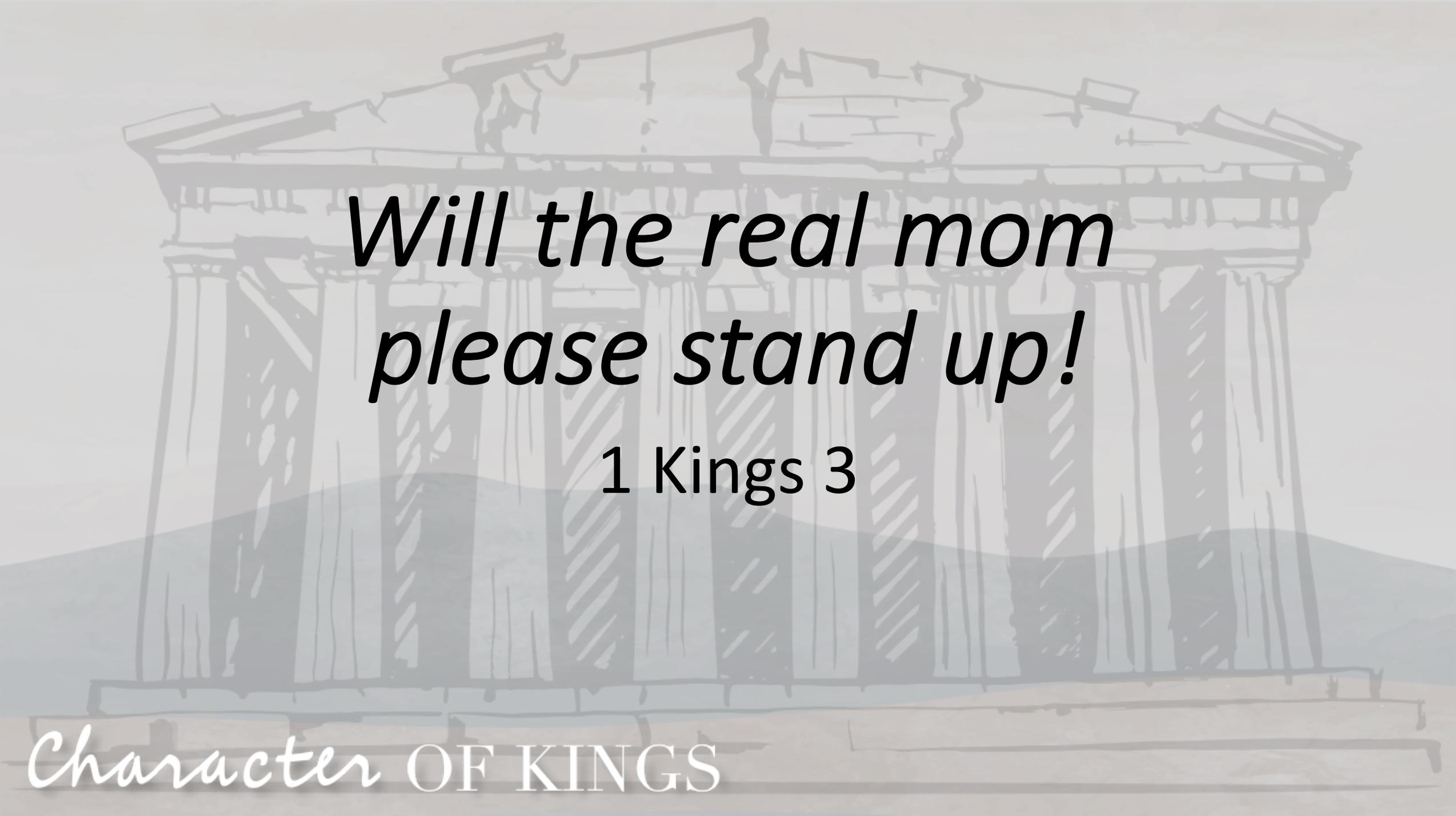


Character
OF KINGS

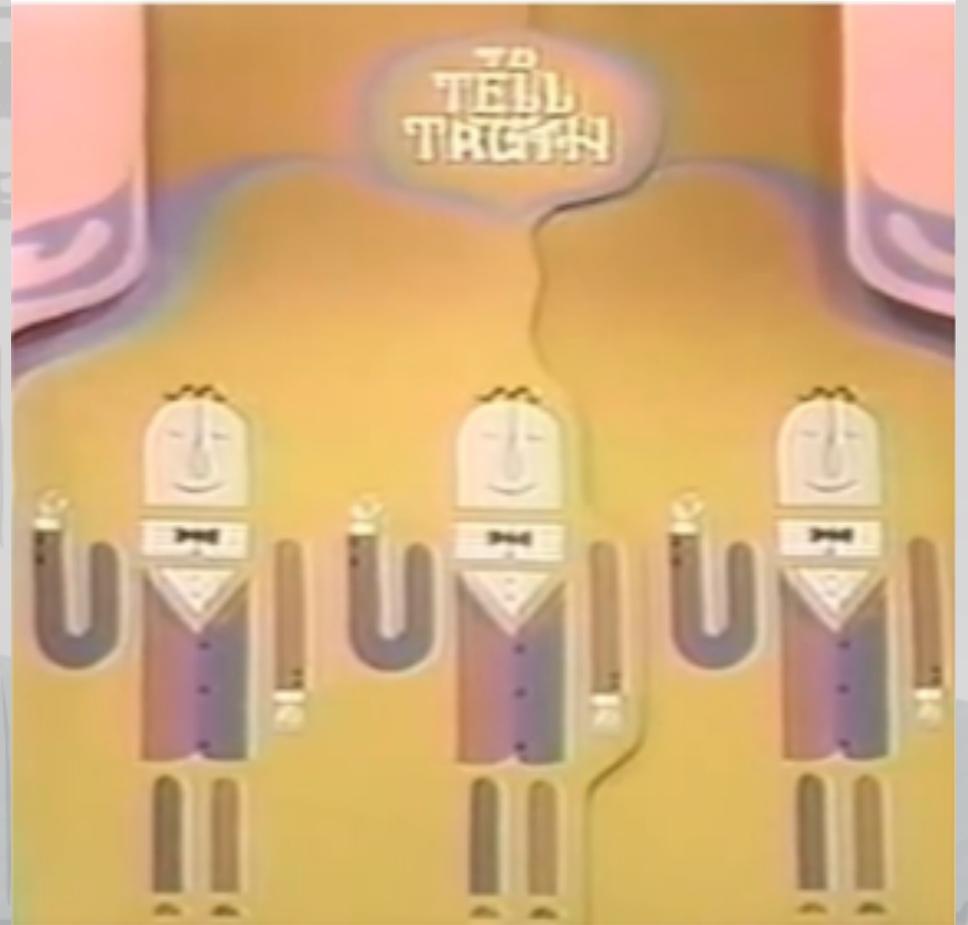


*Will the real mom
