

1. Why does YHWH choose Saul, a local farmer, to be the first king?
2. Why choose a king from the tribe of Benjamin (9.1; 10.20-21), which was a group reviled for raping a women seeking shelter?
3. Why choose a king from the city of *Gibeah* (10.10, 26; 11.4) in Benjamin, the specific location where the rape occurred?
4. Why does Samuel seem to manipulate (9.19-20; 10.2-8; 15.1-3) and torment (13.11-14; 15.17-31; 28.15-19) Saul into submission to Samuel or rejection as king?
5. If Saul is meant to be a “king,” why is he described receiving the spirit of God like a “judge” (11.6)?
6. Why would Saul choose to remind the people of the Gibeah-rape incident by sending pieces of an oxen throughout Israel to muster troops (11.7)?
7. Why does Saul’s son, Jonathan, lead the troops in battle against the Philistines without telling his father the king (14.1)?
8. Why does Saul make a rash oath to prohibit his hungry soldiers from eating (14.24)?
9. Why does YHWH refuse to answer Saul’s inquiry about whether to go after the Philistines (14.37ff)?
10. Why does Jonathan immediately and publicly (14.29) oppose and dishonor his father, and later, side with Saul’s rival, David (18.1-4; 20.1-17, 30-42)?
11. Given that Saul does not of things that “kings do” (8.11-17), and is said to have fought successfully and valiantly (14.47-48), what is “wrong” with his kingship?
12. Why does YHWH “regret” making Saul king (15.11, 35; 16.1), having made the choice directly?
13. Why does Saul decide to kill his son, Jonathan, over a little honey (14.44) which the people strongly oppose?
14. Why does YHWH “torment” (16.14) Saul with an “evil spirit”?
15. Why does Saul’s daughter, Michal, lie to protect David from Saul’s wrath (19.11-13)?
16. Why does Saul appoint Doeg, from the enemy Edomites (14.47), to be his chief shepherd (21.7)?