

Proverbs 31:10-31- The Virtuous Woman

is also, in Hebrew, an Alphabetic Acrostic

(each verse starts with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet--in order)

א Alef	Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.	ל Lamed	She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with scarlet.
ב Bet	The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain.	מ Mem	She makes tapestry for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.
ג Gimel	She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.	נ Nun	Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.
ד Dalet	She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands.	ס Samekh	She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies sashes for the merchants.
ה He	She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar.	ע Ayin	Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come.
ו Vav	She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants.	פ Pe	She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.
ז Zayin	She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard.	צ Tsadi	She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.
ח Het	She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms.	ק Qof	Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.
ט Tet	She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night.	ר Resh	Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all.
י Yod	She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle.	ש Shin	Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.
כ Kaf	She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.	ת Tav	Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.

Last 4 Alphabetic Acrostics in the Bible:

Lamentations 1 - 22 verses

Lamentations 2 - 22 verses

Lamentations 3 - 66 verses (each letter 3 times)

Lamentations 4 - 22 verses

Lamentations 5 - 22 verses (not an obvious acrostic)

The **Book of Lamentations** (meaning "how?") is a collection of poetic laments (dirges) written to mourn the death of **good King Josiah** (2 Chron. 35:25) at the **valley of Megiddo**. God had warned Josiah--through the mouth of Pharaoh Necho (2 Chron. 35:22) NOT to be involved in the battle between **Egypt & Assyria** vs. **Babylon**. He disguised himself & went to war anyway. In the Hebrew Bible, Lamentations appears in the **Ketuvim** ("Writings") as one of the **Five Megillot** (Scrolls) along with the *Song of Songs, Ruth, Ecclesiastes & Esther*.

ALPHABETIC ACROSTICS

in the
The Hebrew Old Testament

Each of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet are in Psalm 119.

Most Bibles have these letters listed before each

8 verses that begin with that letter.

Hebrew is written right to left.

'Finals' are letters that change their shape (& numerical value) when used at the END of a word.

Alphabet written **English-style** (left to right)

Aleph (A)	Beth (B)	Gimel (G)	Dalet (D)	Heh (H)	Vav (V)
ז	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו
Zayin (Z)	Cheth (Ch)	Teth (T)	Yod (Y)	Kaph (K)	Lamed (L)
ז	ח	ט	י	כ	ל
Mem (M)	Nun (N)	Samekh (S)	Ayin (O)	Peh (P)	Tsaddi (Ts)
מ	נ	ס	ע	פ	צ
Qoph (Q)	Resh (R)	Shin (Sh)	Tau (T)		
ק	ר	ש	ת		finals
Final כ	Final ך	Final ם	Final ן	Final ם	Final ם
ך	ם	ן	ן	ן	ן

ALPHABETIC ACROSTICS IN THE PSALMS

There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet (a.k.a. aleph-bet).

Psalms 9 & 10 together form a loose alphabetic acrostic (38 verses--often with 2 verses beginning with each letter--in alphabetic order).

Psalms 25 is an alphabetic acrostic (22 verses, after verse 5, the 'vav' is missing, after verse 17, the 'qoph' is missing--scholars debate the meaning of that).

Psalms 34 is an alphabetic acrostic (22 verses).

Psalms 37 is an alphabetic acrostic (40 verses, 2 verses between most letters).

Psalms 111 is an alphabetic acrostic (10 verses)

Psalms 112 is an alphabetic acrostic (10 verses)

Psalms 119 is an alphabetic acrostic (176 verses, 8 verses for each letter).

Psalms 145 is an alphabetic acrostic (21 verses--after verse 13-'nun' is missing).

Psalm 1:1-8

A

1

אשרי תמימיךך ההלכים בתורת יהוה:
YHWH TORAH

אשרי נצרי עדיי בכל לב ידרשוהו:
EDAH

אף לאפילו עולה בדרךיו הלכו:
DEREK

אפה צויתה פקדיך לשמר מאד:
PIQUWD

אחלי יכנו דרכי לשמר חקיך:
CHOQ

אז לאאבוש בהביטי אלכל מצותיך:
MITSVAH

אווד בישר לבב בלמי משפטי צדקך:
MISHPAT

אחוקיך אשמר אלתעזבני עדמאד:
CHOQ

1 Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to Yahweh's law.

2 Blessed are those who keep his statutes, who seek him with their whole heart.

3 Yes, they do nothing wrong. They walk in his ways.

4 You have commanded your precepts, that we should fully obey them.

5 Oh that my ways were steadfast to obey your statutes!

6 Then I wouldn't be disappointed, when I consider all of your commandments.

7 I will give thanks to you with uprightness of heart, when I learn your righteous judgments.

8 I will observe your statutes. Don't utterly forsake me.

Here is an example of an alphabetic acrostic in English that is patterned like Psalm 119 with 8 verses for each letter.

patterned LIKE Psalm 119:1-8

A.

At the break of dawn you refresh me
with new mercies

As I rise in the morning I am strengthened
by your grace

All through the day I know you are beside me
your favour is with me always

Although I may stumble and fall
I remain aware of your unmerited forgiveness

Although I am not worthy of your love
you chose to rescue me from death

All of my days are spent in wonder
at the blessings you bestow on me

As I lie down to sleep my heart rejoices
when I remember how much you love me

At the end of the day you comfort me
and revive my soul

starts in the morning

ends in the evening

patterned LIKE Psalm 119:9-16

B.

Before your forgiveness I was dead
but because of your pity I now have life

Because of your redemption
my heart can rejoice in your hope

Be patient with me when I forget who I am
and when I lose my way -SO

Break the chains that keep me bound much
to anything that separates me from you

Break the ties that hold me back LOVE!
from living in the fullness of your grace

Be compassionate towards your child
when my spirit grows weary

Because of your compassion
I will be rejuvenated and restored

Before the burdens of this world weigh me down
renew my strength with your joy