

(3) The desire to break through the limits that God has set for human conduct

(4) The desire for relief from the difficulties and hardships of life

(5) The desire for exemption from all struggle and conflict with dangerous enemies

Since this passage and the examples it refers to were written for our instruction and warning, we need to look closely at these desires, discern their lessons, see how they apply to us, and ask what we can and should do about them. Let us take them up in the order in which they appear in the passage.

The first desire that tends to draw us away from God and toward idolatry is:

THE DESIRE TO GRATIFY OUR SINFUL APPETITES

In Numbers 11 the Israelites began to remember and long for the fish, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, the garlic, and the plain, ordinary bread they had eaten in Egypt; and they wept because all they had to eat for the staple part of their diet was the manna that God provided for them day by day.