

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

**Why does Samuel become a kingmaker?**

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

**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, *mel-ekh*) 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."**

**YHWH'S REVELATION TO SAMUEL: 9.15-17**

Now the day before Saul came, YHWH had revealed to Samuel: "Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him **to be ruler** over my people Israel. He shall **save my people from the hand of the Philistines**; for I have seen the suffering of my people, because their outcry has come to me." When Samuel saw Saul, YHWH told him, "Here is the man of whom I spoke to you. He it is who shall rule over my people."

**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** (Greek, *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.**"