



## THE BIBLE IN VERSE

... by Alvy E. Ford

### JEREMIAH

#### CHAPTERS 1 TO 52

##### Chapter 1

Now Jeremiah is called as a youth.  
He without fear must deliver the truth.  
Sees now a rod and a pot facing north;  
Thus from the north shall an evil break forth.

##### Chapter 2

Prophet must now to Jerusalem cry.  
She is polluted; her trouble is nigh.  
She has forsaken the law of the Lord;  
Therefore is courting His chastening sword.

##### Chapter 3

Nation is like to a treacherous wife,  
Seeking her lovers and sharing her life;  
Yet when she turns, He will welcome His own.  
Then will the city be known as His throne.

##### Chapter 4

Come if you will, says the Lord, and return,  
Lest for your doings My fury shall burn.  
Set up the standard toward Zion; stay not;  
I will bring evil, destruction and blot.

##### Chapter 5

Run to and fro in the streets of the town,  
Seeking one righteous to, pardon, bring down.  
Land is degraded by practices bad;  
Prophets teach falsely and people are glad.

##### Chapter 6

Lies from the prophets and people did gush.  
Were they ashamed? They could not even blush!  
Therefore, you vain congregation, give ear;  
Utter destruction is lingering near.

##### Chapter 7

Mend now your ways, and your life is assured.  
Cease to provoke till My anger be stirred.  
You have built altars to offer your seed;  
Therefore shall slaughter among you be freed.

##### Chapter 8

Then shall they bring out the bones of the dead;  
There to the heavenly host to be spread.  
Of those remaining to witness this strife,  
Death shall be chosen as better than life.

##### Chapter 9

Prophet now wishes his head were the deep;  
He for his people would constantly weep.  
They are adulterous, treacherous men,  
Cheating their brother, deceiving their friend.

##### Chapter 10

Be not afraid of the heathenish gods;  
They give no blessing nor yet bear they rods.  
But of the Lord one would well bee afraid.  
By Him the earth and the heavens were made.

### **Chapter 11**

Woe to the men who the covenant scorn;  
They shall have reason to weep and to mourn.  
Now in conspiracy Judah is found,  
Breaking the contract by which she was bound.

### **Chapter 12**

Why do the wicked both prosper and thrive,  
Living in joy, while they cheat and connive?  
Lord, pluck them out as a sheep to be slain.  
Why should the land be consumed for their stain?

### **Chapter 13**

Prophet now gets a new girdle to wear;  
Goes to Euphrates and buries it there,  
Later retrieves it, not fit to be worn;  
Thus shall the nation be wasted and torn.

### **Chapter 14**

Judah is facing a famine and dearth,  
Dying of cattle and parching of earth.  
Prophets have falsely seen bounty and peace;  
Thus will the famine bring on their decease.

### **Chapter 15**

Moses and Samuel could not intervene;  
Awful transgression is standing between.  
Four kinds of trouble are sent from the Lord:  
Death and captivity, famine and sword.

### **Chapter 16**

Now is the prophet forbidden to wed.  
Women and children alike shall be dead,  
Lying unburied from greatest to least,  
Furnishing food for the fowl and the beast.

### **Chapter 17**

Judah's great sin with a diamond is penned.  
Cursed is the man who on flesh will depend.  
Blessed is he who to Maker will look;  
He shall bear fruit as a tree by the brook.

### **Chapter 18**

Just as the potter can work with his clay,  
Making a vessel for work or for play,  
So the Creator can work with His own,  
Letting them prosper or be overthrown.

### **Chapter 19**

Prophet now goes unto Tophet to preach,  
Breaking a bottle to season his speech.  
Here in this place shall their lifeblood be shed,  
Till the whole valley be filled with the dead.

### **Chapter 20**

Pashur now binds Jeremiah in jail;  
He for this act will most bitterly wail.  
Prophet now curses the day of his birth,  
Wishes he never had walked on the earth.

### **Chapter 21**

King Zedekiah seeks word from the Lord,  
Learns that the city must fall to the sword.  
He who remains in the city has strife;  
He who goes forth and surrenders has life.

### **Chapter 22**

Execute judgment, the land shall be blessed;  
Execute evil, the land shall be stressed.  
Woe to the builder with evil intent,  
Using his neighbor and paying no rent.

### **Chapter 23**

Woe to the shepherds who scatter the sheep;  
As they have planted they surely shall reap.  
Prophet and priest are both vile and profane;  
Hear not their message; they render you vain.

### **Chapter 24**

Prophet now visions two baskets of figs,  
One for enjoyment, the other for pigs.  
Good figs, symbolic of captives returned.  
Bad figs, symbolic of residue spurned.

### **Chapter 25**

Now since the Lord by your evil is pressed,  
Seventy years must the land lie at rest.  
After the seventy years have been scored,  
Then will the wrath of the Lord be outpoured.

### **Chapter 26**

Prophet now speaks his reproof in the court:  
People must turn from their evil report;  
Else will this place like as Shiloh be bared.  
People are angry, but prophet is spared.

