

Ono

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7:37). The valley or plain of Ono attached to the town (Neh 6:2) was perhaps identical with the “valley of artisans” (Neh 11:35) confirmed by rabbinic sources (yMeg 1:1). Sanballat and his friends unsuccessfully tried to lure Nehemiah to meet in one of the villages of the plain of Ono to imprison him (Neh 6:2). It was occupied by Benjaminites (1 Chr 8:12), but it is far from certain whether the early Benjaminites moved so far to the west. Any reconstruction of the early settlement is speculative. However, in the Persian period Ono was settled by Benjaminites (Neh 11:35) regardless of whether Ono belonged to the province of Yehud or not.

Ono is mentioned as *iw-in-iw* by Thutmose III (No. 65) for the first time and is located between Lod and Aphek. According to rabbinic tradition, Ono is located three (bKet 111b) or five miles (Mid-Shir 1:12) from Lod. Moreover, Ono was allegedly fortified by Joshua, destroyed in the war with Benjamin following the rape of the Levite’s concubine in the day of the Judges (Judg 19), rebuilt by Elpaal and repaired by Asa (bMeg 4a), although there is no biblical reference for these events. Ono and Lod have been adversaries at times (Ekhr 1:17). As a result of the struggle with Lod, Ono may have become an independent municipality in the 3rd century CE. Its councillor is mentioned on a text from Oxyrhynchus (P.Oxy. 9.1205:8). Ono is also mentioned as an independent town in town lists of the 5th to 6th century CE. Jerome translated Ono literally as “his pain” (*Nom. hebr.* 29.22).

Ono is usually identified with *Kafr ‘Āna* (1377.1590). The change of *ō* to *ā* and *’* to *‘* are common in the renderings of Hebrew place names in Arabic. However, the distance from *Kafr ‘Āna* to Lod is larger than the rabbinic three miles so that Ono might be located south of *Kafr ‘Āna*, whereas *Kafr ‘Āna* might have been another site called Kefar Ono. Furthermore, the archaeological record at *Kafr ‘Āna* starts – apart from the Chalcolithic settlement – with the 5th century CE at the earliest, thus too late for biblical Ono. Therefore, Ono of the biblical and mishnaic/talmudic periods should be looked for elsewhere, maybe at *Kafr Ju‘na* (1380.1599), which contains remains from the Late Bronze to the Byzantine periods.

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Ono

Ono (MT *’Ōnô* (= virility?; LXX Ωνω; Vg. *Ono*) is a town in the plain near Lod and Hadid settled by returnees from the Babylonian exile (Ezra 2:33; Neh

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