

אֶרֶץ n.f. & (seldom) m. **earth, land**

1. a. *earth*, whole earth (opp. to a part). **b.** *earth*, opp. to heaven, sky. **c.** *earth* = inhabitants of earth.

2. *land* = **a.** country, territory. **b. district, region.** **c.** tribal territory; and still smaller territories. **d.** piece of ground. **e.** specif. *land* of Canaan, or Israel. **f.** = inhabitants of land. **g.** used even of *Sheôl*.

3. a. *ground*, surface of ground = אֶרֶץ מָה. **b.** *soil*, as productive = אֶרֶץ מָה.

4. אֶרֶץ in phrases: **a.** *people of the land* אֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר לֹא עָמְּהָא of non-Israelites; as well as Isr.; esp. common people, opp. officials, princes. **b.** in measurements of distance, אֶרֶץ מֵהָא כְּבִרְתָּהּ *the space or distance of country* (v. כְּבִרְתָּהּ), *some distance*. **c.** אֶרֶץ הַמִּישׁוֹר *the country of the plain, level or plain country*. **d.** אֶרֶץ הַחַיִּים *land of the living*. **e.** קֵצֵהָ הָאֵל *end(s) of the earth*.

5. pl. אֶרְצוֹת is almost wholly late; it denotes *lands, countries*, often in contrast to Canaan, *lands of the nations*; = the various petty divisions of Canaan afterward united under Israel's control.