



THE BIBLE IN VERSE

... by Alvy E. Ford

NUMBERS

CHAPTERS 1 TO 36

Chapter 1

Children of Israel now must be polled,
All of the menfolk from twenty years old.
Six-hundred-three thousand, five-fifty, score.
Levites are kept for a specified chore.

Chapter 2

Orders for marching and camping released.
Judah, the largest, is first on the east.
Dan, the next largest, is last to be seen.
Reuben and Ephraim march in between.

Chapter 3

Levites are numbered and given their charge.
They must take care of the service at large.
Firstborn are traded for Levites instead.
Moses and Aaron remain at the head.

Chapter 4

Kohath, Merari, and Gershon are named.
Special assignments for these three are framed.
They are to literally carry the load,
Each time the Israelites take to the road.

Chapter 5

Lepers, and those with an issue, are moved.
Here is the spirit of jealousy proved,
Testing a wife be she guilty or not;
If she is guilty her thigh is to rot.

Chapter 6

Here are the rules of the Nazarite vow.
Many precautions are pertinent now.
Here are the words wherewith peoples are blessed,
Pointing to God as the author of rest.

Chapter 7

Princes of Israel offer by name,
Everyone giving exactly the same:
Wagons and oxen and silver and gold;
All of it counted the sum being told.

Chapter 8

Aaron is ordered to light up the lamp.
Levites are cleansed for their work in the camp.
Twenty-five years, until fifty, they serve;
Then they are placed in a state of reserve.

Chapter 9

People at Sinai the passover keep.
Pillar of cloud on the building does leap.
Cloud in the daytime and fire by night,
Thus are they led by a Heavenly light.

Chapter 10

Two silver trumpets are now to be made.
They shall for warnings and signals be played.
People from Sinai at last do embark,
Marching in order and led by the ark.

Chapter 11

People complain and the fire destroys.
Israel lusts for the flesh he enjoys.
Seventy chosen to carry the strain.
Quail are sent and the people are slain.

Chapter 12

Miriam dares to condemn Moses' wife,
Smitten with leprosy yet given life.
She is shut out of the camp seven days;
Thus she is checked for the fault of her ways.

Chapter 13

Moses sends searchers to spy out the land,
Tells them to bring of the fruit in their hand.
Searchers return with conflicting reports,
Ten call it evil but Caleb retorts.

Chapter 14

People are scared and refuse to go in,
Promptly are cursed for rebellion and sin,
They in the wilderness now must be pared.
Caleb and Josua, only, are spared.

Chapter 15

Sinning through ignorance may be made right;
Willful transgression must perish from sight.
Man gathers sticks on the Sabbath and dies.
People wear fringe as a sign to their eyes.

Chapter 16

Korah, Abiram, and Dathan complain.
Two-hundred-fifty by fire are slain.
Others drop into the pit as their fate.
Plague is begun and the slaughter is great.

Chapter 17

Autographed rods are laid up overnight;
Then in the morning is Aaron's a sight.
Budded and blossomed with almonds adorned;
Thus are the people effectively warned.

Chapter 18

Aaron and sons are responsible now,
Being supported by firstfruit and vow.
Having no part in the land of the tribes,
Levites must offer a tithe from the tithes.

Chapter 19

Burn a red heifer containing no blot.
Lay up her ash in a separate spot.
Thus are the waters that purify made.
People defiled by the dead shall be sprayed.

Chapter 20

There is no water for people or stock.
Moses is ordered to speak to the rock,
Smites it instead and the Lord does complain.
Moses is chastened and Aaron is slain.

Chapter 21

People complain and the serpents are sent.
Moses beseeches the Lord to relent.
Serpent of brass on a pole is revealed;
Those who are bitten may look and be healed.

Chapter 22

Balak calls Balaam the people to curse.
Balaam is spared from a fate that is worse.
Dumb ass rebukes him for being so mean.
Then is the Angel of God to be seen.

Chapter 23

Balak builds altars to offer up beasts.
Balaam is given the words to release,
Blesses the children of Israel twice,
Though he was hired to curse for a price.

Chapter 24

Yet one more time Balaam blesses the tribes.
Balak is angry and wrathfully chides.
Spirit of God is on Balaam to cry,
Speaking of things that shall be by-and-by.

Chapter 25

People bow down to the idols abhorred.
God is incensed and His wrath is outpoured.
Phinehas hurriedly stamps out a life;
Twenty-four thousand are slain in the strife.

Chapter 26

People are counted again in the plains,
Carefully numbered according to names.
Six-hundred-one thousand, seven-thirty, score.
Only two left of those numbered before.

Chapter 27

Moses is told to go up to the mount,
There look on Canaan whence he is shut out,
Then place his hands upon Joshua's head,
Making him leader when Moses is dead.

Chapter 28

Offerings are to be constantly made,
Carefully numbered and measured and weighed,
Daily and weekly and monthly with cheer,
Keeping the passover once in the year.

Chapter 29

Then in the seventh month trumpets are blown,
Great convocations when work is not known,
More about keeping the specified feasts,
Offering flour and oil and beasts.

Chapter 30

Here is the law of the making of vows:
Wife may be bound if her husband allows;
Daughter may too if her dad will agree;
None once established may hope to go free.

Chapter 31

Israel, Midian, clash in a war.
Israel conquers the men they abhor.
Spoils are split between soldiers and host.
Yet, in the end, do the soldiers get most.

Chapter 32

Reuben and Gad and Manasseh's half tribe
Ask for a portion on Jordan's east side.
They will build houses wherein they may dwell,
Then go ahead to deliver and quell.

Chapter 33

Here are the journeys which Israel took,
Just as recorded with care in a book.
Now they are ready to enter the land.
This they must cleanse as the Lord does command.

Chapter 34

Here are the borders of Canaan set forth:
Westward and southward and eastward and north.
Those waiting yet are to get it by lot.
Those who have portions already are not.

Chapter 35

Forty-eight towns for the Levites shall be,
Six of them cities where slayers may flee.
Here is the judgment of slayers declared,
Who shall be guilty and who shall be spared.

Chapter 36

Children of Joseph a problem present,
Fearing lest some of their portion be spent.
Gifts who have property may become brides;
Yet they must marry within their own tribes.