



## THE BIBLE IN VERSE

... by Alvy E. Ford

# 1 SAMUEL

## CHAPTERS 1 TO 31

### Chapter 1

Hannah, at Shiloh, implores for a son.  
Eli speaks peace and the work is begun.  
Samuel is born as an answer to prayer.  
Hannah presents him, his mission to bear.

### Chapter 2

Hannah sings praise to the source of all joys,  
Has five more children, two girls and three boys.  
Eli's two sons sink in sin worse and worse.  
Man of God comes and pronounces a curse.

### Chapter 3

Samuel, the lad, hears a voice in the dark.  
God comes to call him and open his heart.  
Samuel tells Eli the thing that is done.  
Israel sees that prophet is come.

### Chapter 4

Hophni and Phinehas die in the fight.  
Ark of God taken by Philistine might.  
Eli succumbs at the news of the ark.  
Ichabod named as the glory departs.

### Chapter 5

Dagon, the heathen god, bows to the ark.  
Philistine hordes get a terrible mark.  
People of Ashdod and Ekron and Gath,  
Smitten with emerods, suffer God's wrath.

### Chapter 6

Golden mice, emerods, ark, on a cart.  
Milk cows are tethered and homeward they start.  
Men of Beth-shemesh get nose and pry.  
Full fifty thousand are smitten and die.

### Chapter 7

Gather to Mizpah to worship and pray.  
Philistines gather to drive them away.  
Samuel makes offering, burnt, to the Lord.  
God thunders judgment on Philistine horde.

### Chapter 8

Samuel is old and his offspring are bad.  
People crave monarch; the prophet is sad.  
God says to hearken and make them a king,  
Showing the hardship the ruler will bring.

### Chapter 9

Saul goes to search for his father's lost herd.  
God comes to Samuel and whispers a word:  
I have selected this young man as king;  
Rise and anoint him and show him a thing.

### Chapter 10

Samuel anoints him and sends him away.  
Saul is transformed to another this day.  
Later at Mizpah he hides from the crowd.  
Samuel presents him; the shouting is loud.

### **Chapter 11**

Jabesh is offered a heart-rending choice.  
Saul brings an army and makes them rejoice.  
Ammonite smitten and slain and pursued.  
Kingdom at Gilgal is later renewed.

### **Chapter 12**

Samuel the prophet, gray-headed and old,  
Preaches a sermon both tender and bold,  
Calls down the thunders from heaven above,  
Promises help and a service of love.

### **Chapter 13**

Philistines come and the Israelites shake.  
Saul burns an off'ring, a dreadful mistake.  
Samuel rebukes him and goes on his way.  
Saul counts his troops and is left in dismay.

### **Chapter 14**

Jonathan starts the invader's defeat.  
Philistines trample themselves in retreat.  
Jonathan eats over Saul's stern command.  
Israelites rescue him out of Saul's hand.

### **Chapter 15**

Saul is commanded to utterly slay,  
Stubbornly holds the select of the prey,  
Loses his place in the program of God,  
Tries disobedience, suffers the rod.

### **Chapter 16**

Samuel anoints the lad David this day;  
Spirit of God comes upon him to stay.  
Saul by a spirit of evil is pressed;  
David plays music and brings welcome rest.

### **Chapter 17**

Philistines send out Goliath to fight.  
Israelite warriors are shaken with fright.  
David goes forth in the name of the Lord,  
Slaughters the giant with his own bloody sword.

### **Chapter 18**

David is given more credit than Saul.  
Saul tries to pin him with spear to the wall.  
In a vain effort to blot out his life,  
Michal is given to David to wife.

### **Chapter 19**

Jonathan, David, and Michal agree,  
Saul is resentful and David must flee.  
David seeks Samuel in Ramah, his home.  
Saul comes and prophesies naked and prone.

### **Chapter 20**

David and Jonathan make a firm pact;  
True bonds of friendship must never be slacked.  
Saul screams at Jonathan, charges foul play.  
Jonathan sends his friend David away.

### **Chapter 21**

David at Nob seeks the priest of the Lord.  
Priest gives him shewbread and Philistine sword.  
Then off to Achish at Gath, taken prey,  
David feigns madness and scurries away.

### **Chapter 22**

David recruits a small army of men.  
Saul in a rage orders murder again.  
Doeg, the Edomite, slaughters the priests.  
Only Abiathar misses decease.

### **Chapter 23**

Philistines compass Keilah and rob.  
Smitten by David the servant of God.  
Saul comes to Maon and rings him about.  
Philistines war and the threat is stamped out.

### **Chapter 24**

Cave at Engedi is David's retreat.  
Saul ventures in to catch up on his sleep.  
David protects him but cuts off his skirt.  
Saul is embarrassed but suffers no hurt.

### **Chapter 25**

Nabal has shearers and plenty of meats.  
Wife, Abigail, is free with his eats.  
Nabal is selfish and loses his life.  
David takes dear Abigail to wife.

### **Chapter 26**

Saul and his warriors take sleep on the hill.  
David sneaks up and delivers a thrill.  
David protects the first choice of the Lord.  
Saul is remorseful and puts up his sword.

### **Chapter 27**

David takes refuge with Achish at Gath;  
He and his troops near a year and a half  
Raid the near coasts but preserve none alive;  
Hoodwink old Achish, continue to thrive.

### **Chapter 28**

Saul seeks for counsel from Samuel's ghost.  
Endor's old witch brings him near to the host.  
Samuel comes up and brings fear to the king;  
One slender day and his death-knell will ring.

### **Chapter 29**

Philistines go to make war on King Saul.  
David starts with them but gets a recall.  
Philistine lords are suspicious and frown.  
David sent back to his own little town.

### **Chapter 30**

David returns but his Ziklag is burned;  
God says the lost shall be safely returned.  
All is recovered without loss or hurt,  
Brings much advantage to David's own work.

### **Chapter 31**

Israel loses the war and takes flight.  
Saul and his sons are destroyed in the fight.  
Great consternation is spread through the land.  
Saul, knowing well, had defied God's command.