locusts have no teeth of bone. They have but four in  
number, crossing one another like the blades of scissors.  
To a graminivorous insect, the teeth of a carnivorous  
quadruped would be highly unsuitable. With these  
teeth the locusts make their way through every obstruction: perhaps by them they seize their victim.

9. “And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron;  
and the sound of their wings was as of chariots of many horses  
rushing into battle.”

It would seem, from the sound of their wings, that  
they must be creatures of large dimensions: small wings,  
however numerous, could not create a sound like chariots  
of many horses at full speed. They are like horses in  
armour; and now their breastplates are named. It  
would seem as though these were their defence against  
men’s attempts to destroy them. For, doubtless, men  
will use every means to rid themselves of so dire a  
calamity. Thus Joel says, “*When they fall upon the  
sword, they shall not be wounded*” (Joel ii. 8). It should  
here be observed that Joel’s description of a locust-army to come runs remarkably parallel with this.  
Joel ii. He describes the awful darkness, the trembling  
of men, the fire bursting forth. “*The appearance of  
them is as the appearance of horses:* and as horsemen so  
shall they run.” Their noise is like chariots on rocks:  
men are in pain in their presence. They shall keep rank.  
They are winged creatures : and thus height will be  
no security against them. “They shall enter in at the  
windows as a thief.” These infernal *cherubim* are like  
(1) horses, (2) *men*, (3) women, (4) *lions*, (5) birds, and  
(6) scorpions.  
 The sound of their wings is warlike, and mighty.  
Chariots in which many horses are driven abreast and  
run with speed make a terrible sound. The sound of  
the wings of the cherubim was like great waters, and  
like the sound of an army. Ezek. i. 24.