

Jordan:

ضريح النبي يوشع

The Mausoleum of Prophet Joshua

The Land of Prophets

Amman-Dr. Mustafa Bin-Hashim Zain-Eldin

Throughout its extensive and religious history, the country of Jordan has witnessed numerous events and incidents, which, have as yet, not been adequately researched.

The land of Jordan consists of sacred soil, which has been mentioned at various instances throughout the Holy Qur'an (Refer to Qur'anic chapters: The Prophets: 71-81, Night Journey: 1, The Stories: 29-30), as well as in the Holy Traditions.

A multitude of prophets have lived, died and been buried in the sacred Jordanian earth, other have passed through its lands, leaving thereafter their blessed traces. In addition to these holy footsteps, this region of the world has also witnessed numerous religious events that have been cited in the Noble Qur'an. Holy struggles of the ancient believers were fought out before the mission of the Prophet Muhammad (saws), as well as during his lifetime, when many of his close companions were slain and died as martyrs.

Jordan contains within its heart the graves and resting places of many of God's elite and holy men.

Mausoleum of the Prophet Noah (as)

Noah's mausoleum is located outside the old walls of the city of "Al Karak", which is considered to be one of the most famous historical cities in the world and is located 130 km south of Amman the Jordanian capital.

Al Karak is more than 7,750 years old, and was ruled by a succession of rulers such as the Aramaean, Assyrians, Moabians and Greeks. It has been known under the titles of "Qir Harst", "Qarhy" and the "Desert Rock".

It is believed that the Prophet Noah (as) built his Ark in the place where his mausoleum now stands. It consists of a square room, above which arks a dome, which was renewed during the Ottoman Empire. It has been considered a sacred place since times of old.

In Noah's epoch, a dense forest of lofty trees, which would have suitably been used for shipbuilding, would have covered the location. The remains of the forest still exist today.

The so-called "Tannour" (furnace) from which the floodwaters poured forth, by God's decree, and that were mentioned in conjunction with the story of Noah (as), is situated in a hill, the top of which is called 'Kherbet El Tannour'. The hill is located in large cracked ground, and the observer is struck by the colour difference between it and the surrounding mountains. The site is approximately 35 km from Al-Karak, and traces of its existence still remain until this day.

Mausoleum of the Prophet Hud (as)

This site is located close to the Roman city of "Gerash", approximately 65 km far outside Amman. Similar to the mausoleum ➤

City Tourism

of Noah (as) it comprises of a square room above which lies a dome. In front of it however there is a forecourt, which has been renewed in the 19th Century by the Ottoman's.

God sent His Prophet Hud to his people, the people of Aad, who are considered to be one of the most ancient communities in Jordan. They were the first society to worship idols after the Flood, and have left various ancient monuments behind.

The people of Thamud

The tribes of Thamud were the people to whom God sent His Prophet Saleh (as), to try and guide them away from their deviations of idol-worship. However they remained steeped in their disbelief. They habited the 'Al-Hijr' region, which comprises of the area relating to the south of Jordan (city of Petra, Ram valley and environs) spilling over into the northern Hijaz territory. This was probably in the pre-Nabatean Era, likely to

have been after the ruin of the second community of the Aad.

Mausoleum of the Prophet Lot (as)

This mausoleum is located 60 km from the city of Al-Karak, and is situated in a cave at the foot of a mountain overlooking the Dead Sea. Lot (as) was the nephew of the Prophet Abraham (as), and it has been mentioned in the Qur'anic commentaries that he came with his uncle from Iraq to El-Sham, where they separated. Lot (as) wanted to remain in Jordan (in the cities of Sodom and Gomorah) to continue his mission from God in calling people to the right path. The inhabitants of these cities were wayward transgressors and indulged in sins such as homosexuality and other forms of corruption.

The Dead Sea in previous ages was known as the Sea of Lot. At that time it differed greatly in appearance to it does today that is the result of an earthquake that destroyed the entire region considered now to be the lowest part in the world (408 m below sea-level).

The Prophet Lot (as) formerly used the cave, now his mausoleum, as a shelter, and is where the first believers used to worship God. It has now been turned into a monastery called 'Ain Abata'. In front of this cave a Byzantine church was also discovered, dating back to the 5th century A.D. Its flooring is made up of the most magnificent mosaic. 35 km away from this cave stands a dry column of salt, supposedly meant to be the remainder of the wife of Lot (as).

This exact site was discovered through a detailed study of the holy ground in 'Madaba'. In the same spot, traces were found indicating that the cave had been used 1500 years before the appearance of the Prophet Lot (as).

As for the Dead Sea, it is considered to be one of the most appropriate resorts for relaxation and amusement. The salty water contains the highest percentage of concentrated minerals, and along with the volcanic mud provides many therapeutic cures and health benefits.

