

וְהָיָה בְּמָעוֹן וּמַעֲשָׂהוּ בְּכִרְמֶל וְהָאִשׁ גְּדוֹל מְאֹד וְלֹא צָאן שְׁלֹשֶׁת אֲלָפִים וְאַלְף עֲזִים וְהָיָה
 הָיָה

hebrew

The word הָיָה 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 בָּנִי אֶת

hebrew

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.

For example, in Genesis 1:1 the word is preceded by בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים (צָאן בְּכִרְמֶל)

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