



## THE BIBLE IN VERSE

... by Alvy E. Ford

### PROVERBS

#### CHAPTERS 1 TO 31

##### Chapter 1

Proverbs of Solomon, Israel's king,  
Fear of the Lord is the primary thing.  
Wisdom cries out, and a wise man will hear,  
Therefore give audience, open your ear.

##### Chapter 2

If you seek wisdom, you surely will find.  
God is the Author to give or to bind.  
Then, understanding will keep you from blight,  
Having the knowledge of judgment and right.

##### Chapter 3

Mercy and truth are fine gems for your heart,  
Bind them securely, don't let them depart.  
Honor the Lord with the fruit of your hand,  
Then shall you harvest the good of the land.

##### Chapter 4

Get understanding, and let her not go,  
She will preserve you and help you to grow.  
Cling to instruction, for she is your life,  
Place not your foot in the pathway of strife.

##### Chapter 5

Shun a strange woman, she'll lead you to hell,  
Keep yourself far from the place she does dwell.  
Never rebel at instruction of truth,  
Always rejoice with the wife of your youth.

##### Chapter 6

If you have foolishly signed for a friend,  
Pay off his debt that the matter may end.  
Theft upon payment may rightly be cleared,  
But an adulterer always is smeared.

##### Chapter 7

Comes a young man who is empty of head,  
There is enticed by adultery's bed.  
There for one evening he enters to dwell,  
There he is snared by the forces of hell.

##### Chapter 8

Now understanding releases her voice,  
Wisdom cries out that all men may rejoice.  
Wisdom and prudence are better than gold,  
Knowledge, herself, has a value untold.

##### Chapter 9

Wisdom has builded, her table is spread,  
Here may the simple turn in and be fed.  
Clamorous woman is wicked and vain,  
Here may the simple turn in and be slain.

##### Chapter 10

Treasures of wickedness offer no gain.  
Sleepers in harvest are foolish and vain.  
Labor of righteous men tends unto life.  
Fruitage of wicked men tends unto strife.

### **Chapter 11**

Balances, false, are despised of the Lord.  
Justice in dealing receives His reward.  
Just as a gem on a pig's an offense,  
So's a fair woman without any sense.

### **Chapter 12**

Virtuous wife is her husband's delight,  
She who rebels is his cursing and blight.  
Fools are quite right in their very own eyes,  
He who will hearken to counsel is wise.

### **Chapter 13**

Open the mouth and destruction's begun.  
He who withholds the rod hates his own son.  
Some gather wealth but are empty and void,  
Others disperse it, their lives are enjoyed.

### **Chapter 14**

Foolish tear down while the wise women build.  
Backslider's heart with his own way is filled.  
Man's way seems right, but it leads him to death.  
Simple in heart will believe every breath.

### **Chapter 15**

Better is little while serving the Lord.  
Better a lunch when true love is outpoured.  
Better correction which tendeth to life,  
Better than riches which tendeth to strife.

### **Chapter 16**

Pride leads destruction, the haughty must fall,  
Better be humble, the best place of all.  
Heads that are hoary with glory are bound,  
If they in ways that are righteous are found.

### **Chapter 17**

He who will cover a fault often mends,  
He who repeats it will separate friends.  
He who has knowledge, of talking will spare.  
Rather than meeting a fool, meet a bear.

### **Chapter 18**

Cast down the lot and contention is done.  
Brothers are hardest of all to be won.  
Find a good wife and true pleasure begin.  
Show yourself friendly if friends you would win.

### **Chapter 19**

Witnesses, false, shall be punished indeed.  
He who does lie shall from guilt not be freed.  
Chasten your son while there yet remains hope.  
Bitter, with wifely contentions to cope.

### **Chapter 20**

Wine is a mocker and strong drink is fierce,  
Let it not enter to torture and pierce.  
Bread of deceit will seem tasty at first,  
Later the mouth will be gritty and thirst.

### **Chapter 21**

Better a room on the top of the house,  
Rather than mansions with quarrelsome spouse.  
Righteous consider the wicked's estate.  
Wicked are kept for a troublesome fate.

### **Chapter 22**

Train up a lad in the way he should grow,  
When he is old, he'll continue to go.  
Foolishness hides in a young child's heart,  
Rod of correction will make it depart.

### **Chapter 23**

Eat with discretion when dining with kings.  
Seek not for riches, they make themselves wings.  
Touch not the wine when it's color is red,  
Changing your judgment and turning your head.

### **Chapter 24**

Envy not evil nor seek to his kind,  
They plot destruction, their folly is blind.  
Wise men are strong and increasing in strength.  
Houses are builded by knowledge at length.

### **Chapter 25**

God for His glory conceals great things,  
Searching them out is the honor of kings.  
Take now your foot from the house of your friend,  
Lest he be weary and friendship shall end.

### **Chapter 26**

Meddling with strife just because it appears,  
This is like taking a dog by the ears.  
Fires go out when no wood is put on,  
Talebearers cease when none help them along.

### **Chapter 27**

Boast not tomorrow, it may not come forth.  
Let someone else be pronouncing your worth.  
Faithful indeed are the wounds of a friend.  
Open rebuke will bear fruit in the end.

### **Chapter 28**

Wicked men flee when no danger is near,  
Righteous men stand without doubting or fear.  
He who would cover his sin will not thrive,  
He who confesses will mercy derive.

### **Chapter 29**

He who needs often reproof shall be lost,  
Being rebellious, he suffers the cost.  
Rulers that hearken to lies are a blot,  
People will perish where vision is not.

### **Chapter 30**

There are four things which are satisfied not,  
Four things are wonderful, four things are blot,  
Four things are little, but wondrously wise,  
Four things so mighty that no one defies.

### **Chapter 31**

Wine is not fit for a ruler to drink,  
Lest he pervert, while unable to think.  
Virtuous wife is a treasure indeed,  
She is from folly and laziness freed.