

## BIBLE BALLAD



### **The Early Covenant: History books:**

Genesis -- when we began;  
Exodus is when we ran;  
Leviticus is priestly lore.  
Numbers tells the sons we bore;  
With Deuteronomy, we close  
The tale of Moses, whom God chose.  
(The Pentateuch is these books' name  
The Jewish Torah is the same.)

Then Joshua said, "I serve the Lord  
Through all my house, he is adored."  
(And Jericho fell by the shout of his men  
For the praise of God was strong in them.)  
Soon the Judges led in war in peace,  
Deborah among them, and Gideon with fleece.  
And a loyal heart with Naomi trod,  
Ruth came to Judah, and to her God.

Two books of Samuel the prophet we hold  
In two books the stories of Kings are told  
Two more Chronicle the housing of the ark  
In Solomon's temple, with seraphic spark!  
There Ezra the priest, copier of books,  
became a great author the way it looks!  
And Nehemiah spoke at length,  
"The joy of the Lord is my strength."

Though trouble for Jews is ever the tale,  
Still God sends heroes that never fail.  
So Tobit was healed by the angel's craft,  
And Judith took sword on her people's behalf.  
And Esther with beauty and wits and prayer  
Protected her people from Haman's lair  
And finally (twice) the Maccabees sons  
Gave limb and life for the chosen ones.

### **The Wisdom Books**

But to worship God  
as he is revealed  
Takes holiness  
more than sword and shield  
So Job is the teacher  
for those in sorrow  
The Psalms give praise;  
the Proverbs borrow  
from Solomon. And  
Ecclesiastes writes  
There's time for everything,  
days and nights,  
And birth and death,  
and mourn and dance,  
And build and break,  
and plans and chance.

There's time for love  
in the Song of Songs.  
Then, lest we forget  
the rights and wrongs,  
We seek deep Wisdom  
in Solomon's prayer  
We go to her house  
and breathe her air.  
Last, but not least  
(did the Jews forget?)  
Ecclesiasticus  
ends the set  
Of the books of wisdom  
the Bible gave  
While the prophets taught  
how God will save.

## The Prophetic Books

Isaiah has words of comfort;  
Jeremiah speaks of grief;  
His Lamentations move the heart;  
Baruch is wise though brief.  
Ezechiel gives warning  
and knits to life dry bones  
Daniel sees Judgement,  
the wrath and the thrones.  
Hosea speaks of love  
and promise of return;  
Joel foretells the Spirit  
to pour into hearts that yearn.  
Amos speaks of famine  
not of bread but the Word;  
Obadiah warns Edom  
of heaven's wrath incurred.  
Babylon's prophet is Jonah  
(he rode in the fish -- but how?)  
Micah speaks of an end to war  
when sword shall turn to plow.  
"The Lord," says Nahum  
"will break the yoke."  
And Habakkuk waits  
for the vision's stroke  
And Zephaniah teaches us  
that God will rest within  
While Haggai preaches  
a final end to sin.  
Zechariah warns the shepherd,  
"Stay beside my flock!"  
Malachi, the final prophet  
speaks of the marriage lock  
And teaches that in the latter days  
we'll see a new Elijah  
To reconcile men with sons  
before the great Messiah.  
These 46 books tell the ancient story  
Of our faithful God and all his glory.

## THE NEW COVENANT

Countless ages come and go  
The plan of God plan seems very slow  
But in the Father's perfect way,  
Jesus was born and slept in the hay.  
Then he grew to be healer, teacher, and friend  
Til he died for love, but it wasn't the end,  
For he rose in glory and sent one gift --  
the Spirit of Truth -- the gospel Lift.

So Matthew wrote for the Jews in Rome  
And Mark was brief for those at home  
Luke wrote for gentiles, healing and kind  
While John grew old with tales to wind.  
The Acts of believers next are told,  
'Specially of Paul, who, brave and bold  
Traveled the sea lanes, end to end  
and wrote his letters to many a friend.

To the Romans he wrote that all works for good  
And twice to Corinthinans how love's understood.  
Then: 'You Galatians are crazy! Faith is the way!'  
To Ephesians: 'Praise God, and live in the Day.'  
'From my heart,' dear Philippians, 'endless thanksgiving,'  
-- plus a word about Jesus and humble living.  
Then to Colossians, on faith, angels, friends,  
Twice to Thessalonians, preparing for ends.  
Two for Timothy, though he was young  
One each for Titus and Philemon.

Paul's letters amaze us, from chains or free  
Yet others wrote of the mystery:

One to the Hebrews on sacrifice,  
the priesthood of Jesus, and its price.

One came from James and two from Peter

Three about love from John

A note from Jude is the last epistle  
and we are almost done.

You who read this Revelation  
knowing my word is true  
Guard your hearts through tribulation  
I will come for you.