please stand up!*

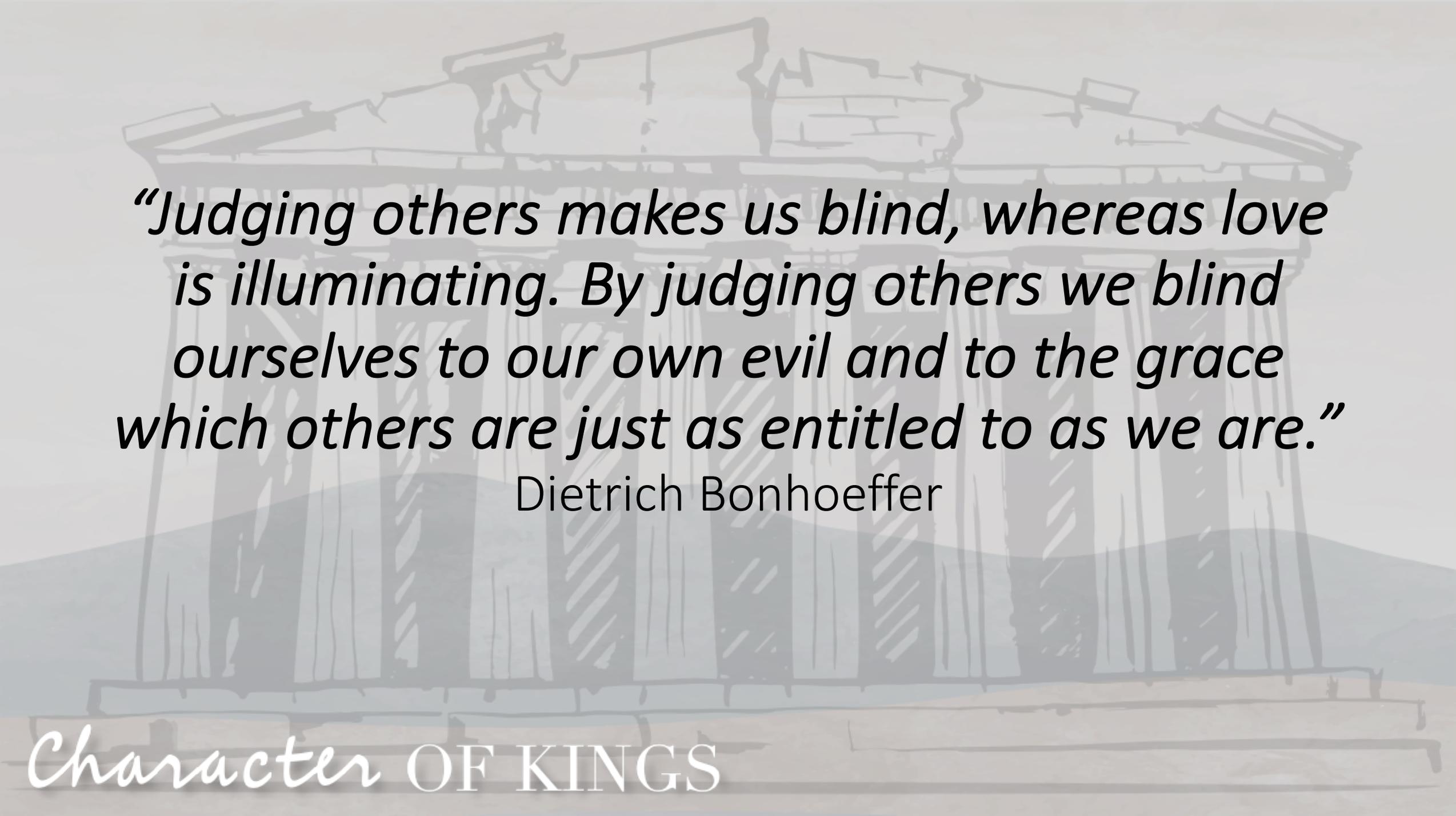
1 Kings 3

Character OF KINGS

To tell the Truth
Would the real
Please stand up!



