



THE BIBLE IN VERSE

... by Alvy E. Ford

JOSHUA

CHAPTERS 1 TO 24

Chapter 1

God speaks to Joshua, urging him on,
Promising ever to help him along,
Warning him not from the law to depart.
Joshua orders, preparing to start.

Chapter 2

Spies are sent out to consider the land;
There they are saved by a harlot's wise hand.
Then they consent that her house shall go free,
Binding a cord in the window to see.

Chapter 3

People advance to where Jordan does flow.
Priests lead the way that the people may know.
Waters of Jordan stand up on a heap;
Israelites cross without wetting their feet.

Chapter 4

Twelve stones are taken to set up as signs,
Tokens for children of yet future times.
Priests and the ark lastly follow the ranks;
Then does the river return to its banks.

Chapter 5

Joshua now circumcises the males.
Passover's kept and the manna now fails.
Joshua now sees a man with a sword;
Captain is come of the host of the Lord.

Chapter 6

Israel compasses Jericho's walls,
Lets out a shout and the battlement falls.
Natives are smitten; the city is bared;
Household of Rahab, the harlot, is spared.

Chapter 7

People are beaten at Ai and flee.
Joshua prays what the matter might be.
Achan is tried and found guilty of theft.
He and his family are beaten to death.

Chapter 8

Once more at Ai in battle they meet.
This time the city is crushed in defeat.
People are gathered together in awe.
Joshua reads them the words of the law.

Chapter 9

Natives of Gibeon practice deceit,
Binding a bargain both simple and neat,
Making a league with the host of the Lord,
Being delivered thereby from the sword.

Chapter 10

Five kings make war on the host of the Lord.
More die from hailstones than facing the sword.
Joshua orders the sun to remain.
Cities are taken and multitudes slain.

Chapter 11

Multitudes join in a single command,
Warriors in number as countless as sand.
There they are crushed till they struggle no more;
Thus is the land given rest from the war.

Chapter 12

These are the kings which the Israelites slew;
Eastward of Jordan by Moses, fell two.
Westward of Jordan was most fighting done.
Slaughtered by Joshua, thirty and one.

Chapter 13

Joshua now must divide up the land,
Giving it into the specified hand.
Some have already inheritance had;
Reuben, the half of Manasseh, and Gad.

Chapter 14

Caleb comes near to receive his reward.
He had wholeheartedly followed the Lord.
Joshua honors the contract now old.
Hebron is given to Caleb to hold.

Chapter 15

This is the portion which Judah shall get,
Having her cities and boundaries set.
Caleb's young daughters a prize in the strife.
Othniel wins her and takes her to wife.

Chapter 16

Portion of Joseph is severed in two.
Ephraim's section is brought into view.
He having not chased the natives away,
Forces them always a tribute to pay.

Chapter 17

Also Manasseh is given a share.
Even the daughters receive what is fair.
People complain of inadequate store.
Joshua tells them to conquer some more.

Chapter 18

People at Shiloh the tent do erect.
Spies are sent out the terrain to inspect.
Seven more tribes have inheritance yet.
Here are the borders of Benjamin set.

Chapter 19

Last of the tribes get their portions by lot.
Simeon's comes from within Judah's plot.
Dan is the last to be given his start.
Joshua also is given a part.

Chapter 20

Cities of refuge are set as decreed.
These are the cities where slayers are freed.
He who slays suddenly quickly must run.
Here the avenger of blood may not come.

Chapter 21

Levites remember their portion to claim.
Forty-eight cities are given by name.
God gives to Israel all of the land,
Every good promise fulfilled at His hand.

Chapter 22

Reuben and Gad and Manasseh's half tribe,
Being released go to Jordan's east side,
Build there an altar their union to chain.
People are shocked till the builders explain.

Chapter 23

Joshua calls all the people to hear,
Tells them to thrive without doubting or fear;
But should they turn from the way of the Lord,
Then they may hope but to suffer His sword.

Chapter 24

Joshua yet gives the people a choice,
Hears them choose God with unanimous voice,
Sets up a stone as a witness to men;
Then he succumbs at one hundred and ten.