

Exodus 8:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast.

Analysis

Verse 18 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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

אָתָּה לְהוֹצֵא יְאָרֶב וְעַשְׂתָּה
did H3651 And the magicians so with their enchantments to bring forth H853
H6213 H2748 H3909 H3318

וְבַבְהַמָּה: בְּאַד מִפְכָּבָב מִתְהַלֵּךְ אֶל אֲרָבָב
lice H3808 but they could H1961 lice H3654 upon man H120 and upon beast H929
H3654 H3201 H1961 H3654 H120 H929

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 7:11 (Parallel theme): Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

Exodus 9:11 (Parallel theme): And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians.

Daniel 5:8 (Parallel theme): Then came in all the king's wise men: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof.