

The Name of the Lord in Esther

It has often been remarked that, of all the books of the Bible, God is not mentioned in the book of Esther. His presence, of course, is implied in the prayer and fasting of Esther and Mordecai. However, there is a claim that the name of the Lord – Yahveh (Jehovah) – can be found hidden in the text. It takes some searching, but the results are interesting. The Name appears four times as an acrostic but each of the four is in a different configuration. Here are my observations:

First Appearance of the Name of the Lord - יהוה - Yahveh

The first appearance is in Esther 1 v 20:

היא וכל-הנשים יתנו
Y H V H

In this instance, the Hebrew text, which is written and read from RIGHT to LEFT, must be followed in the opposite direction, from Left to Right, where the letters of the name of Yahveh come, in Hebrew, at the beginning of each word.

Second Appearance of the Name of the Lord – יהוה - Yahveh

The second appearance is in Esther 5 v 4:

יבוא המלך והמן היום
H V H Y

Here, the Hebrew text, which is written and read from RIGHT to LEFT, must be followed in the same direction, from Right to Left, where the letters of the name of Yahveh come again, in Hebrew, at the beginning of each word.

Third Appearance of the Name of the Lord – יהוה - Yahveh

The third occurrence is in Esther 5 v 13:

זה איננו שוה לי
Y H V H

Here, the Hebrew text, which is written and read from RIGHT to LEFT, must be followed in the opposite direction, from Left to Right, where the letters of the name of Yahveh come, in Hebrew, at the end of each word.

Fourth Appearance of the Name of the Lord – יהוה - Yahveh

The fourth occurrence is in Esther 7 v 7:

כי-כלתה אליו הרעה
H V H Y

Here, the Hebrew text, which is written and read from RIGHT to LEFT, must be followed in the same direction, from Right to Left, where the letters of the name of Yahveh come again, in Hebrew, at the end of each word.

English Translation of the Verses (with relevant phrases in red):

1. **Esther 1 v 20 AV**
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.
2. **Esther 5 v 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.
3. **Esther 5 v 13**
Yet **all this avails me nothing**, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.
4. **Esther 7 v 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.

Thoughts on:

1. **The Two directions – left to right and right to left:**
 - a) "From everlasting to everlasting, You are God." **Psalm 90 v 2** :: from our point of view in time, we can look back in the direction of the past or forward to the future. Always He, Jehovah, is God.
 - b) "From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's Name (Jehovah) is to be praised." **Psalm 113 v 3**
 - c) "For from the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same my Name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto My Name, and a pure offering: for My Name shall be great among the heathen, says the Lord of hosts."
Malachi 1 v 11
 - d) "We love Him because He first loved us." **I John 4 v 19**
 - e) "For of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things: to Whom be glory for ever."
Romans 11 v 36
2. **Letters at the Beginnings and the Endings of Words:**
 - a) "Thus says the Lord (Jehovah) the King of Israel, and his Redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside Me there is no God." **Isaiah 44 v 6**
 - b) "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, says the Lord..." **Revelation 1 v 8**
"I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last..." **Revelation 1 v 11**
"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."
Revelation 22 v 13
 - c) There is a two-fold witness with letters from the beginnings of words and a two-fold witness with letters from the ends of words. Two is the number of 'witness' in the Scriptures.
3. **The Four Occurrences of the Name:**
 - a) Four, in the Bible, is the number associated with universality – e.g. North, South, East and West (the so-called four corners of the earth and also associated with the four winds)
In the NT we have the Four Gospels. This gospel is to be proclaimed in all the world.
Abraham, some four thousand years ago, declared, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right" **Genesis 18 v 25**
 - b) Further each excerpt from each verse consists of only four consecutive words. The Name of Jehovah, in Hebrew consists of only four letters. Hence the name of Jehovah is often referred to as the **Tetragrammaton**, meaning "Four letters". Indeed, He is "the Lord of all the earth." **Joshua 3 v 13**