



## THE BIBLE IN VERSE

... by Alvy E. Ford

## DEUTERONOMY

### CHAPTERS 1 TO 34

#### Chapter 1

Forty long years are now closing at last.  
Moses reviews the events that have passed,  
Tells of their wandering, lusting, and sin,  
How they at Canaan refused to go in.

#### Chapter 2

Tells how for days they had compassed Mount Seir,  
How that the nations had started to fear,  
Traveling on till the rebels were dead,  
Then how King Sihon had sampled their dread.

#### Chapter 3

Og, king of Bashan, was utterly stripped;  
He with a bedstead of iron was equipped.  
Moses himself had for their sakes been banned,  
Being forbidden to enter the land.

#### Chapter 4

Moses commences the law to recount,  
Very same law they received in the mount.  
They must not add nor diminish therefrom.  
Idols, especially, they are to shun.

#### Chapter 5

Here the commandments are stated again,  
Written in stone with a Spiritual pen.  
God had declared them for all men to hear.  
Then had the people been smitten with fear.

#### Chapter 6

Do this, oh Israel; all shall be well.  
Think on these things wheresoever you dwell.  
Talk of these laws when you sit down to eat,  
When you go walking or lie down to sleep.

#### Chapter 7

Now as the people go into the land,  
They are to hearken to every command,  
Slaying the natives though coming in droves,  
Burning their images, altars and groves.

#### Chapter 8

They must remember their wilderness jaunt,  
Lest they be proud and their excellence flaunt.  
God is the author of wisdom and health,  
Also the power to multiply wealth.

#### Chapter 9

Moses reminds them again of their sin,  
How they had molded a calf to begin,  
Then had refused to go into the land,  
How he had stood between them and God's hand.

#### Chapter 10

Moses had chiseled new tables of stone,  
Then had gone back to the mountain, alone.  
Now therefore, Israel, cling to the Lord.  
This He demands that His love be outpoured.

### **Chapter 11**

Moses is bringing, not hearsay, but facts.  
This group has witnessed the Lord's mighty acts.  
God wants to bless them and keep them at ease.  
This He will do if they keep His decrees.

### **Chapter 12**

These are the judgments the people shall keep.  
They shall bring tithes of the harvest they reap.  
These must be offered where God will command.  
Hebrews shall loathe all the gods of the land.

### **Chapter 13**

Brother or prophet or dreamer of dreams,  
Showing a sign which is proper it seems;  
If he is trying to lead them astray,  
He must be stoned for his reprobate way.

### **Chapter 14**

Here is the flesh that's accepted and clean,  
Also the flesh that's rejected and mean.  
Tithe must be brought of the field and the herd;  
Thus is the food for the needy assured.

### **Chapter 15**

Freely give out to the poor of the land;  
Then will the Lord fill with plenty your hand.  
Loose every servant who's worked seven years;  
Do it with blessing, not grudging and tears.

### **Chapter 16**

Honor the passover; keep it with joy.  
Always remember how God did destroy.  
Three times a year shall all menfolk appear.  
Render fair judgment to all who come near.

### **Chapter 17**

Offer no sacrifice having a blot.  
Slay all idolaters right on the spot.  
Then, when a king shall arise in your land,  
Let him retain all this law in his hand.

### **Chapter 18**

Levites and priests shall have heritage naught.  
They shall partake of the gifts that are brought.  
Use no enchantment nor wizard nor charm;  
These things are evil; they render you harm.

### **Chapter 19**

Cities of refuge are listed as three.  
These are the places where slayers may flee.  
Do not convict on the witness of one;  
Two or three witnesses prove it was done.

### **Chapter 20**

Be not afraid of an enemy strong.  
Specified warriors shall not go along.  
Peoples afar you may bind and retain;  
Those near at hand must be utterly slain.

### **Chapter 21**

Rules about taking a captive to wife;  
Also, the home that is shaken with strife;  
Also, the son that's as bad as can be;  
Also, the man who is hanged on a tree.

### **Chapter 22**

Always take care of your neighbor's lost stock,  
Be it his raiment, his ox, or his flock.  
Women and men are not garments to trade.  
Sexual sins are deplored and displayed.

### **Chapter 23**

Shun all uncleanness and everything vile.  
God turns away from the things that defile.  
Ask not your brother for usury now.  
Think before pledging; then honor your vow.

### **Chapter 24**

Marriage relationship may become strained;  
Here is the bill of divorcement explained.  
Newlywed husband shall rest for a year,  
Bringing his wife consolation and cheer.

### **Chapter 25**

Judge may decree forty stripes and no more.  
Man must raise seed to his dead brother's score.  
People must use honest measure and weight,  
Render to Amalek pay for his hate.

### **Chapter 26**

Victor shall offer the first of the land,  
Bringing it unto the priest in his hand,  
Thanking the Lord for the way He has blessed,  
Finally freed from his being oppressed.

### **Chapter 27**

Stones shall be plastered when Jordan is crossed.  
There shall the words of this law be embossed.  
Then shall hard curses be uttered again.  
Then shall the multitude answer AMEN.

### **Chapter 28**

If they are yielded, the land shall be blessed;  
If they are stubborn, the land shall be stressed.  
Blessing by cursing is greatly outweighed.  
Terrible grief on the land shall be laid.

### **Chapter 29**

Forty long years have they spent in the way,  
Yet is their clothing not old to this day.  
These folk have witnessed the working of God.  
Let no man hope to escape from His rod.

### **Chapter 30**

Yet, when the people return to the Lord,  
He will deliver from famine and sword,  
Thus are the Israelites called to decide;  
They may in blessing or cursing abide.

### **Chapter 31**

Law is completed and sent to the priest;  
People must hear it the year of release.  
Moses is not to remain here for long;  
Therefore, he teaches the people this song.

### **Chapter 32**

Here are the words of the song which he taught,  
Showing how God, the Creator, had wrought,  
Also the things that should be by-and-by.  
Then he is told to get ready to die.

### **Chapter 33**

Moses now blesses the various tribes.  
Here to each one he some favor ascribes,  
Seeing for Israel blessings outpoured,  
Calling the people the saved by the Lord.

### **Chapter 34**

Moses goes up on the mountain and dies.  
God gives him burial under the skies.  
People are tearful that Moses is dead.  
Joshua now becomes leader instead.