



## THE BIBLE IN VERSE

... by Alvy E. Ford

### GENESIS

#### CHAPTERS 1 TO 50

##### Chapter 1

In the beginning God says, let there be:  
Dry land and firmament, sunlight and sea,  
Livestock and herbage to cover the land;  
Then in the image of God He makes man.

##### Chapter 2

Then on the seventh day God takes His rest.  
Man in the garden of Eden is blessed.  
Adam is warned not to forfeit his life.  
Then from man's rib God produces his wife.

##### Chapter 3

Serpent is crafty and sly to deceive,  
Hurriedly tricks the susceptible Eve.  
God renders judgment, pronouncing the worst;  
Livestock and herbage and mankind are cursed.

##### Chapter 4

Eve bears two sons, namely Abel and Cain.  
Abel, the younger, in anger is slain.  
Cain, the transgressor, gets curse as reward.  
Seth is then born and men call on the Lord.

##### Chapter 5

Lineage of Adam, from Noah to Seth,  
Living for centuries then tasting death.  
Enoch walks Godward, returns not again;  
Then comes Methuselah, oldest of men.

##### Chapter 6

Wickedness flourishes much on the earth.  
Noah exhibits exceptional worth.  
He is commissioned a vessel to build.  
Rain will descend and the earth will be filled.

##### Chapter 7

Ark is now entered; the door is now shut;  
Rain is poured down and the ark is borne up.  
Everything dies on the face of the ground.  
Only those safe in the ark may be found.

##### Chapter 8

Waters recede and the ark finds its berth.  
Never again will a flood sweep the earth.  
Noah builds altar and offers the best.  
God's heart is touched and He promises rest.

##### Chapter 9

Animals now unto mankind are bowed.  
God, as a sign, puts His bow in the cloud.  
Noah makes wine and assuages his thirst;  
Ham sees his nakedness, promptly is cursed.

##### Chapter 10

Lineage of Noah, as seen in his sons.  
Shem, Ham and Japheth, these three are the ones.  
These foster all of the nations of earth,  
Each one distinctive, according to birth.

### **Chapter 11**

People are all of one language and speech,  
Start to build Babel to Heaven to reach.  
God ventures near and confuses their tongue.  
Abram and Sarai foster no young.

### **Chapter 12**

Canaan is promised to Abram this day.  
Famine makes Abram depart Egypt's way.  
There to avoid further trouble and strife,  
Abram calls Sarai, Sister, not Wife.

### **Chapter 13**

Abram and Lot have possessions and herds.  
Pastures are crowded; the herdsmen have words.  
Lot picks the choicest; the land to the east.  
Abram is willing to stay with the least.

### **Chapter 14**

Sodom is taken with Lot and his stuff.  
Abram, the Hebrew, gets angry and tough;  
Brings back the spoil and the people alive,  
Gives to Melchizedek all of the tithe.

### **Chapter 15**

Abram is promised the land for his seed.  
They shall be servants but later be freed.  
Makes there an offering; has a bad dream;  
Later a lamp and a furnace are seen.

### **Chapter 16**

Hagar is given to Abram, to wife,  
Promptly conceives and is cause of much strife.  
Hagar then flees but returns to her place.  
Ishmael is born as the start of a race.

### **Chapter 17**

Abraham's covenant now reaffirmed;  
Sarah shall bear and her son be confirmed.  
Isaac shall come as the covenant seed.  
Now circumcision is firmly decreed.

### **Chapter 18**

God comes to visit at Abraham's place,  
Brings him a message of blessing and grace;  
Then He informs him of Sodom's harsh fare.  
Abraham pleads for the righteous ones there.

### **Chapter 19**

Angels get Lot out of Sodom at last.  
Cities are burned with a fiery blast.  
Lot's wife looks back and is turned into salt.  
Lot and his daughters are found in a fault.

### **Chapter 20**

Once again Sarah is Sister, not Wife.  
Almost, Abimelech loses his life.  
God makes Abimelech leave them alone.  
Give them possessions to fully atone.

### **Chapter 21**

Sarah conceives and son Isaac is born.  
Now is the family relationship torn.  
Hagar and Ishmael are forced to take flight.  
God gives them promise of future delight.

### **Chapter 22**

Abraham's test is a heart-searching one;  
He is commanded to offer his son.  
He, still undaunted, upraises his knife;  
Angel restrains him and saves Isaac's life.

### **Chapter 23**

Sarah, at one-twenty-seven, does die.  
Abraham seeks for a graveyard to buy.  
Bargains for cave of Machpelah this day;  
Four hundred shekels are tendered as pay.

### **Chapter 24**

Servant, for Isaac, a wife is to win,  
Comes to Rebekah of Abraham's kin.  
She is content to surrender her life.  
Isaac is happy and takes her to wife.

### **Chapter 25**

Abraham marries and six sons are born.  
Isaac seeks God, for his wife is forlorn.  
Twins then arrive, Jacob last, Esau first.  
Esau despises the right of his birth.

