

PROPHETS OF ISLAM SERIES



THE BIOGRAPHY OF

# HOOD

عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ



SHAIKH MIR ASEDULLAH QUADRI

# **BIOGRAPHY OF HOOD (عليه السلام)**

Written By

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله رب العالمين، والصلاة والسلام على  
سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

## 1. THE PEOPLE OF A'AD

Prophet Hood (عليه السلام) belonged to the people whose ancestor was A'ad, the great grandson of Nooh (عليه السلام). This is the reason they are called the people of A'ad. Hood (عليه السلام) lived in the Kingdom which was established by A'ad.

Ibn Jarir reported that Prophet Hood (عليه السلام) was from a tribe called 'A'ad ibn 'Aus, ibn Sam ibn Noah (عليه السلام), who were Arabs living in al-Ahqaf (curved sand-hills) region in Yemen between Oman and Hadramawt, on a land called Ashar stretching out into the sea. The name of their valley was Mughith.

**It is in Quran -** *وَادْكُرْ آخَا عَادٍ إِذْ أَنْذَرَ قَوْمَهُ بِالْأَحْقَافِ وَقَدْ خَلَتِ النُّذُرُ مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا اللَّهَ إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ* [And remember (Hood عليه السلام), the brother of A'ad, when he warned his people in the curved sand-hills (located in the southern part of Arabian Peninsula). Surely, warner's have passed before him and after him. (Hood عليه السلام warned his people), 'worship none but Allah. Truly, I fear for you the punishment of a Mighty Day.']( **Al-Ahqaaf - 21**)

The people of A'ad were tall, powerful, and wealthy, who built countless buildings and monuments as a show of their might. Large tracts of their lands (الأحqاف) were irrigated with canals. They were arrogant and had devised various rituals of idol worship. They worshiped many idols, chief among them were Samd, Samud and Hara.

## 2. PROPHET HOOD (عليه السلام)

Before the birth of Hood (عليه السلام), his mother, who was pious woman, saw great visions about him and his prophet-hood. Hood's (عليه السلام) father may have been a pious person as well because he was raised by his parents away from idol worship widely prevalent among his people.

After the declaration of Prophet-hood, Hood (عليه السلام) started preaching and invited his people to worship Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) alone. He told them to repent for their sins and plead for mercy and forgiveness from Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ). He preached for a long time, but their arrogance, aggression and idol worship increased. He tried to speak to them, individually and collectively, to explain about Allah's (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) mercy; how Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) made them the successor of the followers of Nooh (عليه السلام). How Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) gave them strength and power, and how He sent them rain to revive their lands for cultivation. He also warned them about the day of Judgment when they will have to reply for their deeds. They argued, how, after death when they had turned into dust, can they come back again to answer for their deeds?

Their arguments were patiently heard by Hood (عليه السلام) and he explained that this is Allah's justice that whoever does good, will get rewards and whoever does evil, will get torment. The justice demands that there be a Day of Accounting because good is not always victorious in life. Sometimes evil overpowers good. Will such crimes go unpunished? Therefore, the Day of Judgment, or a day of accounting is essential.

The chiefs among the people asked, is it not strange that a person like us is chosen to reveal Allah's (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) message? Hood (عليه السلام) replied, what is strange in it? Allah's (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) wants to guide you.

Hood (عليه السلام) warned of Nooh's (عليه السلام) flood which happened not long ago. This is a precedent of Allah's (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) punishment to the arrogant wrongdoers. He warned them to be careful in whatever they do.

The Chiefs asked, who is going to destroy us? Hood (عليه السلام) replied, Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ), and 'I fear for you for that punishment'.

Years passed, but majority of the people remained adamant and defiant. They started to accuse and abuse Hood (عليه السلام) saying he is of unsound mind. One day they came

and told him that they know the reason for his madness, saying, 'since you have insulted our gods, it is their curse that you have become insane'.