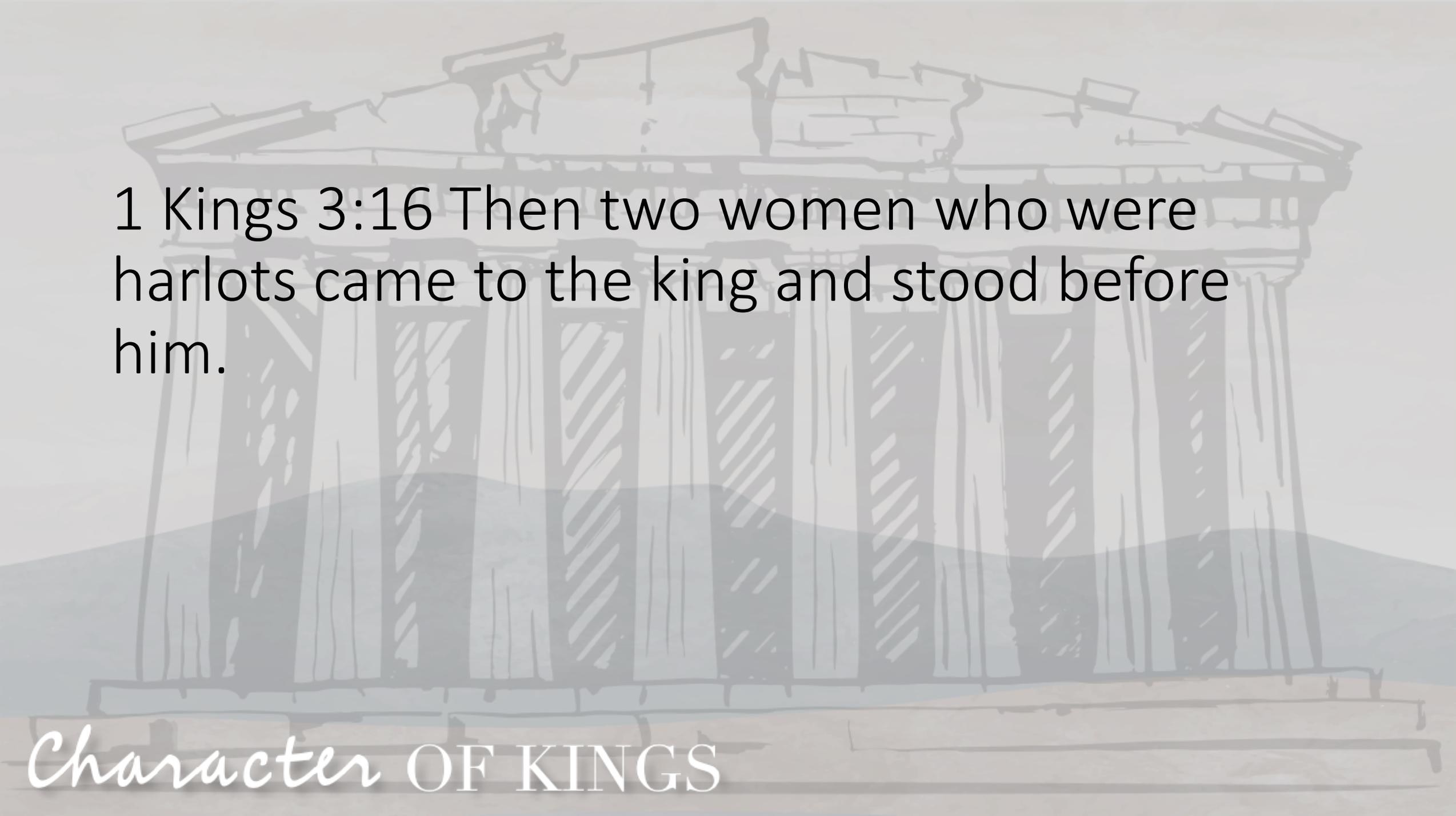
Character OF KINGS



“Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Character OF KINGS



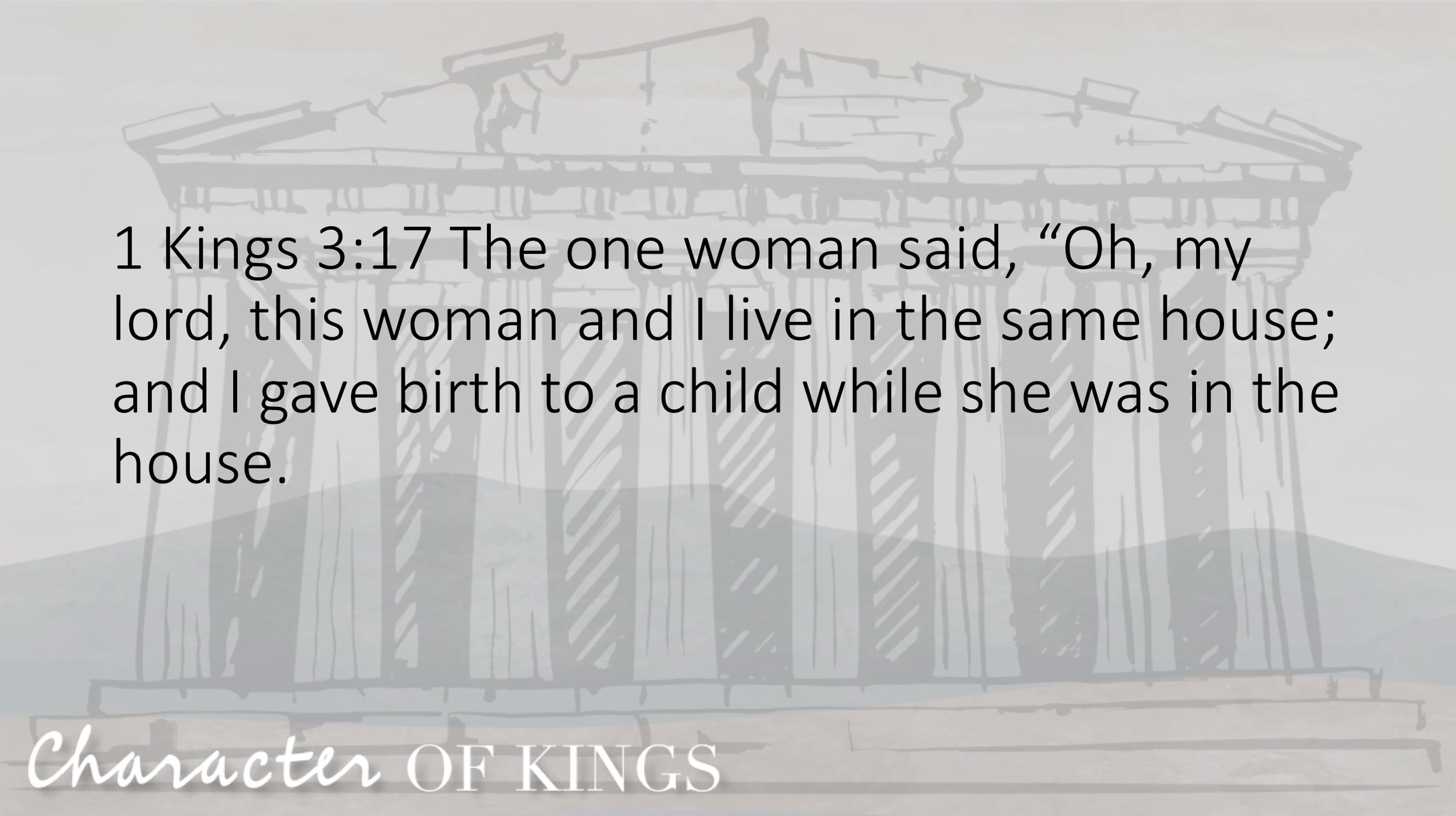
1 Kings 3:16 Then two women who were harlots came to the king and stood before him.

