

הָיָה [plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big](#)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 [פָּאָרַץ](#) [plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big](#)פָּאָרַץ

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Meaning:

* Earth (e.g. Genesis 1:1) or world * Land * Countries or country

The word אֶרֶץ can designate the whole of planet earth, or the inhabitable world or the national territory or ground.

When coupled with heavens (שָׁמַיִם), the phrase indicates the entire created order. Genesis 12:1 [מִצָּרַיִם](#) [את](#) [עַל כָּל אֲנָכִי מִצָּרַיִם לַעֲשׂוֹת אֵת](#) [plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big](#)את

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The Hebrew אֵת 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 [הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה](#)

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