

# 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

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Verse 17 introduces the plague of lice or gnats (קִנִּים, 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

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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

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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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

וַעֲשׂוּ And they did H6213	כִּי H3651	וַיִּטֵּ stretched out H5186	אֶהָרִי so for Aaron H175	אֶת H853	יָדוֹ his hand H3027	בְּמִטָּהוֹ with his rod H4294
וַיִּךְ and smote H5221	אֶת H853	עַפְּרָה all the dust H6083	אֶרֶץ of the earth H776	וַתְּהִי H1961	כִנֵּי יָם and it became lice H3654	בְּאָדָם in man H120
וּבְבִהֵמָה and in beast H929	כָּל H3605	עַפְּרָה all the dust H6083	אֶרֶץ of the earth H776	הָאֶרֶץ H1961	כִנֵּי יָם and it became lice H3654	בְּכָל H3605
אֶרֶץ of the earth H776	מִצְרַיִם: of Egypt H4714					

## Additional Cross-References

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