

Idris (as) – The First To Use A Pen

“Also relate to them the story of Idris in the Book; he was a Truthful man, a Prophet.”^[i]

Idris (as) (means Interpreter) was the first of mankind to be granted Prophethood after Adam (as) and Sheeth (as). He was originally given the name of Hirmis Al Haramisah.

Some scholars believe that he was born in Egypt, the city of Memphis^[ii], while other say he was born in Babylon, a city in present day Iraq. During his lifetime, all the people worshipped Allah (swt) and idol worship had not started.

However, a number of people committed many sins even though he asked them not to. He called the people back to his forefathers’ religion but only a few listened to him. So, he and his people left their hometown of Babylon and migrated for the sake of Allah (swt) to Egypt^[iii].

Adam (as) and Hawa (as)

↓
Habil, Sheeth, Qabil

↓
Anoush

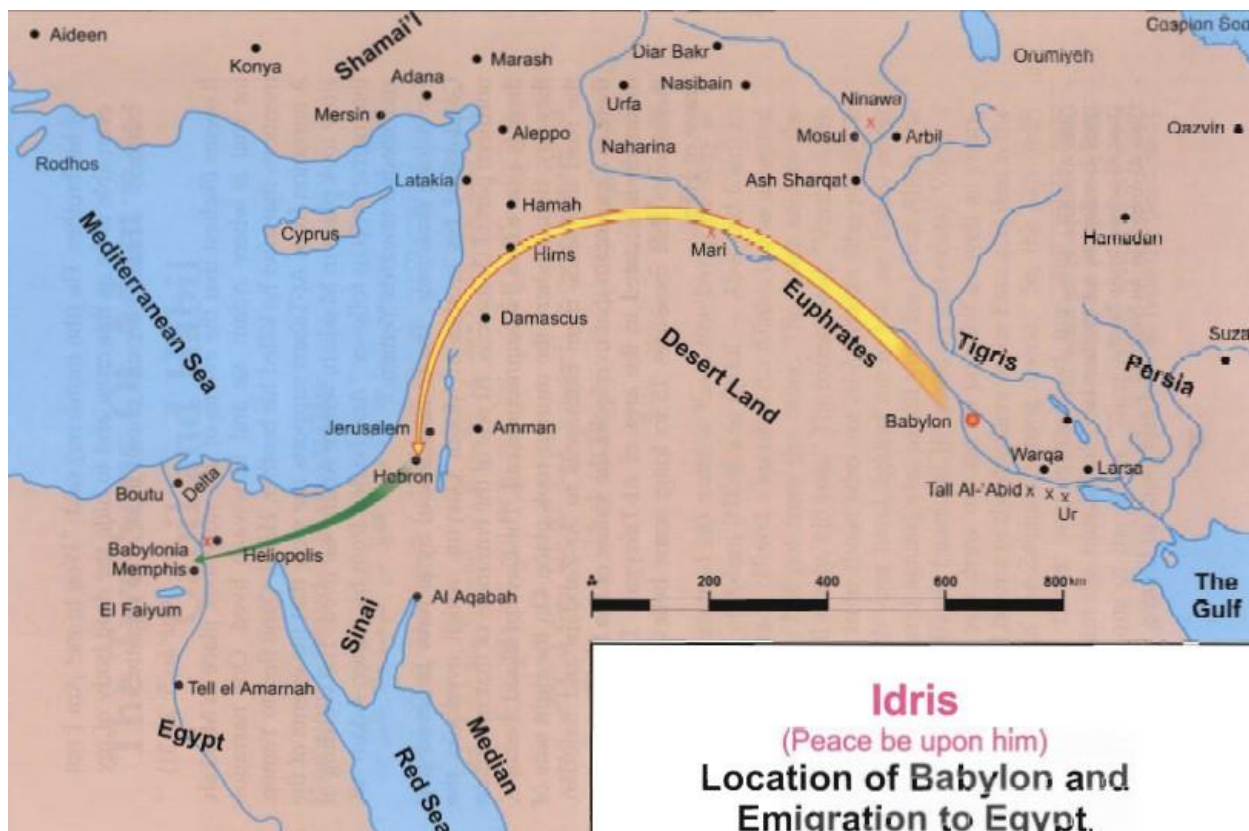
↓
Qinan

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Mahlabeel

↓
Yard

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Khonoukh (Enoch, Idris)

When he first saw the Nile River, he said “Babilyun” which means: a river like your river, a large river, a blessed river. It is said that 188 cities were built during his era, the smallest of which was Ar Ruha. Idris (as) is the first to have studied wisdom and astronomy and many wise sayings are attributed to him.^[iv]



According to Ibn Kathir, Idris (as) was the first to write with a pen and also on sand. Mua’wiya ibn Al-Hakam reported: I said, “O Messenger of Allah, among us are men who write script.” The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “There was a Prophet among the prophets who wrote script. Whoever writes according to his way is right.” ^[v]



Idris (as) fulfilled his mission to tell people to be fair and do things that were just. He taught them how to do the prayers, to fast on certain days and to give a part of their wealth to the less fortunate. He lived for three hundred and eight years.

