



BOOK OF BOOKS, OUR PEOPLE'S STRENGTH

Have you ever heard our *Bible* called by other names? Men and women have referred to the *Bible* using many different descriptive names. One of the best ways we have learned as we speak of this great book is to call it the *Book of Books*. This is the way Dr. Percy Dearmer, one of the world's greatest authorities in the study of hymns, wrote about the Bible when he was trying to put together a hymnal called *Songs of Praise*. It was published in Great Britain in 1925 and was considered by many authorities on hymns to be one of the best.

Since then several other poets have written hymns about the Bible but this one by Dr. Dearmer is still one of the finest.

Several persons are mentioned in the first two stanzas. Can you name a well-known person of each profession who is either living today or through history? For instance a *Statesman* would be Dr. Henry Kissinger.

Complete the following:

Statesman _____

Teacher _____

Hero _____

Poet _____

Prophet _____

Scholar _____

Saint _____

Several words in the hymn may be unfamiliar to you. Can you find the meaning of these words:

Wisdom means _____

Diverse means _____

Scrolls means _____

The tune is called *Liebster Jesu*. It was written by a German musician whose name was Johann R. Ahle. He lived over 300 years ago (1625-1673). The tune in its present form was changed a bit from the way he originally composed it. The great composer Johann Sebastian Bach adapted it to the form we know and use today. Another hymn found in many denominational hymnals that is set to this tune, *Liebster Jesu*, is *Blessed Jesus at Thy Word*. Perhaps you can find it in one of those hymnals.

In which one did you locate it? _____