
רֵאשִׁית n.f. **beginning, chief**

1. a. *beginning*, of kingdom, year, reign; = first phase, step, or element in course of events; of a thing (רֵאשִׁית); of sin, strife, wisdom, knowledge; *thy beginning* = thine early life, so *his beginning*; ר before cl., אֵל בְּרֵאשִׁית בְּרֵאשִׁית in the beginning when God created (> abs. in the beginning God created); = first season (of a tree); רֵאשִׁית גּוֹיִם first, earliest, of nations. **b.** *first* of fruits, of harvest, grain, dough, wool; Israel is רֵאשִׁית תְּבוּאָתָהּ (i.e. of "s increase); ר = *first-fruits*.

2. *first, chief*; = choice part, of land, offering; abs. *chief thing* (of wisdom).
