

הִיָּה plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

hebrew

The word הִיָּה 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 אֶת יְלִדָה רָחֵל אֶת plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big אֶת

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The Hebrew אֶת 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.

For example, in Genesis 1:1 the word is preceded by בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים (יוֹסֵף וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל לְבֹן שְׁלֹחִי וְאֶלְכָּה אֶל אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם וְלֹא אָרָצִי אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם)

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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

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