

# ***REVELATION MADE RELEVANT!***

Friday Night Bible Study with Fr. Ward





† Cities of the seven churches  
— Major travel route





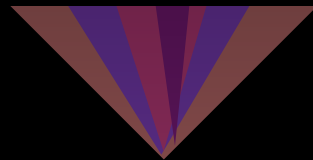
# Introduction

## Revelation: An Outline

- **Prologue (1:1–3)**
- 1. *Seven Messages to Seven Churches (1:4–3:22)*
- 2. *Seven Seals (4:1–8:5)*
- 3. *Seven Trumpets (8:2–11:19)*
- 4. *Seven Symbolic Histories (12:1–14:20)*
- 5. *Seven Bowls (15:1–16:21)*
- 6. *Seven Messages of Judgment (17:1–19:10)*
- 7. *Seven Visions (19:11–22:5)*
- **Epilogue (22:6–21)**

# WORSHIP

*Revelation 4 & 5*

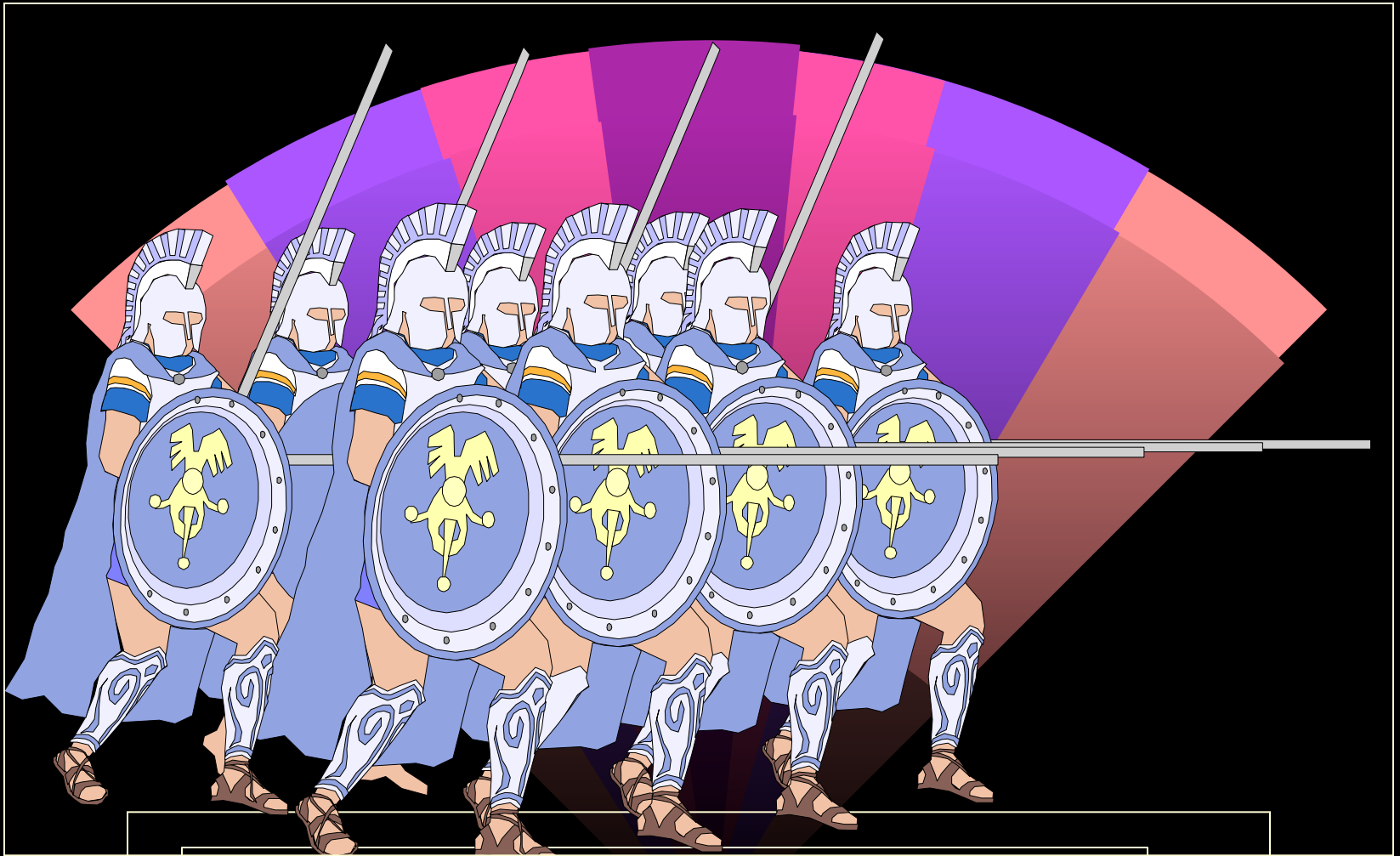




*Revelation 6*

WRATH: The Seals of Judgment





## *Revelation 7*

God's End-Time Army (?)



