

82 Cana

Names (also known as)

English (KJV) – Cana
Qana – Arabic
Kana – Phoenician
Kano – Egyptian
Kfar Kana – Hebrew - modern alternate
Kfar Kenna – Hebrew - modern alternate

Etymology

Cana - (Strong's G2580 kana) place of reeds from a Hebrew word (Strong's H7071 qanah - feminine proper noun), from a root (Strong's H7069 qanah) meaning to acquire, possess, create, buy (presumably from the idea of reaching out hand to acquire or make). The masculine word (Strong's H7070 qaneh) is used of a stalk and various derived meanings such as measuring rod, stem of lampstand, beam, shoulder joint.

Location/Description

Several locations are given for Cana. These include:

1. The river Kanah, the southern border of Ephraim;
2. A location SW of Sidon;
3. Khirbet Qanah in the Bet Netofa valley.⁽¹⁾
This town guarded the approach to the hometown of Josephus and is so mentioned by him;⁽³⁾
4. A pilgrim associated location of Kafr Kana. This site was visited by pilgrims and described by Quaresmius 1620 AD. This is located 8 km northwest of Nazareth. The mentioning of Jesus' mother being involved with the proceedings could indicate some familiarity with a village in the vicinity of Nazareth, particularly if Jesus was involved with construction at Sepharis to the north of Nazareth
5. Qana in southern Lebanon, 7 km SE of Tyre. The mentioning of Kanah next to Zidon in Josh. 19:28 seems to support this idea. Both Eusebius 4th cent. AD and Jerome 3rd cent. AD locate Kana near Sidon. Just to the northwest of Qana is a small town called Haunaouriye (Hanawai), which has an elaborate stone fashioned tomb, claimed by some to be the tomb of King Hiram (Qabr Hiram), but more likely to date from Persian times. Nonetheless, the

tomb is a fine example of earlier Phoenician stone craftsmanship, known as the work of the Giblites – 1 Kings 5:18. Underneath the tomb are square cut steps and a subterranean cave, and the previously described staircase.⁽⁵⁾

The distance between Nazareth and Capernaum is around 48 km, a distance too long for a single day's journey. Lodging in Cana would provide a suitable break in this travel. Josephus describes the marching of 200 men from Cana to Tiberias (via wadi Arbel) in a single day^(3b) a route so drastically shared by the troops decimated later at Hattin.

Scriptural references

Old Testament

Kanah (near Zidon) – Josh. 19:28. 'Kana' river (Ephraim) - Hebrew equivalent: *qanah* - Josh. 16:8; 17:9; 19:28

New Testament

Hometown of Nathaniel - John 21:2

Christ turning water into wine - John 2

Cana and the outstretched hand

Cana is famous for its association with the first miracle of Christ in turning water into wine. It was the first open revelation of the involvement of Yahweh within the ministry of His son (John 2).

Archaeology findings

Records of Thutmoses III mentions "Kano". Ernest Renan visited site of Tomb of Hiram 18th cent. AD. He describes numerous other sarcophagi.

Rock carvings - around 1 km from the village is a collection of 13 figures carved into a rock face within a grotto.⁽²⁾

Other reference materials

- (1) A Rainey; Sacred bridge pg 352
- (2) Robinson vol 3 pg 108
- (3) Josephus; Life 86; (3b) 86-90
- (4) Book of Joshua, Revised version, with introduction and notes George Albert Cooke pg 180,181
- (5) Lonely planet: Syria and Lebanon pg 378.

(Compiler – Peter Boon)