



THE BIBLE IN VERSE

... by Alvy E. Ford

JOB

CHAPTERS 1 TO 42

Chapter 1

Job is a man who is perfect and right,
Having possessions and honor and might.
Satan declares he can make the man fall.
Job is bereaved of his children and all.

Chapter 2

Job is afflicted is stricken and ill;
Yet he retains his integrity still.
Wife turns upon him not seeming to fear.
Three of his friends come to comfort and cheer.

Chapter 3

Job freely curses the day of his birth,
Hating the fact that he walked on the earth,
Wishing, instead, he had never been born,
Never had lived to see sorrow and mourn.

Chapter 4

Now does Eliphaz give forth with his word,
Telling the things he in vision has heard;
Strongly implying that Job is at fault,
Seemingly wishing the Lord to exalt.

Chapter 5

Man, he contends, unto trouble is born;
Therefore seek God to relieve those who mourn.
God will lift up, wipe the tears from their eyes,
Also defeat all the things of the wise.

Chapter 6

Job now responds with a pitiful cry,
Wishing he yet be permitted to die.
Then he heaps scorn on his talkative friend,
Brands him as being untrue in the end.

Chapter 7

Man is appointed a time upon earth;
Then he receives a reward for his worth.
Job now complains of his pitiful state,
Then asks the why of his burdensome fate.

Chapter 8

Bildad, the Shuhite, expresses his view,
Telling poor Job what he thinks he should do.
God will not cast any perfect away,
Neither give help to the bad in his day.

Chapter 9

Job now agrees that these things are quite true;
Yet what is man in his weakness to do.
God is not man to be answered and seen,
Nor is there any to go in between.

Chapter 10

Now to the Lord is Job's message addressed,
Wanting to know why his life is oppressed,
Pointing Him out as the giver of life,
Asking a respite from trouble and strife.

Chapter 11

Zophar comes forth with a bitter refrain,
Charging poor Job with an odious stain.
If he will turn from iniquitous ways,
Then he will truly have bountiful days.

Chapter 12

Job is sarcastic in giving reply,
Saying that wisdom with these men will die;
Then says that others have wisdom as they,
Everyone knowing such things as these say.

Chapter 13

Job with a withering tongue does advise,
Calling his comforters forgers of lies;
Telling these worthless physicians to cease,
They would show wisdom by holding their peace.

Chapter 14

Job now addresses his plea to the Lord,
Knowing from hence he shall get his reward.
Trees if cut down may sprout forth to the rain;
But shall a man hope his life to regain?

Chapter 15

Once more Eliphaz expresses his mind;
Job should leave all idle talking behind,
Not giving vent to expressions of pride;
God is above and cannot be denied.

Chapter 16

Job now replies to his wonderful friends,
They are for comforts the poorest of ends.
If they were stricken in his place instead,
He would try lifting the load from their heads.

Chapter 17

Job is now nearing the brink of the grave,
Yet there is no one to strengthen and save.
There is not one of his friends who is wise,
No one to counsel and rightly advise.

Chapter 18

Bildad the Shuhite renews his refrain,
Asking why Job holds his friends in disdain,
Saying that Job is too lofty and proud,
Wicked shall faint and be utterly bowed.

Chapter 19

Job now explains that he's hurt of the Lord,
God has extended His chastening sword.
Soon he may die and be under the sod,
Yet in his flesh he will look upon God.

Chapter 20

Zophar now offers his message with haste:
Wicked is destined to perish as waste;
People may search but he cannot be found,
Punctured and pulverized, smitten and ground.

Chapter 21

Job in responding is quick to deny:
Comfort is vain; in their answers they lie;
Wicked are not always broken and swept;
They for the day of destruction are kept.

Chapter 22

Now does Eliphaz expound the third time,
Charges poor Job with a manifold crime,
Tells him to turn to the law of the Lord;
Then he shall garner a gracious reward.

Chapter 23

Job now complains of his bitter estate,
Wishes to meet with the Lord to debate.
God would not use His great power to scold,
Rather to strengthen and lift and enfold.

Chapter 24

Seeing that God watches all things alive,
Why do the wicked continue to thrive,
Being permitted to hurt and deceive,
Causing the needy to suffer and grieve?

Chapter 25

Bildad says God's might and power are not known,
Nor is the count of His multitude shown.
Even the stars are not clean in His sight.
How then can mankind be perfect and right?

Chapter 26

Job gives an answer to searing contempt.
Bildad's whole speech was from wisdom exempt.
Then he gives out with some statements of worth,
Pointing out facts of the heavens and earth.

Chapter 27

Job is determined, though breathing his last,
Yet shall his righteousness stand and hold fast.
He will not let his integrity go.
Then he the way of the wicked does show.

Chapter 28

There is a vein for the silver and gold,
Iron in abundance and waters untold.
Water and air both by measure are weighed.
What then is wisdom and where is it stayed?

Chapter 29

Job now remembers his former estate:
How he had honor, his words having weight;
How he had risen to sit as a chief;
How he had given the needy relief.

Chapter 30

Now he is held in derision of men,
Youngsters who would not have answered again.
Now he is held as their byword and song,
Being in misery all the day long.

Chapter 31

Job emphasizes his many good deeds:
How he was quick with the sufferer's needs;
How he was careful to never offend.
Now is the speaking of Job at an end.

Chapter 32

Now his three friends become speechless and dry,
Having no answer to give in reply.
Then young Elihu gives forth with his part,
Having it burning deep down in his heart.

Chapter 33

God, says Elihu, is greater than man;
Therefore why question the work of His hand.
God often uses hard things to correct,
Seeking thereby a dear soul to protect.

Chapter 34

God's ways are righteous; His judgments are fair.
He will not fail those who trust in His care.
Job should be tried to the uttermost end,
Having seen fit to rebel and offend.

Chapter 35

Job had been wrong in exalting his own,
Should have exalted the Lord on His throne.
Man by rebelling cannot hurt the Lord,
Nor yet by righteousness give Him reward.

Chapter 36

God is almighty, despising not one.
God is all knowing; His judgments are done.
God will not honor a man for his wealth.
Godly correction is better than health.

Chapter 37

God thunders forth to the ends of the earth,
Sending the downpour and sending the dearth,
Some for correction and some for the land.
How then does Job dare rebel at His hand?

Chapter 38

God now addresses Himself unto Job,
Asking him questions his knowledge to probe,
Things about earth and the heavenly span.
Job is to answer if answer he can.

Chapter 39

God now interrogates Job about life,
Animals suited for work or for strife,
Ostrich deserting her young ones to die,
Eagle preparing her nest near the sky.

Chapter 40

Job now gives answer, admitting his way,
Sees himself vile with nothing to say.
God reprimands him and takes him to task.
Then He continues His questions to ask.

Chapter 41

Can a man draw great leviathan out?
Can a man place a great hook in his snout?
Can a man cut him apart with a sword?
How then does man make reply to the Lord?

Chapter 42

Job now repents from the depths of his heart,
Prays for his friends that their judgment depart.
God then rewards him with bountiful store,
Giving him double his substance before.