Character OF KINGS

Sin & Consequences 16-21

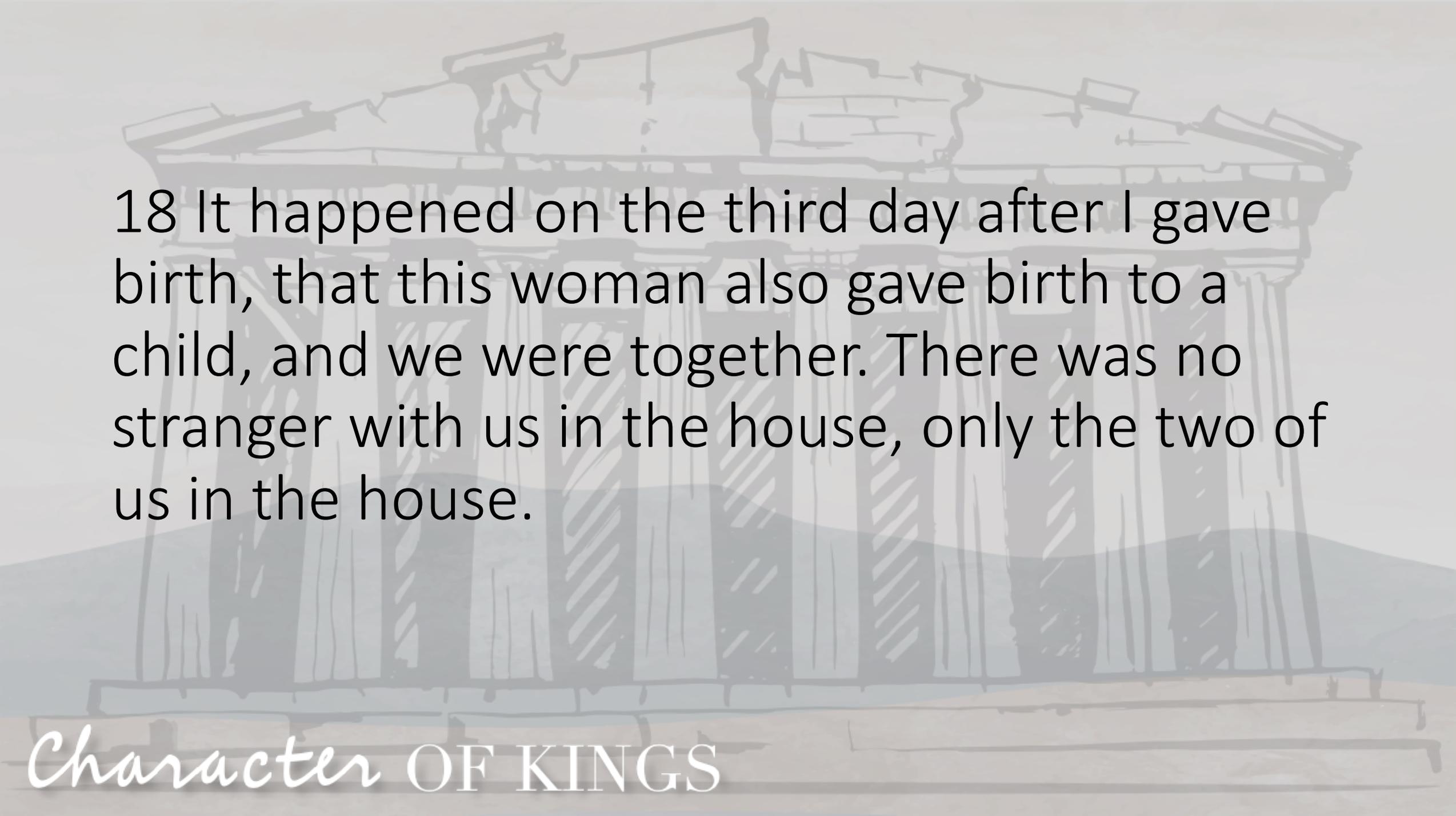
- ‘harlots’ – single mothers
- Husbands? Fathers?
- Why the King? King’s men?
- *“These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots.” 1 Sam 8*

