

הָיָה [plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigהָיָה](#)

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 1:3Exodus 3:12Ruth 1:1Isaiah 2:2 [הָיָה דָּבָר](#) [plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigהָיָה](#)

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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 3:14Deuteronomy 6:4Psalm 23:1Romans 10:13Joel 2:32Exodus 20:7Psalm 18:1Exodus 15:3Psalm 8:1Genesis 2:41 Samuel 1:3Judges 6:24Genesis 22:14Jeremiah 23:6 [אֵל יִרְמְיָה הַנְּבִיא לְמַלְאוֹת לְחַרְבּוֹת](#) [יְרוּשָׁלַם שְׂבָעִים שָׁנָה](#)

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