

Psalm 105:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He spake, and there came divers sorts of flies, and lice in all their coasts.

Analysis

This verse combines the fourth plague (flies, Exodus 8:20-32) and the third plague (lice, Exodus 8:16-19). The phrase 'He spake' emphasizes the power of God's word—His mere command brings judgment. The Hebrew *amar* (אָמַר) for 'spake' parallels creation language ('God said, and it was so'), showing that the same word that creates can also judge. 'Divers sorts of flies' translates *arov* (עָרָב), likely meaning swarms of biting insects. The comprehensive nature ('all their coasts') demonstrates that God's judgments are thorough and inescapable. This verse teaches that God's word is sovereign in judgment as in blessing.

Historical Context

These plagues demonstrated God's control over nature against Egyptian deities. The fly plague may have challenged Khepri, the beetle-god, while lice defiled Egyptian priests who required bodily purity for temple service. Magicians could not replicate the lice plague, leading them to declare 'This is the finger of God' (Exodus 8:19)—an acknowledgment of Yahweh's superior power.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does the power of God's spoken word teach us about Scripture's authority?
2. How do God's judgments reveal the futility of false religion and idolatry?
3. In what ways does God's word both create and judge in our lives today?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	וְיֻבָּא	עָרָב	בְּכָל	בְּבוֹלָטִים:
He spake	and there came	divers sorts of flies	and lice	in all their coasts
H559	H935	H6157	H3605	H1366

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