

Day One

Sundown Saturday to Sundown Sunday

Genesis 1:1-5

(06/28/25/JM)


In the beginning Elohim created the Skies and the Earth. The Earth was unformed and without substance, Darkness was over the surface of the Deep, and the Ruach Elohim hovered over the surface of the waters. Elohim said, "Let Light exist!" Light existed. Elohim saw the Light is Tov. Elohim distinguished between the Light and between the Darkness; He named the Light Day, and the Darkness He named "Night." It was evening and it was morning, Day One.

Today I am going to focus on two words in the verses above.

Elohim & created

Most English translations have "**God created.**" The English word "**God**" is an **umbrella term** used in discussion about religions that have very different gods. Below is the *BHC Linguistic Model for the Hebrew word Elohim*.

1. At the top left is the Hebrew word.
2. **ELOHIM** is a **transliteration** of the Hebrew word. It is made by replacing the Hebrew letters with English letters that are their equivalents. Transliterations do not have meanings attached.

Hebrew Word	Contextual Meanings Genesis 1 & 2
	1. The unnamed entity that created the Skies, Earth, and their hosts.
<u>Transliteration</u> ELOHIM	2. The entity that is unlike humans, and compared with all else, is incomprehensible.
<u>Translations</u> God, god, gods, goddess & goddesses.	3. The entity that uses the TOV Standard to measure things He creates or makes.


3. **God, god, gods, goddess, and goddesses** are the most common **translations** of the Hebrew word. Translations are made by using **Lexicons** or **Dictionaries**. Translations do not reveal the Hebrew letters and other symbols.
4. A **Contextual Meaning** is determined by the specific context in which a word appears. In this example the verses are Genesis 1:1-2:4a. There are three options in this context.

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An important step in constructing “**Contextual Meanings**” of the Hebrew word Elohim is observing what Elohim does in the verses above.

1. *Elohim created*
2. *Elohim hovered*
3. *Elohim said*
4. *Elohim saw*
5. *Elohim distinguished between*
6. *Elohim named*

Now let’s explore the Hebrew word translated “**created**.” Below is the BHC Linguistic Model for that Hebrew word **BARA**. This time there is not enough information in the verses above to create Contextual Meaning.

 <u>Transliteration</u> BARA <u>Translations</u> Create	<u>Lexical Meanings:</u> Create by changing things that exist (Gen. 1:1); create a pure heart (Psalm 51:12), fatten oneself (1 Samuel 2:29), cut down timber, clear ground (Joshua 17:15).
<small>A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament by William L. Holladay © 1971 E. J. Brill, Leiden, The Netherlands; p.47a.</small>	

BARA means to create things by changing things that already exist.

Keeping an *Exploring the Bible Journal* is very important. Your observations and notes will play an important role in understanding the ancient meanings of these words. This is not a test. Using the information above, answer the following question.

1. How would you explain the Hebrew meaning of Elohim to a friend?
2. In the context of Genesis 1:1-5 what is available for Elohim to change?
3. What did Elohim change first?
4. How did the new thing change the creation?