

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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When coupled with heavens (שָׁמַיִם), the phrase indicates the entire created order. Genesis 12:1 הָאָרֶץ plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

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 הָיָה plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

hebrew

Meanings:

* God * god * goddess * divine ones * angels

Noun, masculine הָיָה plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

hebrew

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אֱלֹהִים	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigאֱלֹהִים
hebrew	
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* God * god * goddess * divine ones * angels	
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hebrew	
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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

ἐνplugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigἐν greek Preposition meaning “in”. ἀρχῇplugin-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 ἐποίησενplugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigποίηώ 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 ὁplugin-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 θεόςplugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigθεός greek Masculine noun meaning: * A god or goddess * God τὸνplugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigὁ, 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 οὐρανὸνplugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigοὐρανός Meaning: * 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 καὶplugin-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” τῇplugin-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 γῆνplugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigγῆ Meaning: * 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

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καὶ	plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigκαί
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KJV

1	In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
2	And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
3	And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Commentary

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