

הִיָּה plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

hebrew

The word הִיָּה means “to exist” or “to be” or “to become” or “to come into being” and occurs 3561 times in the Old Testament.

This is the foundational verb of existence, identity, becoming and occurrence.

* It is used in the creation narrative of Genesis 1, represented by the English words Genesis 1:3 Exodus 3:12 Ruth 1:1 Isaiah 2:2 הָיָה מִן הַקֹּדֶשׁ וְהָעֵנָן מִלֵּא אֶת הָאֲדָמָה plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

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The Hebrew אֶת word does not have a corresponding word in English. In Hebrew, it is a marker of the accusative, i.e. the word following it is the object of the sentence. It only ever occurs in conjunction with nouns associated with the definite article הַ. Genesis 1:1 הָיָה בְּרֵאשִׁית הַיְּמֵהָאֵלֶּה plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

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Meaning

* Yahweh - God's personal name

It is not a generic term for “god”, but rather the word יְהוָה (YHWH) is the name by which God uniquely identifies himself in the Old Testament.

First appearing in Genesis 2:4, it occurs over 6,000 times in the Old Testament. Exodus 3:14 Deuteronomy 6:4 Psalm 23:1 Romans 10:13 Joel 2:32 Exodus 20:7 Psalm 18:1 Exodus 15:3 Psalm 8:1 Genesis 2:41 Samuel 1:3 Judges 6:24 Genesis 22:14 Jeremiah 23:6

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