Character OF KINGS



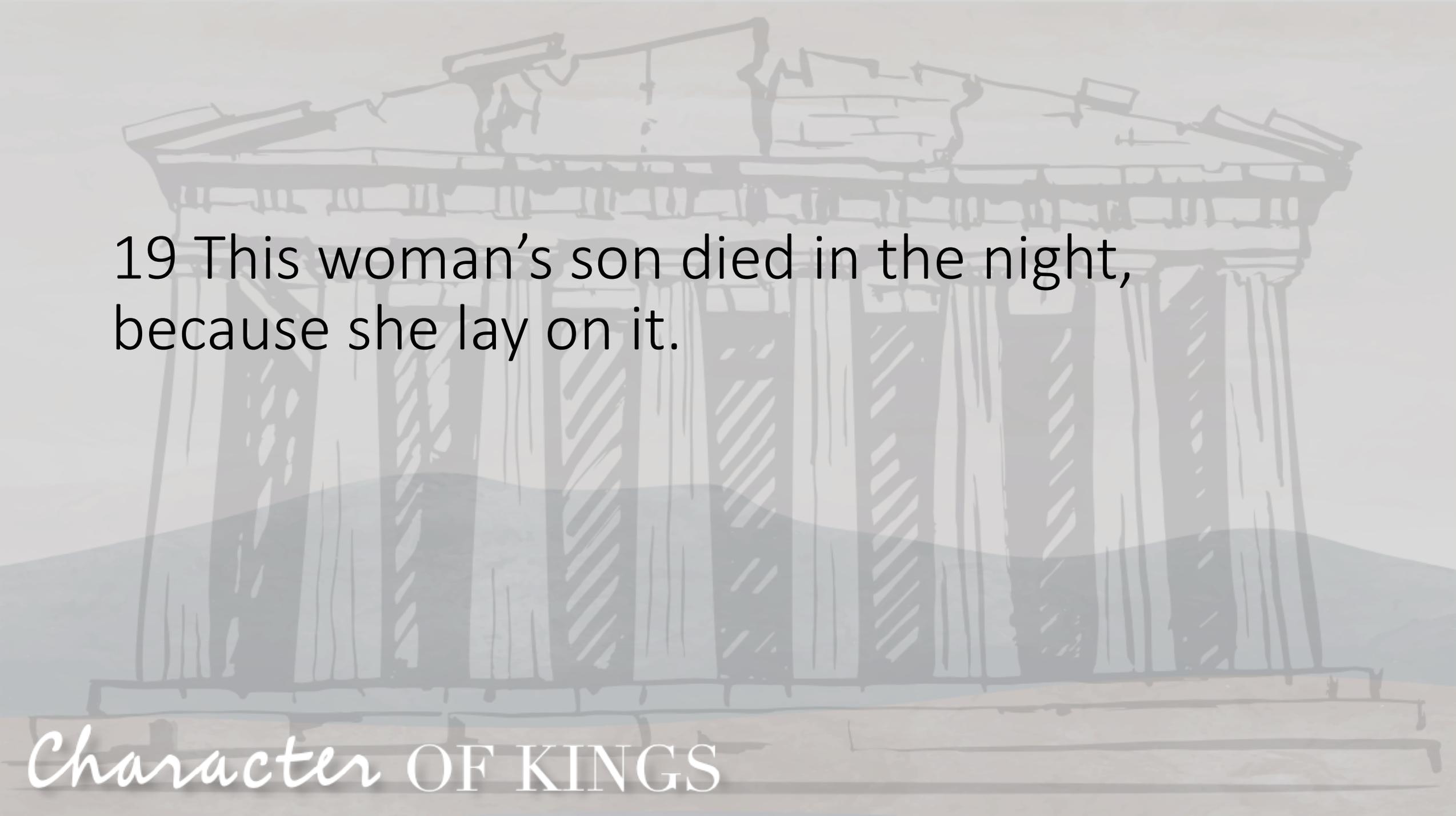
1 Kings 3:17 The one woman said, “Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house; and I gave birth to a child while she was in the house.

Character OF KINGS



