

# Psalm 44:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange god;

## Analysis

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The impossible hypothetical: 'If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange god.' These actions represent complete apostasy--abandoning Yahweh's identity and worship for foreign deities. The psalmist categorically denies such betrayal, insisting suffering is not punishment for idolatry.

## Historical Context

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Stretching hands to foreign gods describes worship posture. Israel's history included episodes of syncretism and idolatry, often followed by judgment. The psalmist insists this generation has not committed such apostasy.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. What would 'stretching hands to a strange god' look like in our contemporary context?
2. Why is maintaining exclusive worship so central to covenant faithfulness?

## Interlinear Text

אָמַר	שֶׁכְחִנּוּ	שֶׁסֶם	אֵלֶּה יְנוּ	תְּפִירָה	כְּפִירָה
H518	If we have forgotten	the name	of our God	or stretched out	our hands
	H7911	H8034	H430	H6566	H3709

## Additional Cross-References

**Psalms 81:9** (References God): There shall no strange god be in thee; neither shalt thou worship any strange god.

**Job 11:13** (Parallel theme): If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him;

**Psalms 68:31** (References God): Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God.

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