

Psalms 105:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He spake, and the locusts came, and caterpillers, and that
without number,

Analysis

The eighth plague (locusts, Exodus 10:1-20) is described. 'He spake' again emphasizes divine word-power. The locusts came in unprecedented numbers ('without number'), representing total devastation. 'Caterpillers' (yelek, עֵלֶק) refers to young locusts or grasshoppers, indicating multiple life stages attacking crops. This plague challenged Anubis (god of fields) and Osiris (god of crops). The phrase 'without number' parallels God's promises to Abraham about innumerable descendants (Genesis 15:5)—the same God who multiplies in blessing can multiply in judgment. This demonstrates the covenant principle: obedience brings multiplication of blessing; disobedience brings multiplication of curses.

Historical Context

Locust plagues were (and remain) devastating to agrarian societies. The Book of Joel uses locust imagery for divine judgment, showing this was a recognized form of God's discipline. For Israel singing this psalm, it reminded them that the God who controls natural forces for judgment also controls them for preservation—He could send or withhold locusts as covenant faithfulness required.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God use natural phenomena to accomplish His sovereign purposes?
2. What does the 'without number' multiplication of judgment teach about God's thoroughness?
3. How should creation's responsiveness to God's word affect our response to Scripture?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| אָ מַר | וָיָבֹא | אֲרֻבֵּי הַ | לֵק | וְאֵין | מִסְפָּר: |
| He spake | came | and the locusts | and caterpillars | H369 | and that without number |
| H559 | H935 | H697 | H3218 | | H4557 |

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