**It is in Quran -** - إِذْ قَالَ لَهُمُ أَحُوهُمْ هُوْدٌ أَلَّا تَتَّقُونَ - إِيَّاكُمْ رَسُوْلٌ أَمِيْنٌ - فَاتَّقُوا اللهَ وَأَطِيعُوْنَ - وَمَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ إِنْ أَجْرِي إِلَّا عَلَى رَبِّ الْعَالَمِيْنَ - أَتَيْتُونَنَا بِكُلِّ رِيْعٍ آيَةً تَعْبَثُوْنَ - وَتَتَّخِذُوْنَ مَصَانِعَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَخْلُدُوْنَ - وَإِذَا بَطَشْتُمْ بَطْشَتُمْ جَبَّارِيْنَ - فَاتَّقُوا اللهَ وَأَطِيعُوْنَ - وَاتَّقُوا الَّذِي أَمَدَّكُمْ بِمَا تَعْلَمُوْنَ - أَمَدَّكُمْ بِأَنْعَامٍ وَبَنِيْنَ - وَجَنَاتٍ وَعُيُوْنٍ - إِيَّا أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيْمٍ [ When their brother Hood (عليه السلام) said to them, 'Will you not fear (Allah)? Indeed, I am a trustworthy Apostle for you. So, fear Allah and obey me. I do not seek any compensation from you. My reward exists only with the Lord of the worlds. (Why) do you build a landmark on every high place in vanity. Are you building strong fortresses as if you are going to live here forever? And when you attack others, why do you attack like tyrants? So, fear Allah and obey me. And Fear Him Who has aided you with all (good things) that you know. He provided you with cattle and children. And gardens and springs. Surely, I fear for you the punishment of a terrible Day.' (Ash- Shu'araa - 123-35)

**It is in Quran -** قَالُوا سَوَاءٌ عَلَيْنَا أَوَعَظْتَ أَمْ لَمْ تَكُنْ مِنَ الْوَاعِظِيْنَ - إِنْ هَذَا إِلَّا خُلُقُ الْأَوَّلِيْنَ - وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمُعَذَّبِيْنَ [ They (the people of A'ad) said, it's all the same for us whether you warn (us) or not. Truly, this is nothing but morals of the ancient ones. We will never be punished.] (Ash-Shu'araa - 136-38)

**It is in Quran -** - قَالُوا يَا هُوْدُ مَا جِئْتَنَا بِبَيِّنَةٍ وَمَا نَحْنُ بِتَارِكِي الْآلِهَتِنَا عَنْ قَوْلِكَ وَمَا نَحْنُ لَكَ بِمُؤْمِنِيْنَ - إِنْ نَقُولُ إِلَّا اعْتَرَاكَ بَعْضُ آلِهَتِنَا بِسُوْءٍ قَالَ إِنِّي أُشْهِدُ اللهَ وَأَشْهَدُوْا أَنِّي بَرِيءٌ مِّمَّا تُشْرِكُوْنَ - مِنْ دُونِهِ فَكَيْدُوْنِي جَمِيْعًا ثُمَّ لَا تُنظِرُوْنَ - إِيَّا تَوَكَّلْتُ عَلَى اللهِ رَبِّي وَرَبِّكُمْ مَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ إِلَّا هُوَ آخِذٌ بِنَاصِيَتِهَا إِنْ رَبِّي عَلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيْمٍ - فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَقَدْ أَبْلَغْتُكُمْ مَا أُرْسِلْتُ بِهِ إِلَيْكُمْ وَيَسْتَخْلِفُ رَبِّي قَوْمًا غَيْرَكُمْ وَلَا تَضُرُّوْنَهُ شَيْئًا إِنْ رَبِّي عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ حَفِيْظٌ - وَلَمَّا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا نَجَّيْنَا هُوْدًا وَالَّذِيْنَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ بِرَحْمَةٍ مِنَّا وَنَجَّيْنَاهُمْ مِنْ عَذَابٍ غَلِيْظٍ - وَتِلْكَ آيَاتُ الَّذِيْنَ كَفَرُوا وَعَصَوْا رُسُلَهُ وَاتَّبَعُوا أَمْرَ كُلِّ جَبَّارٍ عَنِيدٍ - وَأَتَّبَعُوا فِي هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا لَعْنَةَ وَیَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِلَّا إِنْ عَادَا كَفَرُوا رَبَّهُمْ إِلَّا بَعْضًا لِعَادٍ قَوْمِ هُوْدٍ (عليه السلام), you have not brought us any manifest proof (a miracle). We are not going to abandon our gods for what you say, and we are not going to believe you. 'We only say that you have been severely struck by one of our deities'. Hood (عليه السلام) said, 'I make Allah a witness, and you all bear witness that I have no relation with whatever you ascribe (as partners to Allah)', So, when Our command was issued, We rescued Hood (عليه السلام) by Our grace, and those who believed with him, and saved them from a dreadful doom. These were the people of A'ad who denied the word of their Lord and rebelled against His Apostles and followed the instructions

of every perverse tyrant. They were condemned in this life and will be condemned in the Hereafter. Look, (the tribes of) A'ad, the nation of Hood (عليه السلام) indeed defied their Lord.] **(Hood - 53-60)**

### 3. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PEOPLE OF A'AD

When the people remained defiant, they were struck by drought throughout their lands for consecutive 3 years. There was no rain. The sun scorched the desert sand which looked like fire. The people asked Hood (عليه السلام) about the draught. He told that this is Allah's (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) punishment for them and there is still time to repent for the past misdeeds and accept the message of their Lord. He said, 'if you accept, He will send rain with which you will become stronger'. They did not believe him and became more adamant in disbelief.

