

Alphabetic Acrostic

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

Proverbs 31:10-3 - The Virtuous Woman

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 acrostic)

The **Book of Lamentations** (meaning "how?") is a collection of poetic laments (dirges) written to mourn the death of good King Josiah (1 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): the *Song of Songs*, *Ruth*, *Ecclesiastes*, and *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).

← ALEPH

אשרי תמימךך הלכים בתורת יהוה: 1 Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to Yahweh's law.
YHWH TORAH

אשרי נצרו עדתיו בכל לב ידושוהו: 2 Blessed are those who keep his statutes, who seek him with their whole heart.
EDAH

אף לאפגעלו עולה בדרכיו הלכו: 3 Yes, they do nothing wrong. They walk in his ways.
DEREK

אתה צויתתה פקדיך לשמר מאד: 4 You have commanded your precepts, that we should fully obey them.
PIQUUD

אחלי יכנו דרכי לשמר חקך: 5 Oh that my ways were steadfast to obey your statutes!
CHOQ

אז לאאבוש בהביטי אלכל מצותך: 6 Then I wouldn't be disappointed, when I consider all of your commandments.
MITSVAH

אודך בישר לבב בקמך משפטי צדקך: 7 I will give thanks to you with uprightness of heart, when I learn your righteous judgments.
MISHPAT

אזתקיד אשמר אלתעזבני עדמאד: 8 I will observe your statutes. Don't utterly forsake me.
CHOQ

Psalm 1:1

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

A. *starts in the morning*

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 *ends in the evening*

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
to anything that separates me from you *much*

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

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