

An Anglo-Saxon Riddle

AC HWÆT IS SE DUMBA SE ðE ON SUMRE DENE RESTED?
SWYÐE SNYTTRAD, HAFAD SEOFON TUNGAN,
HAFAD TUNGENA GEHWYLC TWENTIG ORDA,
HAFAD ORDA GEHWYLC ENGLES SNYTTRO,
ÐARA ðE WILE ANRA HWYLC UPPE BRINGAN,
ÐÆT ÐU ÐÆRE GYLDNAN GESIEHST HIERUSALEM
WEALLAS BLICAN AND HIERA WINROD LIXAN,
SODFÆSTRA SEGN. SAGA HWÆT IC MÆNE!

But what is the voiceless one that rests in the valley?
It is very wise, it has seven tongues,
each tongue has twenty points,
each point has an angel's wisdom,
each will bring you up,
so that you will see golden Jerusalem's
walls shining and its joy-cross gleaming,
the sign of those firm in the truth. Say what I mean!

The Bible