**What were the Israelites expectation when they asked Samuel to give them a king?**

The Israelites' request for a king from Samuel was driven by a combination of practical concerns and a deeper spiritual failing. Here are some of their expectations:

**Desire to be "like all the nations:** This was a primary motivation, as they observed the surrounding kingdoms having a centralized human leader.

**A visible, tangible leader:** They wanted a king they could see, rather than relying on God's invisible guidance or a less structured system of judges.

**To judge them:** They expected the king to be a supreme judicial authority, resolving disputes and administering justice.

**To lead them in battle:** A strong military leader was crucial for protection against their enemies.

**Protection from Philistines and other enemies:** The constant threat from neighbouring peoples was a major concern.

**A unified national identity:** They hoped a king would bring greater cohesion and unity to the disparate tribes.

**Stability and continuity of leadership:** Unlike the judgeship, which was often a temporary and divinely appointed role, a monarchy offered a clear line of succession.

**Addressing the corruption of Samuel's sons:** The unrighteous conduct of Joel and Abijah, Samuel's sons, who were acting as judges, fuelled their desire for a new system.

**A stronger military force:** They believed a king would organize and command a more effective army.

**Centralized decision-making:** They sought a single authority figure to make swift decisions, especially in times of crisis.

**Elimination of local and regional rivalries:** A king might be able to unite the tribes and prevent internal conflicts.

**Improved defence strategies:** They anticipated a king would develop better plans for national defence.

**Increased respect from other nations:** They thought having a king would elevate their standing among their neighbours.

**A sense of security:** A king was perceived as a symbol of strength and security for the nation.

**To avoid the cycle of judges and deliverance:** The pattern of sin, oppression, crying out to God, and a judge being raised up was tiresome to them.

**A human leader to relate to:** They desired a leader they could see, interact with, and hold accountable (though this often proved difficult with kings).

**A figurehead for the nation:** A king would represent Israel to the world.

**A leader to go out before them:** This implies leading from the front, especially in military endeavours.

**To establish a dynasty:** While not explicitly stated, the long-term expectation of kingships in other nations likely implied a desire for a hereditary line of rulers.

**To alleviate the burden of self-governance:** Relying on God's direct rule and individual obedience proved challenging for them.

**A sense of control over their destiny:** Having a human king might have given them a feeling of more direct control.

**Misunderstanding of God's direct rule:** They failed to fully appreciate God as their true King and provider.

**Lack of faith in God's provision and protection:** Their desire for a king indicated a weakening of their trust in Yahweh.

**Conforming to worldly standards:** Their wish to be "like all the nations" showed a departure from their unique identity as God's chosen people.

**Impatience with God's timing and methods:** They sought a quick, human solution rather than waiting on God.

**Short-sightedness regarding the potential abuses of power:** They did not fully grasp the warnings Samuel gave about what a king would take from them.

**A desire for visible strength over spiritual reliance:** They prioritized outward appearances of power over their reliance on God.

**A rejection of God's kingship:** This was the underlying spiritual issue, as God Himself stated they had rejected Him.

**To have a leader who would be accountable to them (in theory):** Though often not the reality with kings, they might have hoped for this.

**A simpler, more understandable system of governance:** The judgeship could be seen as less structured and predictable than a monarchy.