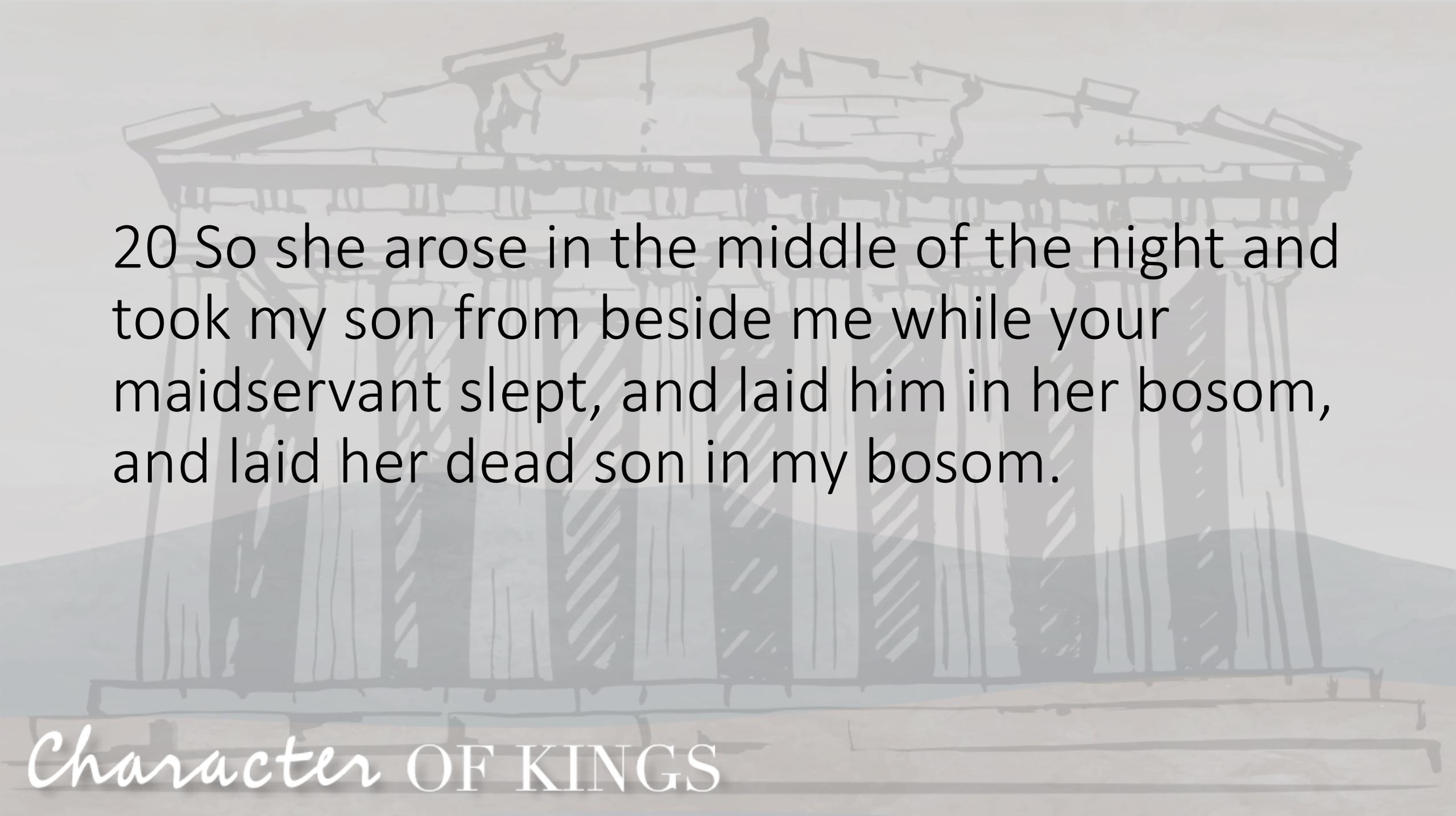
18 It happened on the third day after I gave birth, that this woman also gave birth to a child, and we were together. There was no stranger with us in the house, only the two of us in the house.

