



## THE BIBLE IN VERSE

... by Alvy E. Ford

### EZRA

#### CHAPTERS 1 TO 10

##### Chapter 1

Cyrus gives several a special reward,  
Sends them to build a new house for the Lord,  
Orders their neighbors to help with the need,  
Also decrees that their treasures be freed.

##### Chapter 2

These are the people who come to the land,  
Having Zerubbabel chief in command,  
Near fifty thousand to make a new start,  
Some giving out with a liberal heart.

##### Chapter 3

Now the foundation is finally laid.  
Mingled emotions are freely displayed.  
Great is the noise to be heard far about.  
Some folk are weeping while other folk shout.

##### Chapter 4

Heathen make trouble by wanting to aid.  
Being rejected their wrath is displayed.  
They move to weaken Zerubbabel's hand,  
Getting the monarch to change his command.

##### Chapter 5

Haggai the prophet stands up to proclaim,  
Urging them on in the Lord's worthy name.  
People take heart and continue to build.  
Heathen protest that the work must be stilled.

##### Chapter 6

Now King Darius sends orders indeed,  
Says that the Jews must from trouble be freed.  
People make haste as their skills they employ,  
Have dedication with shouting and joy.

##### Chapter 7

Ezra comes down to Jerusalem now,  
Having a grant as the king does allow;  
Being supplied for the work of the Lord,  
Having the right to correct with the sword.

##### Chapter 8

Ezra comes down with a number of men,  
Bringing the gold and the silver again,  
Prays to the Lord that His blessing be had,  
Gets to Jerusalem sheltered and glad.

##### Chapter 9

Leaders have married the lost of the land;  
This in defiance of God's stern command.  
Ezra is shocked by their terrible way,  
Being ashamed to confess and to pray.

##### Chapter 10

People draw near to erase their bad stain,  
Shaking with fear and the cold and the rain,  
Hoping to sever this blot from their lives.  
There they agree to cast out their strange wives.