

***Why do the people want a king?***

***Why does Samuel become a kingmaker?***

***Why does YHWH accept the people's desire for a monarchy?***

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**MOSES (YHWH?):** Deuteronomy 17:14-15:

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, "I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me," you may indeed set over you a king whom YHWH your God will choose. One of your own community you may set as king over you...

**THE PEOPLE:** 8:4-5:

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king (Heb, *melekh*) to govern us (Heb, *shaphat*, "judge"), like other nations."

**YHWH'S RESPONSE:** 8:7-9:

and YHWH said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only--you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign (Heb, *melekh*) over them."

**THE PEOPLE:** 8:19-20:

But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, "No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles."

**YHWH'S RESPONSE:** 8:21-22:

When Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of YHWH. YHWH said to Samuel, "Listen to their voice and set a king over them."

**SAMUEL'S PERSPECTIVE:** 10:1:

Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him; he said, "YHWH has anointed you ruler (Heb., *nagid*, "prince") over his people Israel. [Note: following sentences are in Greek, but not Hebrew, texts.] You shall reign (Greek, *archo*) over the people of YHWH and you will save them from the hand of their enemies all around. Now this shall be the sign to you that YHWH has anointed you ruler (Gree, *kurios*, "Lord") over his heritage."

**SAMUEL'S PERSPECTIVE:** 10:17-19:

Samuel summoned the people to YHWH at Mizpah. and said to them, "Thus says YHWH, the God of Israel, 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.' But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses; and you have said, 'No! but set a king over us.' Now therefore present yourselves before YHWH by your tribes and by your clans."

**SAMUEL'S PERSPECTIVE:** 12:12:

"But when you saw that King Nahash of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' though YHWH your God was your king."

12:17:

"I will call upon YHWH, that he may send thunder and rain; and you shall know and see that the wickedness that you have done in the sight of YHWH is great in demanding a king for yourselves."

**THE PEOPLE:** 12:19:

All the people said to Samuel, "Pray to YHWH your God for your servants, so that we may not die; for we have added to all our sins the evil of demanding a king for ourselves."