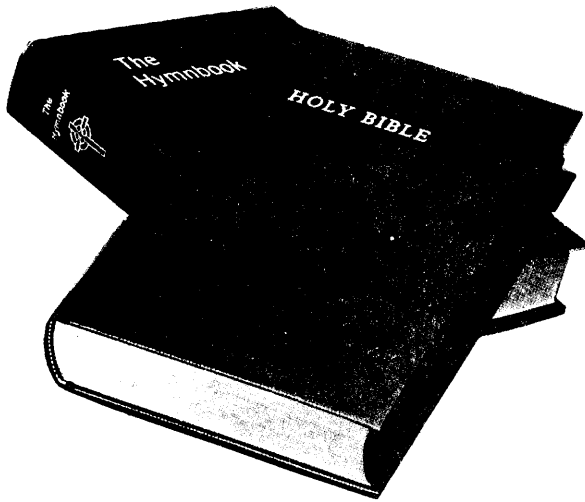


HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

“How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!”

We all love to sing this hymn . . . both for the spirited tune and for discovering more certainly that the Bible really is the foundation of our Christian faith!

No matter how we feel or what difficult experiences we face in life, the Bible teaches that other persons — long ago — felt much the same way. Can you match these persons with the experiences they endured?



<u>Persons</u>	<u>Experiences</u>
Moses	Once close to God, but guilty because he disobeyed God's laws;
Job	Quietly doing God's work although not everyone understood his way of working;
Jesus	Quiet joy in knowing the Christ;
David	Fear, lack of confidence and a poor speaker;
Mary	Loneliness, Despair, Grief

It will take a long time to read the Bible and be able to know who is speaking, about what events they are speaking, and how God speaks to us through their experiences — but certainly studying the Bible in this way will be a worthwhile and exciting adventure.

A mystery surrounds the name of the person who wrote the hymn, *How Firm A Foundation*, with the only clue being the initial “K” given in Dr. John Rippon's 1787 hymnbook, *Selections*. Some people guess that the “K” might have been the Baptist Church's song leader, Robert Keene.

What rhythmic pattern immediately can be seen in the tune:

After learning the tune very well and after you are able to keep the rhythm steady, try singing the hymn as a canon.

How many times do you find a Sol - La - Do (5 - 6 - 8) series of notes in the melody? _____

In what Key is this wonderful old American tune called *Foundation* written? How do you find the Key of a piece of music when it is in flats?

Key of _____ Major

There is a closing message to you in Numbers 6:24-26!