

# 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	כַּפְרָה	יְנּוּ כַּפְרָה
H518	If we have forgotten	the name	of our God	or stretched out	our hands	
	H7911	H8034	H430	H6566	H3709	
לֹא	לְזַרְעָה					

## 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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