When their rebellion reached to its height, the punishment came. The weather changed suddenly from burning dry and hot to harsh cold with wind that shook everything. They saw it as a cloud advancing towards their valleys. They thought it was just a passing cloud which will bring them rain. They did not know that this was the punishment for which they used to ask Hood (عليه السلام) to bring upon them. The wind increased day after day. The people started to flee. They ran for shelter to hide but the gale became stronger, ripping their tents. They tried to hide under cloth covers but the gale became stronger and tore away the covers and penetrated the body. Whatever was there, it was destroyed. The storm raged for 8 days and 7 nights.

**It is in Quran -** وَأَمَّا عَادٌ فَأُهْلِكُوا بِرِيحٍ صَرْصَرٍ عَاتِيَةٍ - سَخَّرَهَا عَلَيْهِمْ سَبْعَ لَيَالٍ وَثَمَانِيَةَ أَيَّامٍ [As for A'ad, they were destroyed by a furious violent wind, which Allah unleashed on them, non-stop for seven nights and eight days, so that you would have seen its people lying dead like trunks of uprooted palm trees.] **(Al-Haaqqa - 6-7)**

**It is in Quran -** قَالُوا أَجِئْتَنَا لِنَأْفِكَنَا عَنِ آلِهَتِنَا فَأْتِنَا بِمَا تَعِدُنَا إِنْ كُنْتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ - قَالَ إِنَّمَا الْعِلْمُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَأُبَلِّغُكُمْ مَا أُرْسِلْتُ بِهِ وَلَكِنِّي أَرَاكُمْ قَوْمًا تَجْهَلُونَ - فَلَمَّا رَأَوْهُ عَارِضًا مُسْتَقْبِلَ أُوْدِيَّتِهِمْ قَالُوا هَذَا عَارِضٌ مُمَطَّرٌ نَا<sup>ة</sup> بَلْ هُوَ مَا اسْتَعْجَلْتُمْ بِهِ رِيحٌ فِيهَا عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ - تُدْمِرُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ بِأَمْرِ رَبِّهَا فَأَصْبَحُوا لَا يُرَى إِلَّا مَسَاكِينُهُمْ<sup>ة</sup> كَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْقَوْمَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ [ They replied, 'Did you come to turn us away from our gods? Then bring us the punishment you promise us if you are telling the truth.' Prophet Hood (عليه السلام) said, 'the Knowledge of



its occurrence come is only with Allah. I am only conveying the Message with which I have been sent, however, I can see that you are ignorant people.' Then, when they saw it (punishment) as a dense cloud coming towards their valleys, they said, 'this cloud will bring us rain.' Nay, but it is that (punishment) which you were asking to be hastened! It is a wind, in it, is a painful punishment! It is going to destroy everything by the command of its Lord. Consequently, by the morning, there was nothing to be seen except the ruins of their dwellings. That was the retribution of those guilty people.] (Al-Ahqaaf - 22-25)

That violent gale did not stop until the entire region was reduced to ruins and its wicked people destroyed, swallowed by the sands of the desert. There was total extermination of the people of A'ad and their monuments were completely effaced. Hood (عليه السلام) and his followers were saved from the storm.

#### 4. THE DEATH OF HOOD (عليه السلام)

After the storm, Hood (عليه السلام) and his followers migrated to Hadramout and lived there in peace. The Arab historians say that the only people belonging to A'ad who survived were the followers of the Prophet Hood (عليه السلام). These survivors are known as the Second A'ad (عاد الثانيه). The people who were annihilated are known as 'First A'ad (عاد الأولي).

Prophet Hood (عليه السلام) lived in Hadramout for as long as Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) wished. When he died, he was buried there.



The grave of Hood (عليه السلام) is located 90 miles north of Mukalla in Hadramout. It is a place visited by Muslims from all over the world.