

Hidden in the Hebrew

(Sample – Genesis 1:1)

Genesis 1:1

א בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ

Be-re-shit ba-ra elo-him et ha-sha-ma-yim ve-et ha-a-retz

In a beginning G-d of powers created the universe and the Earth.

This is the most important verse in the entire Bible. It tells us that there is G-d, that He alone created the universe, out of nothing, in a beginning. It answers questions of “what” “who” “when” and “how”, and establishes G-d’s ownership of everything, as it is his creation.

Questions:

What happened? בָּרָא *ba-ra*. “He created out of nothing”. He created not from existing material, but out of nothing.

Who created? אֱלֹהִים *Elo-him*. Why is it in the plural? אֵל *el*. “power”. So we can understand *Elo-him* as “G- -d of many powers”.

When did it happen? בְּרֵאשִׁית *bre-sheet*. “In a beginning”.

Why not in the beginning”? In the beginning would be read: בָּ *Ba* and not *Be* בֵּ

What is included in “the beginning”? בָּר *bar*, grain (abundance); בָּרָא *ba-ra*, created out of nothing; רֹאשׁ *rosh*, head; אֵשׁ *esh*, fire; יֵשׁ *yesh*, existence (literally, ‘there is’); שֵׁי *shai*, gift.

What was created?

הַשָּׁמַיִם *ha-sha-ma-yim*, “the universe” How did “universe” become “sky”?
הָאָרֶץ *ha-a-retz*, “the earth”

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Various English translations of Genesis 1:1:

“In the beginning God created heaven and earth”. [Douay-Rheims Bible](#); [GOD'S WORD® Translation \(©1995\)](#)

“In the beginning, **when** God created **the** heavens and **the** earth”. [New American Bible](#)

“In the beginning God created **the** heaven and **the** earth”. [King James Bible](#); [English Revised Version](#); [Jewish Publication Society Tanakh \(1917\)](#); [Webster's Bible Translation](#)

“In the beginning God created **the** heavens and **the** earth”. [American Standard Version](#); [New American Standard Bible \(©1995\)](#); [Darby Bible Translation](#); [World English Bible](#);

“**At the first** God **made the** heaven and **the** earth”. [Bible in Basic English](#)

“In the beginning **of God's preparing the** heavens and **the** earth”. [Young's Literal Translation](#)

“**When** God **began to create** heaven and earth ” [Jewish Publication Society TANAKH \(1999\)](#).