

Prophet Hud (as)

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The eleventh chapter of the Qur'an, Hud, is named, though the narrative of Hud comprises only a small portion of the chapter.

Hud has sometimes been identified with Eber, an ancestor of the Ishmaelites and the Israelites who is mentioned in the Old Testament.

He is said to have been a subject of a kingdom named after its founder, 'Ad, a fourth-generation descendant of Noah, his father being Uz, the son of Aram, who was the son of Shem, who, in turn, was a son of Noah:

The 'Ad people, with prophet Hud, are mentioned in many places. 'Ad was fourth in generation from Noah. They occupied a large tract of Southern Arabia, from Umman at the mouth of the Persian Gulf to Hadhramaut and Yemen at the southern end of the Red Sea. They abandoned God and oppressed their people. A three years famine visited them, but they did not take it as a warning. At length a terrible blast of wind destroyed them and their land, but a remnant, known as the second 'Ad or the Thamud ([see below](#)) were saved, and afterwards suffered a similar fate for their sins. The tomb of Prophet Hu is still traditionally shown in Hadhramaut, latitude 16 N, and longitude 49¹/₂ E, about 90 miles north of Mukalla. There are ruins and inscriptions in the neighbourhood.

Other tribes claimed to be present at this time in Arabia, were the Thamud people, the Jurhum, Tasam, Jadis, Amim, Midian, Amalek, Imlaq, Jasim, Qahtan, Banu Yaqtan and others.

The Qur'an gives the location of the 'Ad as being, "The Sandy Plains", or "the Wind-curved Sand-hills". It is located in South Arabia. The Moroccan mystic Abdulaziz ad-Dabbagh gives detailed information about Hud: According to him, Qur'an: 53:50 alludes to the fact that Prophet Hud (as) was sent to the second 'Ad tribe, which lived after Noah. The first 'Ad tribe had a messenger named Huwayd, whose message was to be revived by Prophet Hud (as), and the tribe was destroyed with stones and fire by God.

Narrative in the Qur'an

The people of 'Ad were extremely powerful and wealthy, and they built countless buildings and monuments to show their power. However, the 'Ad people's wealth ultimately proved to be their failure, as they became arrogant and abandoned God and began to adopt idols for worship. It is related through exegesis that Hud's mother, a pious woman who had seen great visions after her son's birth, was the only person who encouraged Hud to worship God. Thus, the Lord raised Hud as a prophet for the 'Ad people.

When Hud started preaching and invited people to worship the only true God and when he told them to repent for their past sins and ask for mercy and forgiveness, the 'Ad people began to revile him and wickedly began to mock God's message. Hud's story epitomizes the prophetic cycle common to the

early prophets mentioned in the Qur'an: a prophet is sent to people to explain the importance of the worship of the One true God only, and tell them to acknowledge that it is God who is the provider of their blessings.

We sent to the people of 'Ad their brother Hud, who said: "O my people, worship God; you have no other god but He. (As for the idols) you are inventing lies. O my people, I ask no reward of you for His message: My reward is with the One who created me. Why don't you understand? O my people, beg your Lord to forgive you, and turn to Him in repentance. He will send down rain in abundance for you from the skies, and add strength to your strength. Do not turn away from Him as sinners." They said: "O Hud, you have proven nothing. We shall not abandon our gods because you say so, nor do we believe in you. All we can say is that some of our gods have stricken you with evil." Hud replied: "I ask God to witness, and you be witness too, that I am clear of what you associate with Him. Contrive against me as much as you like, and give me no respite. I place my trust in God who is my Lord and your Lord. There is no creature that moves on the earth who is not held by the forelock firmly by Him. Verily the way of my Lord is straight. If you turn away, then know that I have delivered His message to you. My Lord will replace you with others, and you will not be able to prevail against Him. Indeed my Lord is observing all things." (Qur'an 11: 50 - 57)

Miracle of Hud

This chain of verses as the occurrence when Hud fought alone against the entire nation of 'Ad, as the entire city was about to harm him both psychologically and physically. According to tafsir of the whole Surah of

Hud, the 'Ad nation were a super power empire that preceded the era of Abraham and King Nimrud. They were known to be tyrannically oppressors of the whole known human civilization at that time.

Calamity upon the 'Ad nation in the Qur'an

The 'Ad nation refused to pay any notice to his teachings, and they kept ignoring and mocking all his statements. As their aggression, arrogance and idolatry deepened, God, after giving them plenty of warnings, sent a thunderous storm to finish the wicked people of 'Ad once and for all. The destruction of the 'Ad nation is described clearly in the Qur'an:

When they saw a cloud advancing towards their valleys, they exclaimed: "Finally a cloud bringing us much need rain." "No. It is what you were trying to rush. Winds carrying a grievous punishment from God. It will destroy everything by the command of its Lord." And so in the morning there was nothing but their empty homes. That is how We reward sinners. (Qur'an 46: 24 - 25)

Exegesis experts translate literally as "fruitless wind" or "barren wind", wind that does not bring benefit or any positive reaction to any biological existences.

Another verse describes the catastrophic tornado, which decimated the 'Ad nation:

We sent upon them an evil omen (*catastrophes*), a wind (*furious cold harsh*) that lasted throughout the day. (*Qur'an 54: 19*)

Exegesis experts describe the "Rih as-Sharshar" (cold and harsh wind) as literally freezing yet possess thunderous deafening voice, and according to Tafsir Ibn Kathir, the strength of such punishing winds alone has squeezed the peoples of Ad inside out, until their intestines came out from their rectum and mouths.

Calamity upon the 'Ad nation in the Hadith

Ibn Abbas recorded in Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim during the battle of the trench, when the Polytheists coalition army encampment were struck by a storm said that Prophet Muhammad (*saw*) said: "I have been made victorious with *As-Saba* (*easterly wind*) and the people of 'Ad were destroyed by *Ad-Dabur* (*westerly wind*)."

Statement from other religions

Judaism and Christianity do not treat Hud with reverence as a prophet and, as a figure, he is absent from the Bible. Hud is referred to in the Baha'i faith as a Prophet who appeared after Noah and prior to Abraham, who exhorted the people to abandon idolatry and practice monotheism.

Hud's place of burial

Several sites are revered as the tomb of Hud. The most noted site, Kabr Nabi Hud, is located in a deserted village in Hadhramaut, Yemen, and is a place of frequent Muslim pilgrimage. Robert Bertram Serjeant in his study of the pilgrimage rite to the tomb of Hud verified on the spot the facts related by al-Harawi, who described, at the gate of the Mosque, on the west side, the rock onto which Hud climbed to make the call to prayer at the bottom of the ravine. Around the tomb and neighbourhood, various ancient ruins and inscriptions have been found. However, as is often the case with the graves of prophets, other locations have been listed. A possible location for his grave is said to be near the Zamzam Well in Saudi Arabia, or in the south wall of the Umayyad Mosque in Syria. Some scholars have added that the Masjid has an inscription stating: "Hadha Maqam Hud" (**This is the Tomb of Hud**).