Mausoleum of the Prophet Shoab (as)

The Prophet Shoab (as) has several mausoleums in various regions in Jordan. One of these sites is located about 15 km south east of the city of "Al Salt", and 40 km from Amman, in a valley renamed after him. In the Holy Bible the Prophet Shoab (as) is referred to by the name "Yethrol", Priest of ➤



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The mausoleum of Shoab (as) was completely renewed with the addition of an adjoining mosque, as well as a hall, which can be used for different purposes and occasions. There is a forecourt in the middle of which is a beautiful water fountain.

Median and as the father-in-law of the Prophet Moses (as).

The mausoleum of Shoab (as) has been renovated several times, the last being under order of the Hashimid Royal Committee for Development and Reconstruction, which is responsible for the renewal of the mausoleums of the prophets (as) and their companions (ra).

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A tree, which is significant to Moses (as) and his call to prophethood, still exists today. It is called the 'Al-Maisa Tree' and is more than 3,000 years old, and is located 12 km south west of Al-Karak.

Mausoleum of the Prophet Moses (as)

The story of the Prophet Moses (as) mentioned in the Holy Qur'an indicates that he was born and lived in Egypt. He was sent to the people of Pharaoh in order to call them to the worship of the one true God, and release them from the fetters of oppression. Other Qur'anic verses teach us that Moses (as) left Egypt more than once, escaping, before he started his mission by order of God. Therefore, there are many of his mausoleums here in Jordan.

One important site is in the Mountain of Neppo, which is mentioned in the Holy Bible. The Bible relays how from the top of the mountain, Moses (as) saw and viewed the promised land of Canaan, where he finally died and was buried. The Ark of the Covenant was also hidden there from king Nebuchanezzar. It is said that on top of that mountain Moses (as) talked to Almighty God.

On that exact spot a church has also been established, adorned with beautiful mosaic floors, as well as a monastery. Since the 4th Century it has gradually expanded, becoming a large building visited by pilgrims from all over the world. At the front of the building, it is possible to view the Dead Sea, Jerusalem & Bethlehem. A bronze memorial in the form of a snake on a cross, stands there,



Touristic map of Jordan

خارطة الأردن السياحية

symbolizing the snake raised by Moses; the cross symbolizing the crucifixion of Jesus Christ (as).

Neppo Mountain is located to the west of the mosaic city "Madaba", 33 km from Amman, and at the mouth of the River "Jordan", close to the city of Areeha. This mountain has several names: Nabh, Abarim and Siagha. To the south east of the mountain 7 km away, the city of Neppo is located. It is supposed to be the place where Moses was buried and dates back to the 12th century B.C.

King Meshaa (King of Moab and Zeiban)

captured the city in the 9th Century B.C., destroying it and its people.

Mausoleum of Al Khidr (as)

Al-Khidr's mausoleum is located in the middle of the historical city of Al Karak. It is known as the 'Rock' or the 'Desert Rock'. It is an ancient mausoleum, where believers visit for prayer and invocation of God. In the 16th Century a small church was established on an area of forty square meters, it was here on the 'Rock', that Moses (as) met the pious man Al-Khidr (as).



City Tourism

كهف أهل الكهف

The Cave of Ahlulcahave

In Jordan there are three other mausoleums of the pious man "Al Khidr", all are in close proximity to each other. The first one is in 'Mahes' and consists of a room, above which is a small dome with a raised green banner. It is set amidst a beautiful garden and visited by those seeking to worship God.

The second mausoleum is in 'Aglon', however only the ruins thereof exist today. The third one is in 'Beit Ras', and again only a few scattered stones remain.



Mausoleum of the Prophet Aaron (as)

Inside the city of the rose-coloured Petra, lies the mausoleum of the Prophet Aaron (as), located on one of the peaks of "Hour Mountain", overlooking the border of the city. His tomb consists of a dome covered room and a forecourt. On the door to the mausoleum the date of its renewal is written (709 Hijra), and at the front of the tomb, lies a black stone. The inhabitants of this area consider this to be an extremely sacred site and visit it to pray to God for the fulfillment of their wishes.

The Prophet Aaron (as) was the brother, assistant and minister to the Prophet Moses (as).

The only way to reach the mausoleum is through Petra, and in order to reach it, the visitor has to exert his energies and climb "Hour Mountain".

Mausoleum of Joshua (as)

Joshua was one of the grandsons of the Prophet Joseph (as). His mausoleum is located 3 km north west of the city of 'Al Salt'. Its height is 1130 m above sea level, and it overlooks the Naples Mountains in Palestine. Joshua was the boy who accompanied the Prophet Moses (as) on his journey when he encountered Al-Khidr (as), as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an as well as in the Holy Bible. We are told that Joshua (as) served the Prophet Moses since his childhood, and after Moses' death proceeded to lead his army.

His mausoleum was renewed during the Mameluke Era, and consists of a building constructed of ancient tiles engraved with Islamic drawings and sculptures. From the inside the building is in excess of six meters

long and is lined with green cloth. It is sheltered by several domes, and surrounded by trees.

The area's inhabitants used to visit regularly every Monday.

