

Idealist

The symbols anticipate the entire church age

Futurist

The symbols are about events that will happen right before Christ returns

Locust Scorpions (9:1-12)



- ▶ Sevenfold description: head, face, hair, teeth, breastplates, wings, tails
- ▶ They come from the abyss and are thus meant to be understood in relation to the demonic
- ▶ Correspond to the 8th plague of the Exodus and Joel 2, but here they don't hurt the land, they hurt people.
- ▶ They inflict torment; they cannot kill.
- ▶ God's people are protected (Rev 7:3, see also Ezek. 9)

Locust Scorpions (9:1-12)



Locust Scorpions (9:1-12)



The mythical creature known as Manticore

Locust Scorpions (9:1-12)



Preterist

- Ian Paul: Invading armies (Parthians?)
- Peter Leithart: Oppression of early church (Acts 8-28)
- Gentry: demonic suffering caused during siege of Jerusalem in the Jewish War

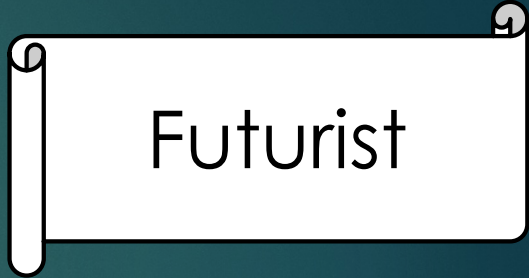
Locust Scorpions (9:1-12)



Idealist

- G.K. Beale: “Demons are commissioned to torment hardened unbelievers by further impoverishing their souls and reminding them of their hopeless spiritual plight.”
- Eugene Peterson: Joel's locust prophecy recast to show the terrible consequences of a life that refuses the way of repentance.

Locust Scorpions (9:1-12)



Futurist

- Mounce: Unprecedented demonic torment that will happen shortly before Jesus returns.
- Fanning: “A bottomless, smoke-filled pit teeming with demonic locusts/scorpions, who pour out onto the earth and target the earth’s ill-fated inhabitants with horrifying pains. Their suffering is worse than death, but relief eludes them.”

Locust Scorpions (9:1-12)

Luke 10:17-20

[17] The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” [18] And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. [19] Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. [20] Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” (ESV)

Locust Scorpions (9:1-12)

Preterist / Idealist Interpretation

Using imagery drawn from Parthian threats, Greco-Roman mythology, and OT references, the locust-scorpions most likely represent the demonic attacks that Christians have been saved from, but they inflict psychological, emotional and spiritual suffering on everyone outside of Christ (deception).

Horse Lions (9:13-21)



- ▶ A calvary of 200 million horses with lion heads who kill 1/3 of mankind.
- ▶ Power is in their mouths and in their tails, which are serpents.
- ▶ Whereas the locust scorpions are clearly demonic, the horse-lions are much more debated.

Horse Lions (9:13-21)

Good Guys? (Andrew Wilson)

- Released by an angel (not Satan), numbered, in myriads, wearing gems on their breastplate (priests), and kill to prevent idolatry
- They are “angelic calvary”
- Fresh conquest of land rather than disaster (Euphrates)

Bad Guys? (G.K. Beale)

- “Wicked angels” or “demons”
- Hybrid creatures
- Serpentine features that wound and kill humans
- Power is in their mouths (deception)

Horse Lions (9:13-21)

Preterist / Idealist Interpretation

Using imagery drawn from Parthian threats and OT references, the horse lions are demons “commissioned to judge hardened unbelievers by ensuring the final punishment of some through deception until death, leaving the deceived remainder unrepentant.” (Beale)
(c.f. Pharaoh and the Egyptians)

Access to Slides

