

את־הָאֱלֹהִים plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

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 **וַיְבָרֵךְ אֱלֹהִים וַיִּבְרַךְ מִבְּקֵשֵׁי נֶפֶשׁ וְהָיְתָה** plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

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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 **וַיִּבְרַךְ אֱלֹהִים וַיִּבְרַךְ מִבְּקֵשֵׁי נֶפֶשׁ וְהָיְתָה** plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

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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 **וַיִּבְרַךְ אֱלֹהִים וַיִּבְרַךְ מִבְּקֵשֵׁי נֶפֶשׁ וְהָיְתָה** plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big

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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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Last update: 2025/10/17 00:56



