

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 הָיָה עֲשֵׂה יְהוָה plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big הָיָה

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Meaning

* Yahweh - God's personal name

It is not a generic term for “god”, but rather the word יְהוָה (YHWH) is the name by which God uniquely identifies himself in the Old Testament.

First appearing in Genesis 2:4, it occurs over 6,000 times in the Old Testament. Exodus 3:14 Deuteronomy 6:4 Psalm 23:1 Romans 10:13 Joel 2:32 Exodus 20:7 Psalm 18:1 Exodus 15:3 Psalm 8:1 Genesis 2:41 Samuel 1:3 Judges 6:24 Genesis 22:14 Jeremiah 23:6 אֱלֹהֵינוּ plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big אֱלֹהִים

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Meanings:

* God * god * goddess * divine ones * angels

Noun, masculine אֵל plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big אֵל

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The Hebrew אֵל 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 הָ. Genesis 1:1 כָּל אֵלֶּה וְאֶמְרַת אֱלֹהִים כַּאֲשֶׁר עֲבַדְתֶּם אֵל plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big אֵלֹתַי

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Noun, masculine אֶרֶץ [plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big](#)בְּאֶרֶץכֹּסֶם

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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 [בְּרֵאשִׁית](#) [אֶרֶץ](#) [בְּאֶרֶץ](#) [פְּתַעֲבֹדוֹ זֵרִים](#) [plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big](#)

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