וְהָיָהplugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigהָיָה

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 1:3Exodus 3:12Ruth 1:1Isaiah 2:2 בָּעֵת הַהִיא אֲחַפֵּשׂ אֶת plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigאֵת

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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 יְרוּשָׁלִַם בַּגֵּרוֹת וּפָקַדְתִּי עַל הָאֲנָשִׁים הַקֹּפְאִים עַל שְׁמָרֵיהֶם הָאֹמְרִים בִּלְבָבָם לֹא יֵיטִיב יְהוָה plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigיְהוָה

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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 3:14Deuteronomy 6:4Psalm 23:1Romans 10:13Joel 2:32Exodus 20:7Psalm 18:1Exodus 15:3Psalm 8:1Genesis 2:41 Samuel 1:3Judges 6:24Genesis 22:14Jeremiah 23:6 וְלֹא יָדֵעַ

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