

one is aware of the use of the acrostic in the inspired Word, but before noticing its appearance in the book under consideration, it may be well to follow Dr. Bullinger in his brief reference to its use in other books of the Bible, quoting often his identical words.

There are at least twelve examples of this alphabetical arrangement in the Old Testament. Three of these—Ps. cxi., cxii., and Lam. iii.—are perfect and complete, every line marked by its initial letter being in regular alphabetical order. Ten others are less complete, viz.: Ps. ix. and x., xxv., xxxiv., xxxvii., cxix., cxlv.; Prov. xxxi. 10-31; Lam. i., ii., and iv. These acrostic Scriptures have marvelous peculiarities, and the most wonderful order is observed in the length and arrangements of the stanzas and lines.

Coming now to the book of Esther, Dr. Bullinger tells us that the name of Jehovah is given four times in an acrostic form. The Massorah has a rubrick calling attention to this fact in these four passages; and three ancient manuscripts have been discovered by Dr. Ginsburg, and used by him in editing the new Hebrew text of the Old Testament, in which these letters are written in larger characters and in a more prominent form, so that the Hebrew reader of the book would *see* the word Jehovah four times, while the Gentile hearer who could not read it would not *hear* the sacred Name which revealed the secret influences at work. There is abundant proof, continues our authority, that these acrostics are no more the mere work of man than are the acrostics in other parts of Scripture. Though so clearly indicated in the Massorah, and though confirmed by these manuscripts, they have been hitherto completely unnoticed both by successive editors of the Hebrew Scriptures and by Biblical commentators and students generally.

The following facts are given introductory to the examination of the bearing and teaching of these acrostics:

1. The word Jehovah in the Hebrew, like the word LORD in English, consists of four letters, (J, H, V, H,) which, when written as in Hebrew, are read from right to left.
2. In each acrostic, the four words forming it are *consecutive*, and in each case, except the first, they form a complete sentence.
3. As to their *construction*, there are not two alike; but each one is arranged differently from the other three; while
4. Each is uttered by a different speaker. The first by Memucan,