

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 [אֶרֶץ](#) [וַיֵּבְאוּ אֶל אֶרֶץ](#) [מִן הָעוֹלָם וַיִּפְגְּשׁוּ](#) [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 [רַבּוֹת](#) [וְעַל מַמְלָכוֹת גְּדֵלוֹת לְמַלְחָמָה וְלָרָעָה וְלַדָּבָר](#)

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