

Hud (prophet)

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

Hud is said to have been a subject of a *mulk* (Arabic: مُلْك, lit. '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 their prophet Hud, are mentioned in many places.. Their eponymous ancestor 'Ad was fourth in generation from Noah, having been a son of 'Aus, the son of Aram, the son of Sam, the son of Noah. They occupied a large tract of country in Southern Arabia, extending from [Ummān](#) at the mouth of the Persian Gulf to [Hadhramaut](#) and Yemen, Oman at the southern end of the Red Sea. The people were tall in stature and were great builders. Probably the long, winding tracts of sands (*ahqaf*) in their dominions (46:21) were irrigated with canals. They forsook the true God, and oppressed their people. A three years famine visited them, but yet they took no warning. At length a terrible blast of wind destroyed them and their land, but a remnant, known as the second 'Ād or the [Thamud](#) (see below) were saved, and afterwards suffered a similar fate for their sins. The tomb of the Prophet Hud (qabr Nabi Hud) is still traditionally shown in Hadhramaut, latitude 16 N, and longitude 49½ E, about 90 miles north of [Mukalla](#). There are ruins and inscriptions in the neighborhood.

The Quran gives the location of 'Ād as being *Al-Aḥqāf* (Arabic: الْأَحْقَاف, 'The Sandy Plains / The Wind-curved Sand-hills'). It is believed to have been in South Arabia, possibly in eastern Yemen and/or western Oman. In November 1991, a settlement was discovered and hypothesized to be [Ubar](#), which is thought to be mentioned in the Qur'an as *Iram dhāt al-ʿImād* ("Iram of the Pillars" or "Iram of the tentpoles"), and may have been the capital of 'Ād.

Narrative in the Quran

This is a brief summary of Hud's narrative, with emphasis on two particular verses:

The people of 'Ād were extremely powerful and wealthy and they built countless buildings and monuments to show their power. However, the 'Ād people's wealth ultimately proved to be their source of pride, as they became arrogant and forsook God and began to adopt idols for worship, including three named *Samd*, *Samud* and *Hara*. Hud, even in childhood, remained consistent in prayer to God. It is related through exegesis that Hud's mother, a pious woman who had seen great visions at her son's birth, was the only person who encouraged Hud in his worship. Thus, the Lord raised up Hud as a prophet for the 'Ād people. According to a [tafsir](#) of the whole *Surah Hud* by scholars, the 'Ad were a powerful empire that preceded the era of Abraham and Nimrod, and they were tyrannically oppressive towards other civilizations at that time.

When Hud started preaching and invited them to the worship of only the true God and when he told them to repent for their past sins and ask for mercy and forgiveness, the 'Ād 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 Quran: the prophet is sent to his people to tell them to worship God only and tells them to acknowledge that it is God who is the provider of their blessings The Quran states:

11:50 And to the people of 'Ād We sent their brother Hūd. He said, "O my people! Worship Allah. You have no god other than Him. You do nothing but fabricate lies 'against Allah'.

11:51 O my people! I do not ask you for any reward for this 'message'. My reward is only from the One Who created me. Will you not then understand?

11:52 And O my people! Seek your Lord's forgiveness and turn to Him in repentance. He will shower you

with rain in abundance, and add strength to your strength. So do not turn away, persisting in wickedness.”

11:53 They argued, “O Hūd! You have not given us any clear proof, and we will never abandon our gods upon your word, nor will we believe in you.

11:54 All we can say is that some of our gods have possessed you with evil.” He said, “I call Allah to witness, and you too bear witness, that I ‘totally’ reject whatever you associate

11:55 with Him ‘in worship’. So let all of you plot against me without delay!

11:56 I have put my trust in Allah—my Lord and your Lord. There is no living creature that is not completely under His control. Surely my Lord’s Way is perfect justice.

11:57 But if you turn away, I have already delivered to you what I have been sent with. My Lord will replace you with others. You are not harming Him in the least. Indeed, my Lord is a ‘vigilant’ Keeper over all things.”

—Surah Hud [11:50-57](#)

Calamity upon ‘Ād

After Hud has been left alone by the people of ‘Ād for a long time. The majority of them, however, refused to pay any notice to his teachings and they kept ignoring and mocking all he said. As their aggression, arrogance and idolatry deepened, God, after plenty of warning, sent a thunderous storm to finish the wicked people of ‘Ād once and for all. The destruction of the ‘Ād is described in the Quran:

Then when they saw the torment as a ‘dense’ cloud approaching their valleys, they said ‘happily’, “This is a cloud bringing us rain.” ‘But Hūd replied, “No, it is what you sought to hasten: a ‘fierce’ wind carrying a painful punishment!” It destroyed everything by the command of its Lord, leaving nothing visible except their ruins. This is how We reward the wicked people.

—Surah Al-Ahqaf [46:24-25](#)

Place of burial

Several sites are revered as the tomb of Hud. The most noted site, [Qabr Hud](#), is located in a 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^[30] 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, and mentioned the grotto of *Balhut* at the bottom of the ravine. Around the tomb and neighborhood, 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 *qabr* (Arabic: قَبْر, *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: *Haḍā Maqām Hūd* (Arabic: هَذَا مَقَامُ هُود, *This is (the) Tomb of Hud*); others, however, suggest that this belief is a local tradition spewing from the reverence the locals have for Hud