



THE BIBLE IN VERSE

... by Alvy E. Ford

MATTHEW

CHAPTERS 1 TO 28

Chapter 1

Book of the lineage of Jesus the Christ,
Reaching from Abraham through Joseph's wife,
Mary, the virgin, brings forth her first son;
Jesus, they name Him; salvation's begun.

Chapter 2

Wise men come seeking, with gifts in their hand.
Joseph and Mary are sent from the land.
Herod, in rage, has the children all killed.
Joseph returns, and the Word is fulfilled.

Chapter 3

John, the baptizer, now comes into sight,
Preaching repentance, to make the heart right.
Jesus comes forth, is submerged in the stream;
Heavens are opened; the Spirit is seen.

Chapter 4

Jesus is tempted with hunger and thirst.
Satan appears, and delivers his worst.
Jesus starts preaching, and healing the sick,
Also begins His Disciples to pick.

Chapter 5

Gives the beatitudes, precious and sweet.
Points out the qualities of the elite.
Here a new teaching is surely begun;
Plotting is sin, though the act is not done.

Chapter 6

Warns not to give to be noticed of men;
Alms done in secret are rendered again.
Teaches the right way to offer up prayer.
Tells His believers to live without care.

Chapter 7

Judging is risky, and should be suppressed.
Ask, says the Master, and you shall be blessed.
Trees are all known by the fruit which they wear.
Wise people listen, but foolish forbear.

Chapter 8

Leprosy is cleansed, and the servant is healed.
Fever rebuked, and the wind is repealed.
Two from the tombs are from devils, set free.
Swine are possessed, and destroyed in the sea.

Chapter 9

Palsied is healed and forgiveness is said.
Daughter of ruler is raised from the dead.
Woman with issue of blood is set free.
Blind men are touched and permitted to see.

Chapter 10

Twelve are sent out, with instructions and might,
Told to deliver, whatever the plight,
Warned to beware of unscrupulous men.
He who gives out will receive it again.

Chapter 11

John sends Disciples to ask of the Lord.
Jesus points out all the blessings outpoured.
John is set forth as Elias of old.
Jesus invites people into the fold.

Chapter 12

Withered is healed; the Sabbath is crossed;
Pharisees howl; accusations are tossed.
Blasphemy's set as a sin unto death.
Jesus refuses the heckler's request.

Chapter 13

Parables, seven, does Jesus expound;
Tells how the sower spreads seed on the ground;
Mustard, and leaven, and merchant, and tares.
Scribes that are wise will deliver these wares.

Chapter 14

Herod beheads John the Baptist for spite.
Jesus and Peter walk waves in the night.
Women and children, and five thousand men,
Dine upon what was one lunch to begin.

Chapter 15

Pharisees say the Disciples are vile.
That which comes out of the mouth may defile.
Woman accepts a position most base.
Four thousand fed in a mountainous place.

Chapter 16

Pharisees, Sadducees seek for a sign;
Jonas, says Jesus, will serve very fine.
Peter's confession is lofty, then low.
What will a merchant exchange for his soul?

Chapter 17

Jesus transfigured, with three on the mount.
Back in the valley, a devil cast out.
Followers cautioned, to fast and to pray.
Peter goes fishing, his tribute to pay.

Chapter 18

He that is greatest must be as a child.
Woe to offenders, for they are defiled.
One is more precious than ninety and nine.
Parable told of exorbitant fine.

Chapter 19

Laws of divorce and remarriage explained;
Marriage is sacred and must be maintained.
Suffers the children to come and be blessed.
Rich, young inquirer is put to the test.

Chapter 20

Parable told of the penny a day.
Followers told what must come by the way.
Mother of Zebedee's sons wants a grant.
Blind men give forth with an ear-catching chant.

Chapter 21

Rides on an ass-colt, and curses the tree.
Merchants are forced from the temple to flee.
Parable told of the vineyard and sons;
Pharisees know they're the reprobate ones.

Chapter 22

Parable told of the wedding and guests.
Sadducees ask of the life after death.
Pharisees question the tax of the land.
Lawyer would know of the greatest command.

Chapter 23

Listen to teachers, and do as they say.
Call no man Father, in this earthly way.
Woe unto Pharisees, scribes, and their kind;
They are false teachers, both foolish and blind.

Chapter 24

Men, at the last, shall be wicked, depraved.
He that endures to the end shall be saved.
Great tribulation is spread on the earth;
Then comes the Son, in His splendor and worth.

Chapter 25

Ten virgins wait for the bridegroom to come.
Talents distributed: five, two, and one.
Jesus will judge when the heavens are cleft;
Sheep on His right, and the goats on His left.

Chapter 26

Woman anoints the Lord's head as He dines.
Jesus eats Passover one final time.
Kiss of betrayal, does Judas bestow.
Peter denies Him, is brought very low.

Chapter 27

Judas, the traitor, snuffs out his own life.
Pilate gives sentence, in spite of his wife.
Jesus is crucified, flanked by two thieves.
Joseph, the body of Jesus, receives.

Chapter 28

Angel descends and the stone is removed.
Soldiers are bribed, lest His rising be proved.
Jesus rejoins His small group on the mount,
Sends them to preach, to baptize and recount.