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Steven Ritchie · Oct 23, 2016 · 2 min read

IS "ETH" IN GENESIS 1:1 A REFERENCE TO THE MESSIAH?

Some have falsely alleged that the non-translatable grammatical annunciation "eth" found in Genesis 1:1 somehow contains a hidden meaning for Jesus the Messiah being the A to Z of the Hebrew Alphabet.

Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created (eth) the heavens and the earth."

Eth appears immediately after "created" and is not translated into the English translations because it is a non-translatable word that functions more as a grammatical annunciation than a word. Strong's says that "eth" is "generally used to point out more definitely the object of a verb or preposition, even or namely."

It would be inconsistent to claim that "eth" (the letters A to Z in Hebrew) has a deeper meaning other than its ordinary usage throughout the Hebrew Bible. "Eth" is used about 11,000 times in the Hebrew Scriptures without ever being used as a reference to the Messiah or as a reference to the A to Z of the Hebrew alphabet.

Eth serves as a grammatical function to annunciate something much like our English words "even" or "namely." For example, Genesis 10:8 says that "Cush fathered "eth" Nimrod ..." In other words, Cush fathered the person annunciated as Nimrod, "namely" or "even" Nimrod.

Genesis 2:6 says, "a mist use to rise from the ground to water "eth" the whole surface of the ground." Eth simply emphasizes or annunciates the fact that "a mist use to rise from the ground to water (even or namely) the whole surface of the ground."

Likewise, Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created "eth" the heavens and the earth." In other words, "In the beginning God created (even or namely) the heavens and the earth."

If "eth" refers to the Messiah or God's A to Z plan for creation in Genesis 1:1, then the meaning of "ETH" is rendered meaningless in the other 11049 times it is used in the Hebrew Bible. Therefore it is difficult to connect "eth" in Genesis 1:1 to Christ's statements in Revelation 1:8 and Revelation 22:13.

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