

# Isaiah 26:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O LORD our God, other lords beside thee have had dominion over us: but by thee only will we make mention of thy name.

## Analysis

**O LORD our God, other lords beside thee have had dominion over us** (הָיָה / אֱלֹהֵינוּ בָּעֵלָנוּ אֲדֹנִים זָלַטָּנוּ ba'al, "to rule, possess, marry")—The verb (ba'al, "to rule, possess, marry") carries double significance. It denotes political oppression but also spiritual adultery, since Baal worship constantly seduced Israel. The confession acknowledges both foreign domination (Assyria, later Babylon) and idolatrous compromise as violations of covenant exclusivity with YHWH.

**But by thee only will we make mention of thy name** (לְבַדְּךָ נִזְכֵּר שְׁמֶךָ) —The verb זָכָר (zakar, "to remember, mention") involves more than verbal acknowledgment; it means to invoke God's character and presence in worship and testimony. The exclusive particle לְבַד (levad, "only, alone") echoes Shema monotheism (Deuteronomy 6:4). True repentance returns to covenant faithfulness, acknowledging YHWH alone as rightful Lord.

## Historical Context

This verse reflects Israel's recurring cycle: serving YHWH, sliding into idolatry or political dependence, experiencing oppression, and returning in repentance. The Assyrian crisis (722 BC for northern Israel, 701 BC siege of Jerusalem) demonstrated the futility of trusting Egypt or other nations. Isaiah consistently warned that only trust in YHWH brings security (7:9, 30:15). The language of

'other lords' having dominion anticipates Babylonian exile and the later need to reject pagan rulers' religious claims.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What 'other lords' (money, approval, comfort, politics) compete with God for dominion in your life?
2. How does recognizing past spiritual adultery deepen appreciation for God's covenant faithfulness despite our unfaithfulness?
3. What does it mean practically to 'make mention of God's name only'—how does this shape our speech, priorities, and worship?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּבָן	לְבַד	זָוְלָת	בְּ	אַדְנִים	בָּעֵל	וְנוּ	אֱלֹהִים	יְהֹוָה	יְהֹוָה	וְנוּ	אֱלֹהִים	בָּעֵל	וְנוּ	אֱלֹהִים	יְהֹוָה	יְהֹוָה	
O LORD	our God	thee have had dominion		other lords	beside												
H3068	H430	H1166		H113	H2108												

בָּבָן      לְבַד      זָוְלָת      בְּ      אַדְנִים      בָּעֵל      וְנוּ      אֱלֹהִים      יְהֹוָה      יְהֹוָה      וְנוּ      אֱלֹהִים      בָּעֵל      וְנוּ      אֱלֹהִים      יְהֹוָה      יְהֹוָה

over us but by thee only will we make mention      of thy name

H2142      H8034

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 2:8** (Parallel theme): Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made:

**Romans 6:22** (References God): But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

