



## THE BIBLE IN VERSE

... by Alvy E. Ford

### ECCLESIASTES

#### CHAPTERS 1 TO 12

##### Chapter 1

Vanity, vanity, under the sun,  
Things that shall be have already been done.  
Solomon seeks after wisdom, his goal.  
All is vexation of spirit and soul.

##### Chapter 2

Now he tries basking in mirth for a time,  
Then switches over and revels in wine,  
Then he gets riches and houses and trees,  
Wisdom, though vain, is far better than these.

##### Chapter 3

Time is ordained for all things on the earth,  
Time to take life, and a time to give birth,  
Time to embrace, and a time to release,  
Time to make war, and a time to make peace.

##### Chapter 4

Now he considers how man is oppressed,  
Then he decides that the unborn are blessed.  
Two are much better than one in life's way.  
Cords of threefold do not easily fray.

##### Chapter 5

Let not the mouth cause the body to sin,  
Be slow to speak, but alert to take in.  
Make not a vow and neglect then to pay,  
Lest you bring judgment for error that way.

##### Chapter 6

God gives a man the abundance of kings,  
But not the power to relish these things.  
This is an evil that's common to men,  
All of man's efforts must perish again.

##### Chapter 7

Sorrow is better than laughter to teach.  
Patience is better than anger in speech.  
Listen not carefully lest someone curse.  
Man is unrighteous but woman is worse.

##### Chapter 8

Man has no power his life to retain.  
Evil unpunished produces a stain.  
Sometimes the wicked receive good reward,  
And on the righteous is evil outpoured.

##### Chapter 9

He who yet lives at least knows he must die,  
He that is dead knows not what, where, nor why.  
Do what you do with the best of your might,  
For in the grave is no working or light.

##### Chapter 10

Dead flies will cause in the ointment a stink,  
So will the prince who at evil does wink.  
Digger of pit will therein suffer blight.  
Breaker of hedge will receive serpent's bite.

## **Chapter 11**

Cast of your bread on the watery way,  
It will return after many a day.  
Give unto seven, and even to eight,  
Not knowing what is determined by fate.

## **Chapter 12**

Preacher not offers acceptable truth,  
Think on your Maker while still in your youth.  
Honor the Lord and revere His command,  
This is expressly the duty of man.