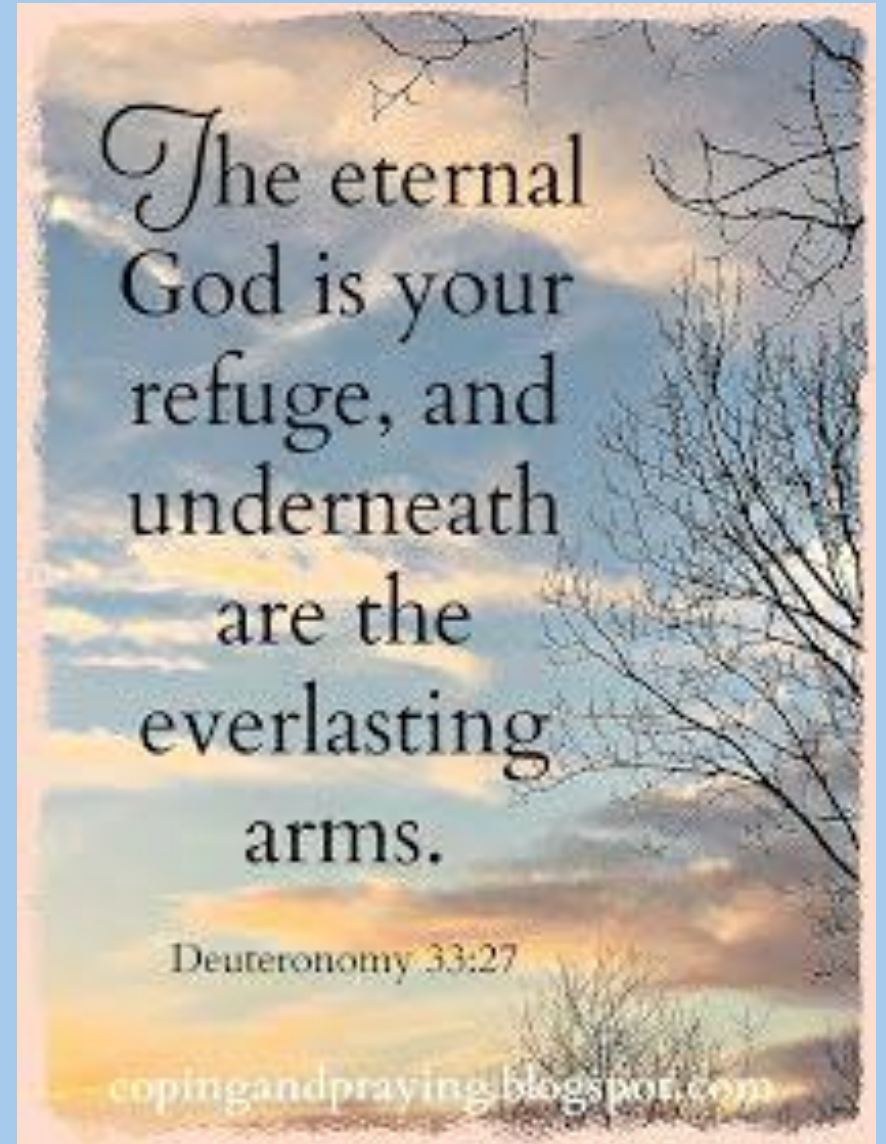


The everlasting arms

Thought for the week Yr5 No2





Opening Prayer

- Hear us Lord as we come to worship You today. May we be conscious of Your presence with us. May we have listening ears and receiving hearts so that this thought may go with us into our week and give us confidence and strength in all we do for You.
- In Jesus' Name Amen

Deuteronomy 33:26-29

- ²⁶ “There is no one like the God of Jeshurun,
who rides across the heavens to help you
and on the clouds in his majesty.
²⁷ The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.
He will drive out your enemies before you,
saying, ‘Destroy them!’
²⁸ So Israel will live in safety;
Jacob will dwell^[a] secure
in a land of grain and new wine,
where the heavens drop dew.
²⁹ Blessed are you, Israel!
Who is like you,
a people saved by the LORD?
He is your shield and helper
and your glorious sword.
Your enemies will cower before you,
and you will tread on their heights.”



An awesome piece of Scripture.

- As I was sitting writing this, I have become aware of the most beautiful sunset right across the evening sky.
- I thought I would take a moment to photograph it, but the windows were too reflective.
- Then I thought I would go down and take a photo from just outside the kitchen where I could see the pink sky stretching all around me but the photo did not show it.
- It was a beautiful and awesome sight, but I was not able to capture it.
- Sometimes a verse in the Bible can be much the same.
- Can we really capture the awesomeness of this verse.
- These are the last words of Moses to the people of Israel before he died.
- As the leader of the people Moses pronounces a Blessing on each of the 12 tribes of Israel before he dies.



A lived experience.



- Moses' own life had been a lived experience of God as His refuge and support.
- Moses had been set apart by God from birth.
- Not long after his birth in Egypt to a Jewish family the Pharaoh had decreed all Jewish baby boys should be killed at birth.
- The midwives had done their best not to do this.
- Moses had been born and hidden for 3 months before his mother devised a plan to keep him safe.
- Moses grew up in the Egyptian Court, but having his mother as a wet nurse meant he would have been given his Jewish identity.
- When Moses fled from Egypt he landed up in a relative's house where he was welcomed and eventually married Jochebed and had Aaron and Miriam.
- He had a safe refuge until God called him go back to Egypt.



Life gets tricky.

- Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.
- God gave them laws and commandments to follow so that they would be given a “land flowing with milk and honey” .
- However, disobedience meant one generation would die before the next would enter the land, with the exception of Joshua, Caleb and Moses.
- Moses would also die before entering the land.
- These are his last words to the people. He has implored them to be obedient to God’s instructions and now pronounces the Blessing.

The refuge and the everlasting arms.

- What wonderful words of comfort and how confidence giving to know that God is your refuge and his everlasting arms are underneath you.
- A refuge – speaks of protection or shelter from danger, trouble unhappiness etc. (Cambridge dictionary)
- The everlasting arms being underneath speaks of being held up.
- It is powerful physical imagery.
- Moses knew he would not enter the promised land, so he has implored the people to keep the commandments God has given.
- He also wants them to know the extent of God's love for them.
- He wants them to know God is there even when he (Moses) will not be.
- So now Moses Blesses all the tribes and his final words are to remind them that it is God who is the one in whom they should put their trust and who is their refuge and their support.



Let's pray.

- Thank You Lord that You are our refuge and strength a very present help in trouble and that underneath are the everlasting arms of support and strength on which we can lean when we are in need.
- We know there are many in our world today who need to know You as their refuge and support. We pray for all those who seek to share You with others, Bless their ministry we pray. We pray for all the troubled parts of the world we continue to pray for Ukraine and Gaza, we pray for the aftermath of the earthquake in Ishikawa, thank you for all those who bring aid to so many places in need.
- We bring to You those people we know who need to know You as their refuge and strength today.....

How Great Thou
Art w/ lyrics By
Alan Jackson
([youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com))



Oh Lord, My God,
when I in
awesome wonder,
consider all the worlds
Thy hands have made.

The Grace



- May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen