

הָיָה plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big הָיָה יְהוָה יָדַע תָּדַע כִּי גַר יֵהְיֶה

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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 אֶרֶץ בְּאֶרֶץ plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big אֶרֶץ

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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 לֹא לָהֶם אֶתְּמַלְכֻם וְעַבְדֻּם וְעַבְדֻּם אֶתְּמַלְכֻם

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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 אֶרֶץ מְאֹדָה שְׁנֵה

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