

הָיָה־יְהוָה אֵלֵינוּ יִפְתָּח לָנוּ אֵינֶשׁ רֵיב הָיִיתִי

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 וְאֵינֶשׁ אֶתְכֶם הָיָה וְאֵינֶשׁ אֶתְכֶם הָיָה וְאֵינֶשׁ אֶתְכֶם

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 הָ. Genesis 1:1 הָיָה וְאֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם אֵת הָאָרֶץ

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