

# Psalms 106:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They forsgat God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;

## Analysis

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This verse describes the theological amnesia underlying the golden calf sin. 'They forsgat God their saviour' uses shakach (שָׁכַח), the same 'forgot' as verse 13. Forgetting God isn't mere mental lapse but willful ignorance and practical atheism. 'God their saviour' (El moshiam, אֱלֹהֵי מֹשִׁיאָמ) emphasizes that the One they forgot was their Redeemer. The verse then catalogs what they forgot: 'great things in Egypt' (the ten plagues), 'wondrous works in the land of Ham' (Ham being Egypt's ancestor, Genesis 10:6), and 'terrible things by the Red sea' (the sea-splitting and army-drowning). Despite these recent, massive demonstrations of power, they forgot. This teaches that human memory of God's works is tragically unreliable without the Spirit's sustaining work.

## Historical Context

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The golden calf was made mere months after the Red Sea crossing and plagues. The generation that witnessed God's greatest Old Testament miracles forgot Him almost immediately. This shows that witnessing miracles doesn't produce lasting faith—only regeneration by the Spirit creates enduring trust. Deuteronomy repeatedly commands 'remember' and 'don't forget' (Deuteronomy 6:12; 8:11-14), recognizing human tendency toward forgetfulness.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How do believers today 'forget' God despite past experiences of His faithfulness?
2. What spiritual disciplines help maintain remembrance of God's saving works?
3. Why doesn't witnessing miracles guarantee lasting faith?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּמִצְרַיִם: גָּדוֹל וְתַּעֲשֶׂה כְּחֹל מַוְשִׁיעַ מִן אֶל שׁ כְּחֹל  
They forgat God their saviour which had done great things in Egypt  
H7911 H410 H3467 H6213 H1419 H4714

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 106:13** (Parallel theme): They soon forgat his works; they waited not for his counsel:

**Jeremiah 2:32** (Parallel theme): Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number.

**Deuteronomy 10:21** (References God): He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

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