



THE BIBLE IN VERSE

... by Alvy E. Ford

HOSEA

CHAPTERS 1 TO 14

Chapter 1

Prophet takes Gomer, the whore, as his wife.
Firstborn is Jezreel, symbol of strife.
Israelites later shall be as the sand,
Gathered and bound in a single command.

Chapter 2

Children are urged with their mother to plead.
She has been carried away by her greed.
Yet shall her husband not render the rod,
Rather extend her the mercies of God.

Chapter 3

Prophet pays cash for adulteress now,
Gives her his pledge in exchange for her vow.
Israel long shall be caught in her ways,
Then be restored in the end of the days.

Chapter 4

God has a feud with the folk of the land.
Filthiness flourishes far and at hand.
They have forgotten the law of the Lord.
Idols are worshipped; their plight is deplored.

Chapter 5

Priesthood and people and house of the king,
All have been caught in the treacherous thing.
God is against them; His anger will burn,
Till they acknowledge, repent, and return.

Chapter 6

Come now and let us return to the Lord;
Then shall He come as the rain is outpoured.
God will have mercy but sacrifice not;
Knowledge of God more than offering hot.

Chapter 7

God will remember though people forget.
Nation is caught in its own wicked net.
Ephraim's liked to a cake never turned;
He shall be crushed and by others be spurned.

Chapter 8

Israel's cast off the things she should keep.
Sow to the wind, of the whirlwind reap.
Ephraim built many altars to sin;
Thus shall his folly be gathered to him.

Chapter 9

Israel surely shall lose her delight.
She shall be caught in a terrible plight.
Living in poverty, sunken in shame,
She had forgotten the Lord's worthy name.

Chapter 10

Israel stands as a blight-riddled vine.
She has rejected her Leader divine,
Plowing in wickedness, harvesting sin.
Now sow in righteousness; new life begin.

Chapter 11

God had shown Ephraim how he should go;
Yet he had stumbled, refusing to know.
Israel's fallen in lies and deceit.
Judah is holding, her strength is complete.

Chapter 12

Jacob had power with God and with men,
Causing the Angel to bless him again.
Ephraim feeds on a diet of wind,
Boasts of his riches without having sinned.

Chapter 13

Ephraim, humble, was well reimbursed.
Ephraim, haughty, was utterly cursed.
He will be scattered as smoke or as chaff.
God will redeem him and cause him to laugh.

Chapter 14

Plea for the land to return to the Lord.
He is forgiving; His love is outpoured.
He is the source of all blessing and light.
His ways are perfect; His judgments are right.