Mausoleum of the Prophet Solomon (as)

Solomon's mausoleum is located in the village of Sarfa, 35 km from the city of Al-Karak. It was last renovated during the Ottoman Empire. It is a square building and not more than 12 meters in length or width. The southern side consists of three rooms. In the middle room is a mihrab or praying niche, which is now used as a place of prayer. As yet no research has been undertaken regarding this site. The village of Sarfa was supposed to be the area where the soldiers of Solomon (as) gathered together the companions of Joshua (as) after the death of Moses (as).

Inhabitants of this area used to visit the mausoleum to gain benediction and prosperity, as well as distributing food and sweets to the visitors.

The patient Prophet Job (as)

A few kilometers away from the historical city of Al Salt, lies the mausoleum of the Prophet Job (as) located in the village of 'Batna'. Only the remains of walls and tiles exist today, and these date back to the Mameluke eon.

It has been unanimously conferred by all historical research that the Prophet Job (as) lived, died and was buried in this area, which in the past was known as 'Aus'. Job (as) was a descendant of the Prophet Abraham (as).

Mausoleum of John the Baptist (as)

Situated 32 km southwest from the mosaic city of 'Madaba' lies the fortress of 'Makawer', which was established in the year

مكاور
Makawer



مقام الخضر (ع)
The mausoleum
of Al-Khidr



90 B.C. as an invincible castle against the attack of the Arab Nabataers. It stands almost 730 meters high above sea level and overlooks a magnificent view of the Dead Sea, the Palestinian hills and the mountains stretching towards the holy city of Jerusalem.

At the beginning of the 1st century A.D. King Herod used the fortress as a palace for relaxation, rest and amusement. The ➔

City Tourism



The tree under which prophet Mohammad took shelter

الشجرة التي استظل بها الرسول (ص)

fortress gained its fame as a prison where the John the Baptist (as) was held until he was beheaded. His holy head is supposedly buried in part of the Amawy Mosque in Damascus, Syria.

The remnants of the fortress, its towers, walls, waterways, columns and its enormous tiles can together express the greatness of this place. The oldest piece of mosaic art in Jordan was discovered here, dating back to the end of the 1st Century B.C.

Some exertion is required from the explorer before they reach the place of 'Makawer'. The visitor passes through the new area of the village, which is considered to be the main center for the weaving of carpets as well as other traditional crafts.

Many churches dating back to the Byzantine Age are scattered in and around the village.

Mausoleum of the Jesus Christ (as)

The numerous mausoleums of Jesus Christ (as) that are to be found in Jordan, in themselves, make this region a sacred land. One of these auspicious places is where he was baptized, to the east of the River Jordan. It is at the point which the river meets the old Roman road known as 'Beit Enya' or 'Wady El Kharrar', and is where Jesus (as) was baptized by John the Baptist (as). It is thus a holy site and is visited by pilgrims

who desire benediction and prosperity.

By the end of the 5th Century B.C. a church had been established on a structure secured to the riverbed. There is also an apparatus, which has been built to transfer the water to the church. Other ruins can be seen in the area which indicate the prior existence of other churches and monasteries dedicated to John the Baptist (as) as well as the Prophet Elias (as)

Other holy places of pilgrimage can further be visited; such as where Jesus (as) treated the sick. These events took place near a city called 'Om Qeis' or 'Gadara', which is renown for its poetry, beauty and spectacular sites and monuments will still exist to this day.

The Tree under which the Prophet Muhammad (saws) took shelter

The first foreign soil trodden by the Prophet Muhammad (saws), outside of his own land, was that of Jordan. This occurred when as a boy he accompanied his uncle Abu Talib (ra), at the age of ten on a commercial excursion with a Quraishi caravan. A priest by the name of Bohayra, lived in the area known as 'Al Bakoueya' or 'Al Safawy'. When the caravan approached from Al Hijaz, the priest perceived a cloud covering the boy who was accompanying the entourage; he also noticed a tree bending and folding its



كهف لوط
Lot's Cave

branches so as to cast a shadow to especially provide shelter for this boy from the heat of the sun – by God's command. When the priest witnessed this miracle he felt that this boy must be the expected prophet that was mentioned in the Holy Book. Boraya conversed with the boy and his uncle, who uncovered the child's back exposing a seal shaped mark between his shoulders – the sign symbolizing the seal of prophethood - confirming that the boy was as the priest had expected, the Prophet Muhammad (Ahmad) (saws).

Prophet Muhammad (saws) was called to his mission at the age of forty. Almighty God protects and preserves this holy tree year after year. It is to be found in the middle of the Jordanian desert, growing out of the dry and barren ground. This eternal and holy tree expresses one of God's miracles on earth, and it can be considered as an age-old witness to many unforgettable historical events.

'Al Bakoueya' is located 215 km from Amman. The Ministry of Tourism expend great effort in maintaining the road leading to the area from 'Al Safawy', as well as coordinating and arranging visits to the site for tourists. ■