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Kain (Place)

Kain (*haqqayin* = "(place of) blacksmiths") is a town in the eighth district belonging to the tribe of Juda. Due to the places in the near context that can be identified with certainty, Kain can be found in the extreme south of Judah (Jos 15:57). The toponym is also used as a collective term referring to the Kenites (Num 24:22; Jdg 4:11) and not as a proper place name. Kain is usually identified either with the site of Ḥirbet Yūqīn, also called Ḥirbet Benī Dār (1645.1005), or en-Nabī Yūqīn (1651.1007), both sites preserving the biblical name. Since the element Yūqīn has no Arabic etymology, it has retained an earlier name form. Only the first site has archaeological evidence dating to the Iron Age so that Kain could only be identified with Ḥirbet Yūqīn. Since LXX combines Kain with previous Zanoah (Σανωακιμ in LXX^A, Σακαναϊμ in LXX^B), it obviously does not regard Kain as a separate place but uses Kain to differentiate Kenite Zanoah from another Judean Zanoah mentioned in Jos 15:34. Thus, LXX interprets Kain as a genitive qualifying the place name Zanoah. But Zanoah is located too far in the north so that it cannot be one of the "cities of the Kenites" in the Negev (1 Sam 30:29). Nevertheless, it might still be a northern Kenite settlement. Furthermore, LXX counts only nine towns contrary to the ten towns of MT. Since the name Kain is missing in LXX, Euseb has no entry "Kain" in his *Onomasticon*. Jerome recorded the name as *Accen* instead of Vg. *Accaim* and translates this toponym with "abode" (*Nom. Hebr.* 24.14).

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