# *The trumpets and bowls evoke the judgments on Egypt*

## Revelation's trumpets and bowls

- ▶ Water turned to blood or wormwood
- ▶ Darkness
- ▶ Fiery hail
- ▶ Locust army
- ▶ (frogs from mouth)
- ▶ deliverance by blood of Passover Lamb

## Exodus 7-12

- ▶ Water turned to blood
- ▶ darkness
- ▶ fiery hail
- ▶ locusts
- ▶ frogs
- ▶ deliverance by blood of Passover lamb



# Locusts

The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. They had tails and stings like scorpions... (Rev 9:7-10)

So Moses stretched out his staff over Egypt, and the LORD made an east wind blow across the land all that day and all that night. By morning the wind had brought the **locusts** (Ex. 10:3-21)





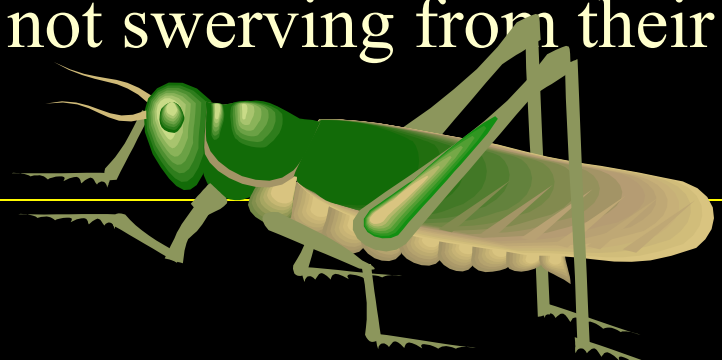
## *Locusts – a common plague in the Middle East and Africa*

- Normal locusts attack vegetation and can cause severe famine in a region
- A more recent example - Algiers in 1866, where 200,000 died of famine following a locust plague

See attached 1988 news article from Chicago Tribune

# *Exodus via Joel's depiction of a locust plague*

Joel 2:4-7: They have the appearance of horses; they gallop along like cavalry. With a noise like that of chariots they leap over the mountaintops, like a crackling fire consuming stubble, like a mighty army drawn up for battle. At the sight of them, nations are in anguish; every face turns pale. They charge like warriors; they scale walls like soldiers. They all march in line, not swerving from their course.





## *Not normal locusts*

- Why?
- 9:4: these locusts must not harm grass, trees or anything except unsealed people
- 9:10: scorpion tails (not in Joel)



*Ouch!*

- Think how unpleasant this would be even if they were just regular scorpions







## *Long hair – against God's norms*

- ▶ Parthians and others outside the Roman Empire wore their hair long
- ▶ Vespasian's joke on his deathbed concerning the Parthian King: *"As he neared seventy and his health declined, a comet was interpreted as an omen of his impending death. Vespasian contemplated the long-tailed comet and proclaimed, "Look at the long hair on that comet! Perhaps it is an omen for the king of Parthia. It can't be for me because I'm bald!" (Suetonius, Vespasian 20, Cassius Dio 66.17.3)*

## *Stings in tails*

- Parthian archers could ride forward while shooting backward
- But transcends human  
Parthians: like Greek horror-images of composite monsters (serpent-decorated)



# *The Great Euphrates River*





*Some aspects fit the Parthians. But this is an end time army!*

- ◆ Kings of East (16:12-16)
- ◆ Euphrates: boundary since Pompey
- ◆ Earlier pagan prophecies of Asia invading Rome terrified Rome but left unfulfilled
- ◆ Jewish expectation that Nero would lead Parthia into Rome
- ◆ (Angels bound in river fits apocalyptic)



# *One-THIRD of the world DIED.*

- Judgment--but also mercy
- Jewish tradition: God would destroy 2/3
- Here God spares 2/3, giving opportunity for repentance
- In bubonic plague, one-third of Europe died
- God is summoning the world to attention.
- Are we listening?
  - What can we do?