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

The Israelites, when they asked Samuel to give them a king, had several key expectations, driven by a combination of practical concerns and a desire to be like other nations:

Here are points detailing their expectations:

**To be like other nations:** This was a primary motivation. They observed surrounding kingdoms with their monarchs and desired to emulate them.

**A visible, human leader:** They wanted a tangible figurehead they could see, relate to, and follow, rather than relying solely on God's invisible guidance through judges.

**To judge them:** They expected the king to administer justice, resolve disputes, and maintain order within the nation.

**To lead them in battle:** A significant expectation was for the king to go out before them and fight their wars against their enemies, providing military leadership.

**Protection from enemies:** They sought a king who would offer consistent and effective protection against the Philistines and other hostile nations.

**Unity and cohesion:** They hoped a central monarchy would bring greater unity among the tribes, who had often acted independently during the period of the judges.

**Stability and permanence:** They desired a more stable form of government than the intermittent rule of judges, which often depended on a divinely raised individual.

**Succession in leadership:** With Samuel being old and his sons proving corrupt, they wanted a system of succession that wasn't dependent on the character of a judge's offspring.

**Relief from Samuel's sons' corruption:** The immediate catalyst for their request was the corrupt practices of Samuel's sons, Joel and Abijah, who were perverting justice and taking bribes.

**A strong central authority:** They believed a king would establish a stronger governmental structure than the decentralized tribal system.

**A sense of national identity:** A king, like those in other nations, would solidify their identity as a distinct political entity on the world stage.

**Improved military organization:** They anticipated a king would organize and lead a standing army, rather than relying on fragmented tribal militias.

**Effective defence strategies:** A king was expected to devise and execute long-term defence plans against recurring threats.

**A leader with authority to levy taxes and resources:** They understood a king would have the power to gather resources (though they didn't fully grasp the extent of the burden this would entail).

**To bring order out of perceived chaos:** The period of the judges was marked by a cyclical pattern of sin, oppression, repentance, and deliverance, and they sought a king to impose consistent order.

**To avoid the "every man did what was right in his own eyes" problem:** They desired a strong hand to enforce laws and maintain societal standards.

**A human representative to God:** While they had priests and prophets, a king could also act as a representative of the people before God, and vice-versa.

**A system of justice that wasn't tied to a single, aging individual:** They wanted a more institutionalized judicial system.

**A leader who would lead them to victory and prosperity:** They likely associated kingship with the success and power they saw in other nations.

**Security in a dangerous world:** The constant threat from surrounding peoples made them feel vulnerable and believe a king would provide greater security.

**A physical symbol of their nation's strength:** A king would embody the nation's power and prestige.

**A leader who would reside among them:** Unlike God's invisible presence, a king would be a visible presence in their daily lives.

**To consolidate power:** They envisioned a king who would unite the disparate tribal powers into one cohesive governing body.

**To establish a royal court and administration:** They expected the king to set up a centralized government with officials and a bureaucracy.

**A leader who would uphold the law:** They desired a king who would enforce the Mosaic Law, even though historically judges had also done this.

**A leader who would build and fortify cities:** Kings in other nations often undertook significant building projects for defence and infrastructure.

**To end the cycle of foreign domination:** They believed a strong king would definitively break the pattern of being oppressed by other nations.

**A champion for their cause:** They wanted a king who would actively champion their interests and well-being.

**A figure to rally around:** A king would provide a focal point for national loyalty and identity.

**Ultimately, a rejection of God's direct kingship:** Although they didn't explicitly state it as such, their desire for a human king "like all the nations" demonstrated a lack of faith in God's unique and direct rule over them, and a preference for human institutions.