

Answers Chapter 11 Margaret

1. Because Sam Houston had apparently courted her before he could legally marry.
2. gambling and drinking
3. to defend the frontier from Indian attacks
4. Texas would come in as a “slave state”/ the Senate would gain two “slave state” votes
5. he withdrew the request for annexation
6. Comanches
7. buffalo (or meat/game in general)
8. Muguara
9. Mirabeau Lamar
10. Andrew Jackson
11. Land speculators wanted the Cherokee land (also, Lamar hated Indians, that answer is also correct)
12. The Texas Congress voted to make the Cherokee lands “public” (or government) lands, thus defeating the purpose of the land speculators
13. to refrain from excessive drinking
14. the hardship of primitive conditions in Texas; the hardship of uniting herself to a man whose life seemed destined for strife

Discussion/Essay:

1. Zechariah Morrell argued that since these soldiers had fought for both civil and religious liberty in the Texas Revolution, they ought not tear down that liberty by hindering the exercise of that freedom, i.e., the freedom to worship God. He was admonishing them not to be hypocrites but to continue to uphold what they fought for.
2. This is a really “open” question that cannot be answered except in the nature of man. Every man has the “light” of conscience and thus we can acknowledge the “good” traits

of the Comanches. There is a “natural affection” (Rom 1) that is common to man. Even the “publicans” are good to each other; there is a natural kind of loyalty and quid pro quo that can be established when people are in friendly contact, as Noah Smithwick was with the Comanches. It probably helped that his motives were good and he did not seem to be overly suspicious of them or hold any deep-seated malice. But there is also a natural inclination to protect one’s family and associates from danger, and the white settlers were seen as a threat to the Comanches’ livelihood. Bloodshed fed into the sinful desire for vengeance on both sides. So although Smithwick’s friendliness and close proximity may have disarmed their hostility, their sinful nature and darkness (lack of the light of the gospel) was responsible for the atrocities that inflamed the Texans.

3. Sam Houston freely confessed the truth of the Scriptures and the necessity of faith in Christ for salvation. He had witnessed examples of faith in his own life (his mother, Rachel Jackson), and was very familiar with the Scriptures. He seemed to have a desire for salvation. Biblically, according to II Cor 6:14, a Christian should not marry an unbeliever. So, technically, she was wrong to marry him, yet, seeing his degree of spiritual understanding and commitment to see to his wife’s spiritual needs, some students may wish to argue that it falls into a “gray” area. In other words, were they truly so “unequally” yoked if the only thing missing in Houston’s life was that assurance of salvation? (Ultimately Houston came to that place of assurance and was baptized in 1854.)

4. The Cherokee War was an example of the strong oppressing the weak. However, in real life the rule of law is seldom repudiated openly. There will usually be an excuse, and in this case Lamar used the Cherokee renegades as an excuse to blame the whole tribe. So he pretended to be working under a framework of law and justice, when in actuality he was pleasing his friends who wanted the Cherokee land, and pleasing his own animosity toward Indians.

5. When the U.S. failed to annex Texas, Houston sought political ties with Great Britain (and later France). Texas needed financial help, markets for trade, and the protection of a stronger power. But Houston did not truly desire Texas to become a satellite of Great Britain. He wanted to provoke the U.S. to jealousy. Unlike today, in those days Great Britain was still thought of as an enemy; Houston’s father had fought in the Revolutionary War and Houston had suffered wounds at Horseshoe Bend, part of the War of 1812. His generation did not have a lot of warm, fuzzy feelings toward Britain, and the United States would not have wanted another strong power on the North American continent -- Canada was enough. All along, Sam Houston desired annexation by the United States, but for part of the time it seemed prudent to be “coy.”