Idris (as)'s Wisdom

"There is no better way to thank Allah (swt) for His favours than to be kind and generous to His creation."

"When you invoke Allah (swt), make your intention sincere and pure."

"Wisdom is the life of the soul."

"Do not be jealous of people for the things that they have, for their enjoyment of these things is short-lived."

"Nothing can make one feel rich when one seeks to have more than the bare necessities."

He was taken up to the heavens by Allah (swt). Prophet Mohammad (saw) met him on the Isra wal Meraj journey, at the 4th heaven. When Jibril (as) and the Prophet (saw) passed by Idris (as), he said, 'Welcome, O pious Prophet and pious brother'. The Prophet (saw), asked, 'Who is he?' Jibril (as) replied, 'He is Idris'.

[i] Surah Al Maryam 19:56

[ii] The Atlas of the Quran by Darussalam

[iii] Stories Of The Prophets by Ibn Kathir

[iv] The Atlas of the Quran by Darussalam

[v] Sahih Muslim



Idris (as) – The First To Use A Pen Comprehension Questions

1. Explain the generations between Adam (as) and Idris (as)?

2. Where was Idris (as) born and where did he migrate to?

3. Significant aspects of the development of civilization occurred through Idris (as). List a few.

4. What did Idris (as) preach?

5. Which out of the sayings of Idris (as) is your favorite

Map Work: On a map, mark Babylon and Memphis in Egypt. Draw an arrow from Babylon to Memphis to show the migration.



Lesson Plan: Idris (as) – The First To Use A Pen

Objective: Students will learn about Prophet Idris (as), his role as a prophet, and his contributions to civilization. They will understand the significance of his teachings and wisdom in Islamic history.

Duration: 1 hour

Materials Needed: Whiteboard or flip chart, Markers, Printouts of relevant Quranic verses and Hadiths, Resources for learning about the life of Prophet Idris (as) (books, websites, videos), Printouts of the article and comprehension questions, Map of the world

Introduction (10 minutes):

- Begin by discussing the importance of learning about Prophet Idris (as) as a prophet and a wise figure in Islamic history.
- Share the Quranic verse: “Also relate to them the story of Idris in the Book; he was a Truthful man, a Prophet.” (Surah Al Maryam 19:56)
- Explain that today's lesson will focus on the life and teachings of Prophet Idris (as).

Main Content (30 minutes):

- Present the story of Prophet Idris (as) using Quranic verses and Hadiths, emphasizing the following points:
 - o Idris (as) being granted prophethood after Adam (as) and Sheeth (as).
 - o His birth and possible birthplaces (Egypt or Babylon) and migration to Egypt with his people.
 - o His role in teaching people to worship Allah (swt) and to avoid sin.
 - o Significant aspects of civilization developed during his time, such as the construction of cities and advancements in wisdom and astronomy.
- Introduce resources for further learning about Prophet Idris (as)'s life and teachings, such as books, websites, and videos listed in the content.

Hands-on Activity (15 minutes):

- Divide students into pairs or small groups.
- Provide each group with one of the sayings of Prophet Idris (as) listed in the content.
- Ask each group to discuss the meaning of the saying and its relevance to their lives.
- Encourage students to create posters or artwork illustrating the saying.
- Allow time for each group to present their findings and artwork to the class.

Map Work (10 minutes):

- Show students a map of the world, focusing on the locations mentioned in the comprehension questions (Babylon and Memphis).
- Have students locate and mark these locations on the map using markers or stickers.
- Draw an arrow from Babylon to Memphis to illustrate Prophet Idris (as)'s migration with his people from Babylon to Egypt.
- Discuss the significance of these locations in relation to Prophet Idris (as)'s story and Islamic history.

Comprehension Questions (5 minutes):

- Distribute the printout of the article and the comprehension questions to the students.
- Allow students time to read and then individually answer the questions.
- Review the answers as a class, encouraging discussion and clarification.

Conclusion (5 minutes):

- Summarize the key points covered in the lesson, emphasizing the significance of Prophet Idris (as) in Islamic belief.
- Encourage students to reflect on the teachings and wisdom of Prophet Idris (as) and consider how they can apply them in their own lives.
- Conclude with a discussion on the importance of seeking knowledge and wisdom, as exemplified by Prophet Idris (as).



Assessment: Evaluate students' understanding through their participation in discussions, hands-on activities, and their responses to comprehension questions.

Extension:

- Encourage students to research and present on other prophets mentioned in Islamic history who followed Prophet Idris (as).
- Invite students to explore the scientific and philosophical contributions of Prophet Idris (as) and their relevance to modern society.
- Organize a debate or discussion on ethical and moral issues based on the teachings of Prophet Idris (as) and how they can be applied in contemporary contexts.

