**Bible Name:** Cainan        **Language:** Hebrew        **Pronunciation:** kay-nawn'

**Name Type:** Person

Meaning: The name 'Cainan' means 'One who Laments.' There are two schools of thought concerning the actual meaning of this name. Most people are under the impression that 'Cainan' is synonymous with the Hebrew name 'Cain'. If this is so, then the name 'Cainan' would be derived from the Hebrew word, 'Qayin', signifying an 'acquisition' or 'possession', but with the added 'an', which generally points to the named person as the one doing the verb. What do I mean by this? Let me provide you with an example. The name 'Cain' (without the 'an') denotes an 'acquisition' or 'possession', whereas the name 'Cainan' (with the 'an') denotes 'one who acquires' or 'one who possesses'. Unfortunately, for those who adhere to this position, the oldest copies of the Septuagint reveal something entirely different. How so? The name 'Cainan' never actually appears in the oldest manuscript version of the Old Testament, the Septuagint. Instead, the name is more accurately written as 'Kenan'. The Hebrew name 'Kenan' is very similar to that of 'Cain' in the sense that both names are related to Hebrew word 'Quwn' meaning 'to strike a musical note', a word typically used to signify 'a lamentation sung at a funeral'. To be more specific, the name 'Kenan' is derived from the Hebrew word 'qiynah' meaning 'a lamentation (as accompanied by the beating of the breasts or on instruments)', which in turn comes from the Hebrew word 'Quwn' as mentioned above. Since the name 'Kenan', like 'Cainan', also includes the 'an' suffix, it would also point to the named person, 'Kenan', as the one doing the verb action, which explains why his name means 'one who laments".