

Acrostics

An **Acrostic** is a poem or other composition wherein the initial letters form a vertical word or phrase, or are in alphabetical sequence.

In Holy Scripture, the greatest **acrostic** of all, is the entire 119th Psalm. This Psalm contains 176 verses, with eight verses devoted to each of the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. ($22 \times 8 = 176$).

The first eight verses begin with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, **aleph**. The second group of eight verses, each begin with the second letter of the Hebrew alphabet, **beth**. This arrangement and sequence continues entirely on through all twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet...

Bible students have prepared a man-made **acrostic**, based upon John 3:16:

God so loved the world, that He gave His
Only begotten
Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not
Perish, but have
Everlasting
Life.

(Luther W. Martin, *Examples of Biblical Figures of Speech*, Indianapolis, Indiana: Faith and Facts Inc., n.d., 4)