

But what did they get? They got JEHOVAH! They got a God who claimed He was the one true and living God, who demanded total and exclusive allegiance, and was intolerant of other gods and other religious practices. They got a God who was concerned with every detail of their lives, and would discipline and punish them for their sins. They got a God who expected them to do what they could to provide for their own needs, and did not give them everything they desired, but said that some of their desires were sinful and not good for them. They got a God who sometimes allowed them to suffer hunger and thirst and sickness and even death. They got a God who expected them to fight against His enemies and theirs, and to drive those enemies out of the land He had promised them.

That's the kind of God they got!

And in addition, they got a God who loved them, who had taken on Himself the burden of their care and provision through forty years of wilderness wanderings, who was afflicted when they were afflicted, who was incredibly patient and longsuffering with their sins and constant failures, and who had already provided for their forgiveness of sins and salvation through the coming Redeemer!

This dissatisfaction with the God who is, led the people of Israel to conceive of God as they wanted Him to be. And this is a form of idolatry!