Character OF KINGS



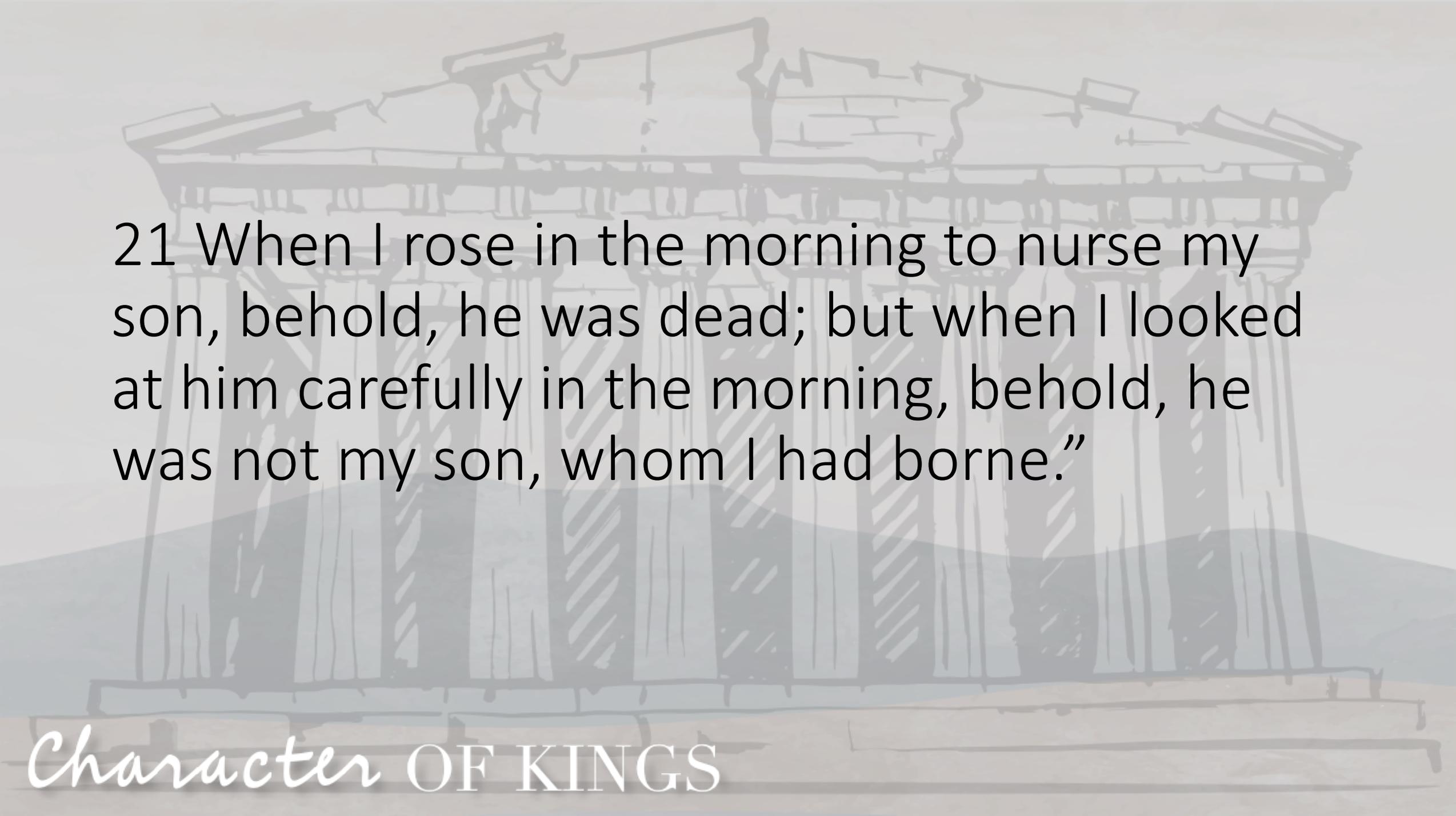
19 This woman's son died in the night,
because she lay on it.

