The Hidden Name of God in Esther | The Background

- The book of Esther has 167 verses
- There are 192 references to the King, kingdom, or name of Ahasuerus.
- Satan’s work through the Nephilim (of which Hamaan was a descendant) was continuing, and thus Satan was working to destroy the Jewish nation and hinder the fulfillment of the promise of a Redeemer.
- Because of God’s promise, He is obligated to overrule all efforts to destroy the Jewish nation, and He will do so, though often with a hidden face.

Information about the Hebrew Text

- The *Masoretic Text* is the standard text for the Hebrew and Aramaic portions of the Bible.
- The Masorites were a group of rabbis who became the “protectors” of the text.
- On the text, they wrote notes called *Massorah*. These notes:
  - Are called “A fence around the Scriptures”
  - Were not part of the Scripture
  - Were not commentary, but textual facts such as the number of times a letter occurs in a book, the middle word of a book, etc.
- The Massorah contains a note calling attention to the acrostics of the names of God in Esther, which are found four times in the book.

The Four Acrostics: General Information

- Four acrostics are of the word YHWH, on of the word EHYH (“I am that I am”)
- In every case, the four words forming the acrostic are consecutive.
- In three of the four the four words contain a complete sentence.
- Each of the acrostics are words spoken by a different voice:
  - Memucan (1:20)
  - Esther (5:4)
  - Haman (5:13)
  - The writer (7:7)
- In the first two acrostics, the name is formed by the first letter of the four words, and the events spoken of are initial in nature.
- In the last two acrostics the name is formed by the last letter of the four words, and the events spoken of are final in nature.
• In the first and third acrostics, the name is spelled backward, and the words are spoken by a gentile.
• In the second and fourth acrostics, the name is spelled forward, and the name is spoken by a Jew.
• In some manuscripts, the Majuscular lettering is used.

The First Acrostic
• Esther 1:20 (KJV 1900) 20 And when the king’s decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.

The name YHWH Reads backward with the initial letter.

The Second Acrostic
• Esther 5:4 (KJV 1900) 4 And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.

The name YHWH reads forward with the initial letter.

The Third Acrostic
• Esther 5:13 (KJV 1900) 13 Yet all this availleth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king’s gate.

The name YHWH reads backward with the final letter.

The Fourth Acrostic
• Esther 7:7 (KJV 1900) 7 And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.

The name YHWH reads forward with the final letter.
The Backward/Forward Matrix

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- Coincidence or design?
- The work of man or the work of God?