

Exodus 8:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

Analysis

Verse 16 introduces the plague of lice or gnats (קַנְנִים, kinnim), targeting Geb, earth god. Aaron struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice throughout Egypt. This plague attacks Egypt's very ground, showing YHWH's power over the earth itself.

Historical Context

Geb was Egyptian god of the earth, portrayed lying beneath sky goddess Nut. The magicians could not replicate this plague, admitting 'This is the finger of God' (v.19)—recognizing power beyond human manipulation.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does the magicians' failure teach about the limits of human power?
2. How does this plague demonstrate God's authority over creation?

Interlinear Text

אֹמֵר	יְהוָה	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	אֹמֵר	אֶל	אֶל	אֶת	נָטַת
Say	And the LORD	H413	unto Moses	Say	H413	unto Aaron	Stretch out	
H559	H3068		H4872	H559		H175		H5186
אַת	מְטַבֵּב	אַת	יְבִרְכֶּתֶל	אַת	עַפְרֵת	אַת	רָצֶת	יְבִרְכֶּתֶל
H853	thy rod	and smite	H853	the dust	H6083	of the land	H1961	
	H4294	H5221				H776		
לְכַתְּבָה	בְּכָל	אֶרֶץ	מִצְבָּה					
that it may become lice	H3605	of the land	of Egypt					
H3654		H776	H4714					

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 8:5 (References Lord): And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch forth thine hand with thy rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up upon the land of Egypt.

Exodus 8:17 (References Egypt): And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.