

## Amalek and G-d's Name

Letters and Numbers of Torah – Beshalach

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After fighting a bitter war with the nation of Amalek, Moses says, “There is a hand on the throne of ( ה - י ) G-d (swearing) that there shall be a war of G-d against Amalek from generation to generation.” (*Exodus 17:16*)

Rashi tells us that ‘G-d A-Imighty swears that His own name is incomplete until Amalek is totally eradicated.’ Indeed, in the passage, G-d’s name is spelled ‘Yud-Hei’, which is only the first half of the complete name, the Tetragrammaton (the four letter name of G-d), spelled ה-ו-ה-י, *Yud-Hei-Vav-Hei*.

But if Amalek is so terrible, why isn’t G-d’s entire name omitted altogether — why does half of it appear?

And why should the last two letters be missing, rather than the first two?

There must be a connection between Amalek and the ‘vav-hei.’