Deut. 33:12, 27

[The blue is not in the lesson.]

12 *And* of Benjamin he said, The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by him; *and the Lord* shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders.

“**Who are the ‘beloved of the Lord’?**“The first answer to that question must be-all men. But these great blessings, so beautifully shadowed in this text, do not belong to all men; nor does the designation, ‘the beloved of the Lord,’ belong to all men, but to those who have entered into a special relation to Him” (MacLaren’s Expositions, [www.biblehub.com)](http://www.biblehub.com)).

“***Of Benjamin*** *—*Benjamin is put next to Levi, because the temple, where the work of the Levites lay, was upon the edge of the lot of this tribe. And it is put before Joseph, because of the dignity of Jerusalem (part of which was in this lot) above Samaria, which was in the tribe of Ephraim; likewise because Benjamin adhered to the house of David, and to the temple of God, when the rest of the tribes deserted both. *The beloved of the Lord —*So called in allusion to their father Benjamin, who was the beloved of his father Jacob; and because of the kindness of God to this tribe, which appeared both in this, that they dwelt in the best part of the land, as Josephus affirms, and in the following privilege. *Shall dwell in safety by him —*Shall have his lot nigh to God’s temple, which was both a singular comfort and safeguard to him. *Shall cover —*Shall protect that tribe continually while they cleave to him. *He*— The Lord; *shall dwell —*That is, his temple shall be placed; *between his shoulders —*That is, in his portion, or between his borders, as the word rendered shoulder is often used: see [Numbers 24:11](http://biblehub.com/numbers/24-11.htm). And this was truly the situation of the temple, on both sides whereof was Benjamin’s portion. And though mount Sion was in the tribe of Judah, yet mount Moriah, on which the temple was built, was in the tribe of Benjamin” (Benson Commentary, [www.biblehub.com)](http://www.biblehub.com)).

“The order in which the tribes are here blessed, is not the same as is observed elsewhere. The blessing of Judah may refer to the whole tribe in general, or to David as a type of Christ. Moses largely blesses the tribe of Levi . . . . This prayer is a prophecy, that God will keep up a ministry in his church to the end of time. The tribe of Benjamin had their inheritance close to mount Zion. To be situated near the ordinances, is a precious gift from the Lord, a privilege not to be exchanged for any worldly advantage, or indulgence” (Matthew Henry’s Concise Commentary, [www.biblehub.com)](http://www.biblehub.com)).

“**Shall cover him all the day long;**shall protect that tribe continually while they cleave to him.

**“He shall dwell between his shoulders;**the Lord shall dwell, i.e. his temple shall be placed, *between his shoulders*, i.e. in his portion, or between his borders, or sides, as the word *shoulder* is oft used, as [Exodus 28:7](http://biblehub.com/exodus/28-7.htm) [Numbers 34:11](http://biblehub.com/numbers/34-11.htm) [Joshua 15:8](http://biblehub.com/joshua/15-8.htm),10 Eze 47:1,2. And this was truly the situation of the temple, on both sides whereof was Benjamin’s portion; and though Mount Sion was in the tribe of Judah, yet Mount Moriah, on which the temple was built, was in the tribe of Benjamin” (Matthew Poole’s Commentary, www.biblehub.com).

“He shall dwell between his shoulders - i. e., be supported by God as a son who is carried by his father” (Barnes’ Notes, www.biblehub.com).

27 The eternal God *is thy* refuge, and underneath *are* the everlasting arms:

“**Thy refuge,**or, *thy dwelling-place*. Compare [Psalm 91:1](http://biblehub.com/psalms/91-1.htm).

**“Underneath,**i.e. under thy arms to hold thee up, as my hands were once held up by Aaron and Hur. He will support and defend thee. Or the meaning is, Though he dwelleth on high, yet he comes down to the earth beneath to assist and deliver thee.

“**and underneath are the everlasting arms;** that is, of God, which are the support of his people, and their protection, safety, and security; such as the arms of his everlasting love, which encircle them, and compass them about as a shield; his everlasting covenant, which is immovable, and in which they ever remain; eternal redemption and salvation, wrought out by Christ, which secures them from destruction; and everlasting power, by which they are kept and preserved as in a garrison; and everlasting consolation, which flows from all this: and so the arms of Christ, or his almighty power, are under the world, to uphold it in being; and under his church, to support it, on whose shoulders the government of it is; and under particular believers, whom he carries in his arms, embraces in his bosom, bears them up under all their afflictions and temptations, trials and exercises; nor will he ever suffer them to drop out of his arms, or to be plucked from thence” (Gill’s Exposition of the Bible, www.biblehub.com).

“God is the Refuge **or** Dwelling-place of his people, their Protection amid the storms of life, and the unfailing Source of comfort and blessing to them in their pilgrimage state. Over them is his sheltering protection, and underneath them the support of his everlasting arms” (Pulpit Commentary, www.biblehub.com).