

Genesis 1

Text

[Hebrew](#)

ראשית [plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big](#)

hebrew

Meanings:

* Beginning * Finest (or choice) * First (first fruits) * Principal thing

Embraces the idea of beginnings, first part, chief value and first-fruits. The context determines the specific meaning.

Derived from ראש

Feminine, noun [plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big](#)

hebrew

Meaning:

* To create * To cut down, select, feed

Bara is a verb that is never takes a human subject; God is always the one who creates in the Old Testament. In contrast, [פָּעַל](#) (to make or do) and [יָצַר](#) (to form and to build) do often have humans as the subject. [אלהים](#) [plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big](#)

hebrew

Meanings:

* God * god * goddess * divine ones * angels

Noun, masculine [plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big](#)

1

hebrew

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 [שָׁמַיִם](#) [plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big](#)

hebrew

Meanings:

* Heaven or heavens * Sky * Compass

Masculine noun. The word is dual in form (ending in [-ים](#)) which normally indicates two things (like eyes and hands), however, however it functions as a plural. Deuteronomy 10:14 states that Genesis 1:20 Psalm 115:3 [וְאֵת](#) [plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big](#)

hebrew

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hebrew

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

אָרץ plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

hebrew

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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 הָיָה plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

hebrew

Meaning:

* Formless * Waste * Futile * Meaningless * Nothing * Chaos

Masculine. Noun.

Describes something that is unformed or purposeless. It often pairs with בָּהוּ - void - forming the phrase וַתְּהִי בָהוּ, a poetic expression for utter chaos or emptiness. Genesis 1:2 Deuteronomy 32:10 Isaiah 45:18 Jeremiah 4:23 הָיָה plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

hebrew

2 Meaning:

* Face * Presence * Front or surface

Noun. Masculine. Although it looks plural in form (ending in -ים), it is almost always used as a singular in meaning - a type of plural of intensity or plural of form common in Hebrew for body parts that come in pairs or have multiple aspects. הָיָה plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

hebrew

Meaning:

* Wind * Breath * Spirit

Noun. Occurs about 380 times in the Old Testament.

Though usually feminine, רוּחַ sometimes takes masculine verbs and adjectives, especially when referring to the Spirit of God (רוּחַ יְהוָה). Exodus 10:13 Genesis 6:17 Genesis 41:8 Proverbs 16:32 Ecclesiastes 12:7 Genesis 1:2 Judges 3:10 Ezekiel 36:27 Genesis 2:7 John 3:8 Genesis 1:2 Genesis 8:1 רוּחַ plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

hebrew

Meanings:

* God * god * goddess * divine ones * angels

Noun, masculine הָיָה plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

hebrew

Meaning:

* Face * Presence * Front or surface

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אֱלֹהִיםאֱלֹהִים
hebrew
Meanings:
* God * god * goddess * divine ones * angels
Noun, masculine אֱלֹהִיםאֱלֹהִים
hebrew
The word אֱלֹהִים 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 אֱלֹהִיםאֱלֹהִים
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ESV

1	In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
2	The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
3	And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

NIV

1	In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
2	Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
3	And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

NLT

1	In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
2	The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.
3	Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

LXX

ἐν	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigἐν
greek	
Preposition meaning “in”. ἀρχῇ	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigἀρχή
greek	
Meaning:	
* Beginning * First * Elementary * Rulers, rule, domain	
Noun, feminine (first declension)	
Occurs 56 times in the New Testament, consistently conveying the idea of primacy - whether temporal (i.e. the start, e.g. John 1:1) or causal (i.e. the source) or governmental (i.e. the ruler, e.g. Ephesians 6:12 ἐποίνεον	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigἐποίεω
Meaning:	
* To do * To make	
This verb - to do or make - is used in connection with a large range of activities including creation, covenant formation, obedience, miracles, sin and worship.	
Verb forms	
Present tense Person Greek Form ὁ	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigὁ, ἡ, τό
greek	
Meaning:	
* The	
The definite article.	
Forms	
Singular Case Masculine Feminine Neuter Nominative ὁ ἡ τό Genitive τοῦ τῆς τοῦ Dative τῷ τῇ	θεὸς
greek	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigθεός
Masculine noun meaning:	
* A god or goddess * God τὸν	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigτὸν, ἡ, τό
greek	
1 Meaning:	
* The	
The definite article.	
Forms	
Singular Case Masculine Feminine Neuter Nominative ὁ ἡ τό Genitive τοῦ τῆς τοῦ Dative τῷ τῇ	οὐρανὸν
Meaning:	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigοὐρανός
* The sky * Air * Heaven or heavens	
278 occurrences in the New Testament.	
Οὐρανός is used in Scripture to describe the sky and universe (that is, the visible expanse above the earth) as well as the transcendent realm where God is present. For example, in Matthew 6:26Matthew 24:29Matthew 6:9 καὶ	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigκαί
greek	
Meaning	
* And * Also * Both * Even * Too * So	
Is a conjunction that connects single words or terms or sentences. IT is most frequently translated as “and” τῇ	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigτὸν, ἡ, τό
greek	
Meaning:	
* The	
The definite article.	
Forms	
Singular Case Masculine Feminine Neuter Nominative ὁ ἡ τό Genitive τοῦ τῆς τοῦ Dative τῷ τῇ	γῆν
Meaning:	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigγῆ
* Soil or ground (e.g. Matthew 13:5) * Land (e.g. Luke 4:5) * Country * Earth (e.g. Matthew 5:5)	
Feminine noun. Connected to the English words “ground”, “geometry” and “geology”.	
It occurs throughout the LXX and the New Testament (approximately 250 times in the New Testament) and its meaning varies subtly on context, for example, in the LXX:Genesis 1:1Genesis 2:7Genesis 12:1	

ἡ	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigὁ, ἡ, τό
greek	
Meaning:	
* The	
The definite article.	
Forms	
Singular Case Masculine Feminine Neuter Nominative	ὁ ἡ τό
Genitive	τοῦ τῆς τοῦ
Dative	τῷ τῇ
δε	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigδέ
greek	
δέ	is a conjunction that can mean “but” or “and” or “also” or “moreover”. It is a word that is used very frequently in the New Testament, and is often unexpressed and not translated in English. γῆ
γῆ	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigγῆ
Meaning:	
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ἡ	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigεἰμί
greek	
εἰμί	is the first person singular verb for “to be” (εἶναι [the infinitive form] = “to be”).
It an irregular verb, and, like English, changes significantly between person and tense. For example εἰμί is the word for am and ἦν is the word for was, e.g. ἄρατος	καί
καί	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigκαί
greek	
Meaning	
* And * Also * Both * Even * Too * So	
Is a conjunction that connects single words or terms or sentences. IT is most frequently translated as “and” ἀκατασκεύαστος	καί
καί	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigκαί
greek	
2	
Meaning	
* And * Also * Both * Even * Too * So	
Is a conjunction that connects single words or terms or sentences. IT is most frequently translated as “and” σκότος ἐπάνω τῆς	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigὁ, ἡ, τό
greek	
Meaning:	
* The	
The definite article.	
Forms	
Singular Case Masculine Feminine Neuter Nominative	ὁ ἡ τό
Genitive	τοῦ τῆς τοῦ
Dative	τῷ τῇ
ἀβύσσου	καί
καί	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigκαί
greek	
Meaning	
* And * Also * Both * Even * Too * So	
Is a conjunction that connects single words or terms or sentences. IT is most frequently translated as “and” πνεῦμα θεοῦ	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigθεός
greek	
Masculine noun meaning:	
* A god or goddess * God ἐπεφύετο ἐπάνω τοῦ	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigὁ, ἡ, τό
greek	
Meaning:	
* The	
The definite article.	
Forms	
Singular Case Masculine Feminine Neuter Nominative	ὁ ἡ τό
Genitive	τοῦ τῆς τοῦ
Dative	τῷ τῇ
ὕδατος	

καὶ	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigκαί
greek	
Meaning	
* And * Also * Both * Even * Too * So	
Is a conjunction that connects single words or terms or sentences. IT is most frequently translated as "and" εἶπεν ὁ	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigὁ, ἡ, τό
greek	
Meaning:	
* The	
3 The definite article.	
Forms	
Singular Case Masculine Feminine Neuter Nominative ὁ ἡ τό Genitive τοῦ τῆς τοῦ Dative τῷ τῇ	θεός
greek	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigθεός
Masculine noun meaning:	
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Commentary

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