

Even though they knew that it was not feasible in the wilderness to have the pleasurable foods of Egypt they so longed for, yet they strongly desired them anyway.

Someone may ask, "But what's wrong with that? If you loved cold milk and ice cream, and had to be in a part of the world where there was none, would it be wrong to desire them? Of course not!"

However, that's not the whole story with the Israelites. In addition to desiring the varied foods of Egypt, they despised the wholesome, nourishing waybread (the manna) that God graciously and faithfully provided for them, and they wilfully preferred the food of Egypt to God's food, even though their diet in Egypt was connected with their slavery!

There is nothing wrong with a healthy and discriminating appetite, but in the context of the wilderness and in view of God's provision for their needs, their desire to gratify their appetites was sinful! The tasty foods of Egypt, not evil in themselves, took on an evil coloration when the Israelites despised the manna God lovingly provided for them in the wilderness.

Second, they wanted a God that was tangible – one they could see and touch.

Even though they knew that God is invisible, nonphysical, and omnipresent, and even though they knew that God had commanded them not to worship any representation of any created thing, yet they wanted a concrete, solid, visible God with substance, size, and shape.