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## Eder, Tower of

Arnet, Samuel

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of Eden (dir. E. Kazan, 1955), *Paradise Lost* (dir. H. Freed, 1999), *Adam & Eve* (dir. I. K. Musallam, 2002), and *Eden* (dir. D. Recks, 2008).

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Anton Karl Kozlovic

See also → Adam (Person); → Adam and Eve, Story of; → Eve; → Garden; → Lilith; → Paradise

## Eder (Person)

### 1. Son of Mushi

One of Mushi's three sons, Eder (MT 'Ēder) is mentioned in two lists of Levites who served under David (1 Chr 23:23; 24:30). Mushi was son of Merari son of Levi (1 Chr 23:21). Rather than deriving from an early monarchic period, the lists correspond to hierarchies and influences of Levite families during the Second Temple period. Eder may be a short form of Adriel ('Adrî'ēl), 'El is my help' (Aram.).

### 2. Son of Beriah

Eder (MT 'Eder), Son of Beriah, a descendant of Benjamin, is mentioned in 1 Chr 8:15. The verse is part of a list of heads of families who lived in Jerusalem. Although the list purports to be from an early period, it is more probably related to Jerusalemite families during the Second Temple Period. As with many other names, the Greek versions bear witness to several variants of the name (Ωδεο, Εδεο, Αδαο).  
Juha Pakkala

## Eder (Place)

According to Josh 15:21, Eder is a settlement in Judah located "in the extreme south, towards the boundary of Edom." While MT has 'Ēder, the LXX manuscripts vary in their rendering (Εδρα, Αρα). Since in early Hebrew script the consonants *d* and *r* look very similar, it may be that the name should read Arad rather than Eder (see Josh 12:14; 1 Chr 8:15, though in a different context, lists both Arad and Eder). The place names in Josh 15:20–63 should demonstrate "how vast and rich Judah once was" (Knauf: 145).

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## Eder, Tower of

The Tower of Eder (MT *Migdal-ēder*, lit. "tower of the flock") is situated near the place beyond which Jacob/Israel pitched his tent after Rachel's death when on his way to Hebron (Gen 35:21, 27). It was identified by Jerome with the Shepherds' Field (*Epist.* 108.10), where God's angel announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds (Luke 2:8–14). The place, located about 1 km east of Bethlehem within the Arab village of Beit Sahūr, has been associated with messianic expectations (cf. Mic 4:8); Targum Pseudo-Jonathan on Gen 35:21 states that *Migdal-ēder* is the place from which the Messiah will reveal himself at the end of days.

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Samuel Arnet

## Edersheim, Alfred

Alfred Edersheim (1825 – 1889) was the author of numerous popular books on the OT and NT as well as on the Jewish people. Although he was born in Vienna of Jewish parents and received his initial education in a school attached to a synagogue, as a young man he converted to Christianity. He eventually became a minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later took orders in the Anglican Communion. His most famous book, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah* (2 vols., 1883), emphasizes the Jewish background and context of the canonical gospels. Uncritical by modern standards, both in its historical judgments and its use of rabbinic materials, it nonetheless displays a remarkable knowledge of Jewish sources and their importance for the study of Jesus and early Christianity. Although the book had very little impact upon academic circles, it is still in print and remains popular in some English-speaking Protestant circles.

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Dale C. Allison, Jr.

## Edessa

- I. Christianity
- II. Islam

### I. Christianity

Edessa had been the incontestable cultural capital of the Aramaic speaking Christendom on Roman territory and was to maintain its pivotal role at least