

# The Great Messengers

HAZRAT SALIH عليه السلام



Published By:



**DARUL IHSAN**  
HUMANITARIAN CENTRE  
GUIDANCE • UBUNTU • EMPOWERMENT

## HAZRAT SALIH ﷺ

The Qur'an mentions Hazrat Salih ﷺ by name in 9 passages.

Hazrat Salih ﷺ was born amongst a nation called Thamud and their name is mentioned in 10 Surahs of the Qur'an.

After the destruction of the people of Aad (known as the first Aad), the survivors from them became known as the second Aad and were later known as the Thamud.

### The Cities of the Thamud

The Qur'an names the valley of Hijr as the area where the Thamud had settled. This area was situated between Hijaz and Shaam in the valley of Qura and was a very large tract of flat land.

Like the Aad, the Thamud also lived in the mountains, where they carved magnificent homes and palaces. It is for this reason that they are referred to as the second Aad. From this we can deduce that the people of Thamud were especially gifted in the art of building and architecture. The ruins of the buildings are present there till this day.

### The Beliefs of the Thamud

Like the people of Aad, the Thamud also worshipped idols. They ascribed many idols as partners to Allah and begged their needs from these idols. The Thamud were also affected by the diseases of pride, arrogance and pomp and all their time was consumed with vying with each other in constructing large palaces and monuments. As their material wealth increased, so too did their evil ways, while their virtue decreased.

Allah Ta'ala then sent his prophet Hazrat Salih ﷺ as a reformer and guide to them, a man from among them, so that they could recognise who Allah was and acknowledge that it was the bounties that He gave them which they were flaunting all day and night. He was sent to

teach them that needs are to be begged only from Him and that He needed nothing and no one to assist Him in the administration of the universe. All worship was to be dedicated only to Him.

## **Thamud Reject the Message**

It surprised the influential ones of the Thamud that Allah selected Hazrat Salih عليه السلام to convey this message to them. In their arrogance, they believed that they were more worthy of being selected for the message of Allah.

Many of the poor and weak ones accepted, the wealthy and influential ones refused to forsake their idols and give thanks to Allah. They mocked at Hazrat Salih عليه السلام and said that if they were in the wrong, why were they blessed with wealth and prestige, while Hazrat Salih عليه السلام and his followers were not? Hazrat Salih عليه السلام tried to explain to them that worldly wealth is temporary and never a yardstick to differentiate the truth from falsehood.

## **Salih's People demand a Miracle**

Nabi Salih عليه السلام continued to preach to his people but his preaching had no effect on them. They merely wanted to worship the same gods as their fathers had, with no reason, no proof and no thought. The proof of Salih's عليه السلام message was evident, but despite this it was obvious that besides a small group of followers, most of his people did not believe him and continued to reject Hazrat Salih عليه السلام. They doubted his words, thinking he was charmed, and they realised that he would not stop preaching. Fearing that his followers would increase, they tried to put him off by assigning him an important task; to prove that he was a messenger of Allah by producing a miracle. They promised Hazrat Salih عليه السلام that they would have no qualms about believing in him if he produced this miracle. When he asked them what miracle they sought, they said that he should produce a unique pregnant she-camel from the mountain, which must then give birth.

## The Camel of Allah

Hazrat Salih عليه السلام prayed to Allah to grant the miracle and Allah granted Salih عليه السلام this miracle. With Allah's permission, a huge, unique, she camel appeared from the direction of the mountain.

Hazrat Salih عليه السلام then told the people that since they asked for the camel, it was Allah's decree that the camel and her calf should be allowed every alternate day to drink from the watering place. The camels of the people would be allowed every day in between. Allah also told him to inform the people that if the camel is harmed in any way, they will not be forgiven for it and it will signal their prompt destruction.

At first, the people of Thamud were greatly surprised when the she camel issued from the mountain rocks.

Although the people did not admit their belief in Hazrat Salih عليه السلام, they were so awestruck by the incident that they agreed to leave the camel in safety. The camel of Allah then watered herself every alternate day, and the days in between were then left for the people and their animals to water themselves.

There are a number of ancient accounts of this camel and its miraculous nature. It is said that the she camel used to drink all the water in the wells in one day, and no other animals could approach the water and that the she camel produced milk sufficient for all the people to drink. If it slept in a place, that place was abandoned by other animals. Thus, it was obvious that it was not an ordinary camel, but one of Allah's signs.

The people's hatred of Salih عليه السلام turned towards the blessed she camel and became centred on it. A conspiracy was hatched against the camel by the disbelievers, and they secretly plotted against it.

The Thamud could not handle its presence for much longer and one day, after plotting, they ambushed it and killed it.

In their arrogance they mocked Salih, but he warned them: "Enjoy life for 3 more days, then the punishment will descend upon you." Salih was hoping that they would see the folly of their ways and change their attitude before the three days expired.

Allah saved Salih عليه السلام and his followers from their wicked plans. Heavy hearted, they left the evil doers and moved to another place.

## **The Punishment over Thamud**

Allamah Aalusi (Rahimahullah) writes in his Tafseer Ruhul Ma'ani that the signs of punishment arrived the very next day when the faces of the people turned pale out of intense fear. The following day, their faces were red as their fear increased. Eventually, on the third day, their faces became black and darkened like a person who is awaiting death.

Three days after Salih's warning, thunderbolts filled the air, followed by severe earthquakes which destroyed the entire tribe and its homeland. The land was violently shaken, destroying all living creatures in it. There was one loud screech which had hardly ended when the disbelievers of Salih's people were struck dead, all at the same time. Neither their strong buildings nor their rock hewn homes could protect them. This served as a sign to mankind.

## **The Significance of Qur'anic Stories**

For the guidance of mankind, the Qur'an tells the stories of previous nations and their guides as a form of admonition for the present. Those who rejected the calls of the prophets and mocked at them Allah brought miracles to the nation. If after such a miracle the people still rejected and continued in their enmity and hatred, then the punishment of Allah descended and destroyed them. These events remain as a lesson and warning for future generations.

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Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre provides education, guidance, social, empowerment and welfare services to the community. In providing this service, we adopt a holistic approach, that gives due importance to basic needs as well as human rights and dignity of those that we serve.

## Founding Philosophy

Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre is a multi-purpose, humanitarian-services providing organisation. 'Ihsan' means compassion towards mankind and to act with excellence. The Centre was established in the year 2000 with the primary objective of serving humanity and alleviating poverty and hardship locally and abroad. Since its inception, it has developed and established many humanitarian projects and provides a variety of free services to the community.

## Key Objectives

One of the key objectives of the Centre is to promote a better understanding of humanity and peace, thereby serving as a bridge-builder between faiths and communities. Through guidance, Ubuntu and empowerment, the organisation hopes to train and develop the youth to become torch bearers of hope, peace and compassion to humanity.



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