### **Chapter 26**

Isaac deceives for the sake of his life,  
Calling Rebekah his sister, not wife.  
Isaac is fruitful wherever he dwells.  
Philistines, jealous, contend for his wells.

### **Chapter 27**

Isaac is old, and his eyesight is bad.  
Jacob deceives that his blessing be had.  
Esau is angry and vows he will slay;  
Then does his mother send Jacob away.

### **Chapter 28**

Jacob goes forth to abide with his kin.  
Esau, rebellious, increases his sin.  
Jacob, in dreams, sees the angels descend.  
God gives him word on which he can depend.

### **Chapter 29**

Angels get Lot out of Sodom at last.  
Cities are burned with a fiery blast.  
Lot's wife looks back and is turned into salt.  
Lot and his daughters are found in a fault.

### **Chapter 30**

Bilhah bears two sons and Zilpah two more.  
Leah adds two, and a girl, to the score.  
Rachel at last brings a son to the birth.  
Laban gives Jacob a flock as his worth.

### **Chapter 31**

Jacob departs, is with Laban at odds.  
Rachel deceptively pilfers his gods.  
Laban pursues, is restrained by the Lord.  
Then they agree to abide in accord.

### **Chapter 32**

Jacob is met by the angels of God,  
Fears that his brother will render the rod,  
Sends him a present to lessen his fright.  
Angel then wrestles with Jacob all night.

### **Chapter 33**

Esau now meets him with four hundred men.  
Brothers embrace and are friendly again.  
Jacob gets Esau to honor his gift.  
Esau departs without trouble or rift.

### **Chapter 34**

Dinah goes forth and returns in disgrace,  
Being seduced by a prince of the place.  
Jacob agrees to be neighbor and friend.  
Levi and Simeon kill and offend.

### **Chapter 35**

Deborah dies, and is placed 'neath an oak.  
Rachel gives birth and departs at one stroke.  
Benjamin comes as his father's last prize.  
Isaac at one hundred eighty now dies.

### **Chapter 36**

Esau takes all of the wives he holds dear,  
Also his cattle and moves to mount Seir.  
Offspring of Edom, as dukes, are now known.  
Edom is first with a king on her throne.

### **Chapter 37**

Joseph dreams dreams, and his brothers are mad,  
Plot for their brother a fate that is bad.  
Having no scruples they harshly behave.  
Joseph to Egypt now goes as a slave.

### **Chapter 38**

Judah's two eldest are wicked and die.  
Third one is promised to wed by-and-by.  
Tamar's twin sons are her father-in-law's.  
Pharez is firstborn and Zarah withdraws.

### **Chapter 39**

Joseph finds favor in Potiphar's house.  
There he is tempted by Potiphar's spouse.  
Joseph escapes but his garment remains.  
Joseph is cast into prison in chains.

### **Chapter 40**

Butler and baker have dreams and are sad,  
Tell them to Joseph one good and one bad.  
Joseph interprets and each is fulfilled;  
Butler is freed and the baker is killed.

### **Chapter 41**

Pharaoh has dreams and his mind is depressed.  
Wise men are helpless to put him at rest.  
Joseph interprets; a famine's at hand.  
Joseph is given the charge of the land.

### **Chapter 42**

Joseph's ten brothers now come to buy food.  
Joseph pretends and becomes very rude.  
One is held captive; the rest journey back.  
Every man's money is found in his sack.

### **Chapter 43**

Brothers return now to Egypt for corn,  
Benjamin too, causing Jacob to mourn.  
Captive is freed and the group is complete.  
All are invited with Joseph to eat.

### **Chapter 44**

Corn is provided and brothers start back.  
Cup is discovered in Benjamin's sack.  
Benjamin's held as a servant to be.  
Judah delivers an eloquent plea.

### **Chapter 45**

Joseph is now to his brothers made known.  
Also his love and compassion are shown.  
Pharaoh is pleased and invites them to dwell.  
Jacob is stunned but is grateful as well.

### **Chapter 46**

Israel journeys to Egypt to live.  
God comes in vision His blessing to give.  
All of the tribe numbers three-score and ten.  
Jacob and Joseph together again.

### **Chapter 47**

Jacob is brought before Pharaoh to stand.  
Then he is given the best of the land.  
People are paupers, cannot buy a thing.  
Joseph buys all of the land for the king.

### **Chapter 48**

Jacob is old and is ready to die.  
Joseph's two sons venture forth and come nigh.  
Jacob now claims the two lads as his sons.  
They shall inherit two portions to come.

### **Chapter 49**

Jacob now has all his sons gather near,  
Prophesies things of a far distant year.  
Each son is named and accordingly blessed.  
Jacob reclines and is gathered to rest.

### **Chapter 50**

Now are the brothers concerned with their fate.  
Fearing that Joseph will render them hate.  
Joseph gives comfort and no cause to weep;  
Dies, and is placed in a coffin to keep.