

Exodus 9:8-12 **Plague of Boils on man and animal**

⁸ So the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take for yourselves handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward the heavens in the sight of Pharaoh. ⁹ And it will become fine dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt." ¹⁰ Then they took ashes from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered them toward heaven. And they caused boils that break out in sores on man and beast. ¹¹ And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians. ¹² But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had spoken to Moses. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ No warning to Pharaoh, God instructed Moses to scatter ashes toward heaven in the sight of Pharaoh, and boils will come upon man and beasts throughout all Egypt.
- ✧ The furnace refers to the one which was used to bake bricks to build the cities for Pharaoh. It stood as the symbol of oppression of the Israelites, and now from the very symbol of oppression, ashes were taken that resulted in an oppression on the Egyptians.
- ✧ Boils broke out in sores on man and beast, including the magicians so they could not stand before Moses because of the boils.
- ✧ Again God demonstrated His power over the honored magicians.
- ✧ The gods of Egypt that were defeated in this plague were:
 - ✧ **Sekhmet**, a goddess with the body of a woman and head of a lioness, thought to have power over epidemics, both to cause, and to stop them. **She could do neither.**
 - ✧ **Serapis**, the god of healing.
 - ✧ **Imhotep**, the god of medicine.
 - ✧ **All these gods failed and could not terminate the plague.**
- ✧ This is the **first time God hardened Pharaoh's heart** so he would not let the Children of Israel go, just as God had said. [\[Exodus 4:21, 7:3, 9:8-12\]](#)
- ✧ God's purpose was to address all the gods worshiped by the Egyptians and there were still a few who were not yet addressed. [\[Exodus 12:12\]](#)