

April 10 Answers

- 1) Israel's rejection of God, and the anointing of Saul as king. The elders of Israel came to Samuel at Ramah and complained that his sons, whom he had appointed as judges, did not walk in his ways. They said, "Give us a **king** to judge us" (1 Sam 8:6). Their request sounded **sincere**, but their hearts were full of **rebellion** (1 Sam 12:17). God told Samuel that their rejection of his sons (and thus of Samuel himself) was actually a rejection of **God**. This teaches us that if we reject the leader God places over us, we're rejecting Him and committing **idolatry** (1 Sam 8:7–8). [*Samuel's sons were corrupt, and his decision to appoint them as judges was a mistake, but a wrong choice by God's man doesn't give us the license to reject him as our authority.*] The elders' true motives were **sinful**. Instead of obeying God's command to be salt and light to the pagan peoples around them (cf. Exod 19:6; Deut 4:5–8), they wanted to be "**like** all the nations" (1 Sam 8:5, 20). This teaches us that we should not resent the **distinctions** that separate us from the world; rather, we should **embrace** them and use them to reach the lost. God warned Israel of the consequences of demanding a king, but they insisted, and He finally gave them what they wanted. [*Far better for us to listen to God than for God to listen to us! (1 Sam 8:7).*] God chose Saul as a man to meet their **expectations**, a man who truly **looked** like a king. But did Saul have the **character** to match his grand appearance? Only time would tell.