

# ***God and the Secret of Effective Leadership***

***International Bible Lesson***

**2 Samuel 7:1-17**

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*“Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel” (2 Samuel 7:8—KJV).*

*“Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel” (2 Samuel 7:8—NRSV).*

Few of God’s greatest leaders have risen from greater insignificance than King David. When God sent the prophet Samuel to anoint one of Jesse’s sons to replace King Saul as king, Jesse ignored David and paraded his seven oldest sons before Samuel so he could choose one of them, but God rejected them all. Finally, Jesse had to admit that his youngest son, David, was “keeping the sheep” (1 Samuel 16:10). God explained to Samuel that He chose David because “the LORD looks on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7). God elevated David from following hungry sheep from pasture to pasture to uniting all 12 tribes of Israel into a kingdom and to establishing his throne securely in Jerusalem. God told the prophet Nathan to tell David the reasons for his success: “I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth” (2 Samuel 7:9). The life of King David, with his failures and successes, shows that God keeps His promises. The fact that the Messiah was to be born as a descendant of King David, and Jesus Christ came about 1000 years after King David, demonstrates God’s faithfulness. About 3000 years after King David reigned as king (from approximately 1010-970 BC), we still acknowledge King David as one “of the great ones of the earth,” which is additional evidence that the Bible is truly the Word of God written.

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## **Thinking Further**

1. Why do you think Nathan immediately told David to do all that he had in mind?
2. What made Nathan change his mind? What did Nathan do then?
3. Did God ever want a house of cedar? What reason did God give for His answer?
4. What are some of the things God said He had done for David? What are some of the things God said He would do for David?
5. Who eventually built a house for God? Describe what God said He would do for him?