

יהוה [plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big](#)יהוה

hebrew

Meaning

* Yahweh - God's personal name

It is not a generic term for “god”, but rather the word יהוה (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 [יהוה אלהינו](#) [plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big](#)את

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The Hebrew את 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 ה. Genesis 1:1 [אֶת הָאָרֶץ](#) [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 [הַזֶּה](#) [plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_big](#)הָאָרֶץ

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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 [לֵבָי הָיָה טוֹב לָנוּ שׁוּב מִצְרָיִם](#)

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