

# Exodus 8:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

Verse 17 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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## 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

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בְּמֹת הַוְיָן	יָד	אֶת	אֶבְרָהָם	וְעַל	יְמִשְׁעָן	וְעַל	יְמִשְׁעָן	וְעַל	יְמִשְׁעָן	וְעַל	יְמִשְׁעָן
And they did	H3651	stretched out	so for Aaron	H853	his hand	with his rod					
	H6213		H5186	H175	H3027	H4294					
and smote	H853	all the dust	of the earth	H1961	and it became lice	in man					
	H5221	H6083	H776	H3654	H120						
and in beast	H3605	all the dust	of the earth	H1961	and it became lice	in beast					
	H929	H6083	H776	H3654	H3605						
of the earth		מִצְרַיִם	אֶרֶץ								
	H776	H4714									

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 105:31** (Parallel theme): He spake, and there came divers sorts of flies, and lice in all their coasts.

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