### **Chapter 27**

Prophet makes yokes to embellish his neck,  
Sends them to nations whom God would protect.  
If they to Babylon's king will submit,  
God will their own preservation permit.

### **Chapter 28**

Yoke of the prophet is now broken off;  
Thus Hananiah is forward to scoff,  
Teaching the people to trust in his lies.  
Then, true to promise, he presently dies.

### **Chapter 29**

Prophet now writes to captivity's flock,  
Tells them to marry and build and bear stock.  
Then after seventy years will have passed,  
They will return to their country at last.

### **Chapter 30**

Now Jeremiah must write in a book.  
Jacob shall yet on his heritage look.  
He shall return and shall live without fear.  
Then to the Lord shall he draw himself near.

### **Chapter 31**

He who caused Jacob to flee among men,  
Even the same will recall him again.  
Then will the virgin rejoice in the dance.  
Then will the Lord their abundance enhance.

### **Chapter 32**

Now Jeremiah in prison is bound;  
There he completes a transaction profound;  
Buys from a kinsman a parcel of ground,  
Proving his hope of returning is sound.

### **Chapter 33**

Yet shall this city have health and a cure!  
Yet shall the heart be made wholesome and pure!  
Yet shall the houses reecho with cheer!  
Yet for His goodness the nations shall fear!

### **Chapter 34**

Long Zedekiah in bondage shall pine,  
Then at his death have a funeral fine.  
People are urged to let servants go free;  
They with deceit for a season agree.

### **Chapter 35**

Rechabites now are presented with wine.  
They strong in loyalty firmly decline.  
Therefore they have the respect of the Lord.  
Judah in contrast is roughly abhorred.

### **Chapter 36**

Prophet records all the things he has heard,  
Then to the people presents every word.  
Then king Jehoiakim snatches the roll,  
Cuts it in shreds to the hurt of his soul.

### **Chapter 37**

Chaldean armies withdraw from the town;  
Yet they shall gather and batter it down.  
Prophet now ventures to go to his home,  
Promptly is caught and in prison is thrown.

### **Chapter 38**

Prophet is cast in the dungeon by hordes;  
Then Ebed-melech retrieves him with cords.  
Placed in the court where the seekers may call,  
There he remains till Jerusalem's fall.

### **Chapter 39**

City is taken and burned to the ground.  
King Zedekiah is captured and bound.  
Then Jeremiah is given his leave,  
And Ebed-melech is promised reprieve.

### **Chapter 40**

Prophet is given his choice of the land,  
Also some food and a prize in his hand.  
Therefore at Mizpah he casts in his lot.  
Governor hears of a villainous plot.

### **Chapter 41**

Ishmael kills Gedeliah with ease,  
Captures the bulk of the people and flees.  
Then comes Johanan and puts him to rout.  
People decide from the land to go out.

### **Chapter 42**

People now ask Jeremiah to pray;  
Comes back the answer, the people must stay.  
If they abide they shall prosper and grow;  
But they are not unto Egypt to go.

### **Chapter 43**

People rebel at his words and depart,  
Going to Egypt to make a new start.  
Prophet there hides in the clay a great stone;  
Nebuchadrezzar shall here build his throne.

### **Chapter 44**

Prophet reminds all the flock of their sin,  
Warns them that judgment is soon to begin.  
People then shout their defiance of God;  
Thus they must suffer the brunt of His rod.

### **Chapter 45**

Baruch had mourned for his sorrow and grief;  
Prophet now brings him a word of relief.  
He should not seek to be great in his day;  
Yet shall his life be preserved as his prey.

### **Chapter 46**

Egypt now hears the decree of the Lord;  
She for her sin will receive a reward.  
She had been bold to arise and go forth.  
Mighty destruction will come from the north.

### **Chapter 47**

Waters shall rise like a compassing flood;  
Then shall the nation be sodden with blood.  
Thus shall Philistia suffer the sword,  
Punishment sent at the hand of the Lord.

### **Chapter 48**

Moab is next for destruction and wrath;  
Now shall be howling in place of the laugh.  
He has exalted himself toward the Lord;  
Therefore on Moab shall judgment be poured.

### **Chapter 49**

Ammon shall also be smitten by war.  
Edom shall be as a thing to abhor.  
Then shall Damascus be smitten and burned.  
Then upon Elam the wind shall be turned.

### **Chapter 50**

Babylon, too, must be crushed in defeat.  
She must know war till her end is complete.  
She has been proud against Israel's God;  
Therefore she merits His chastening rod.

### **Chapter 51**

Babylon's fate is now written with ink,  
Cast with a stone in the river to sink;  
Thus shall the city be sunk without end.  
Words of the prophet are finished and penned.

### **Chapter 52**

King Zedekiah is evil and bad,  
Fights against Babylon making her mad.  
City is smitten till nothing remains.  
Forty-six hundred are taken in chains.