Character OF KINGS



20 So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead son in my bosom.

Character OF KINGS

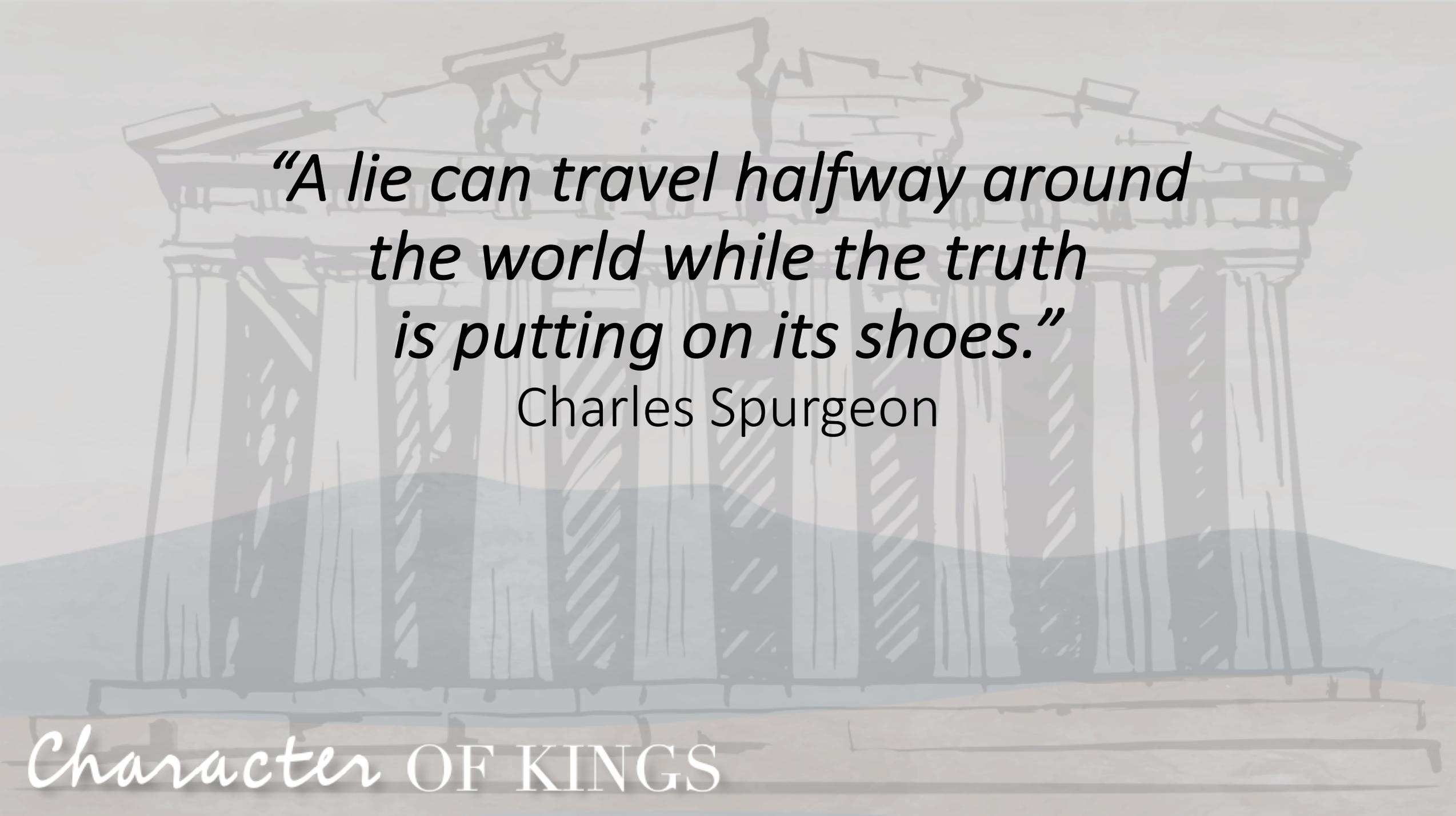


21 When I rose in the morning to nurse my son, behold, he was dead; but when I looked at him carefully in the morning, behold, he was not my son, whom I had borne.”

Character OF KINGS

Truth & Justice 16-21

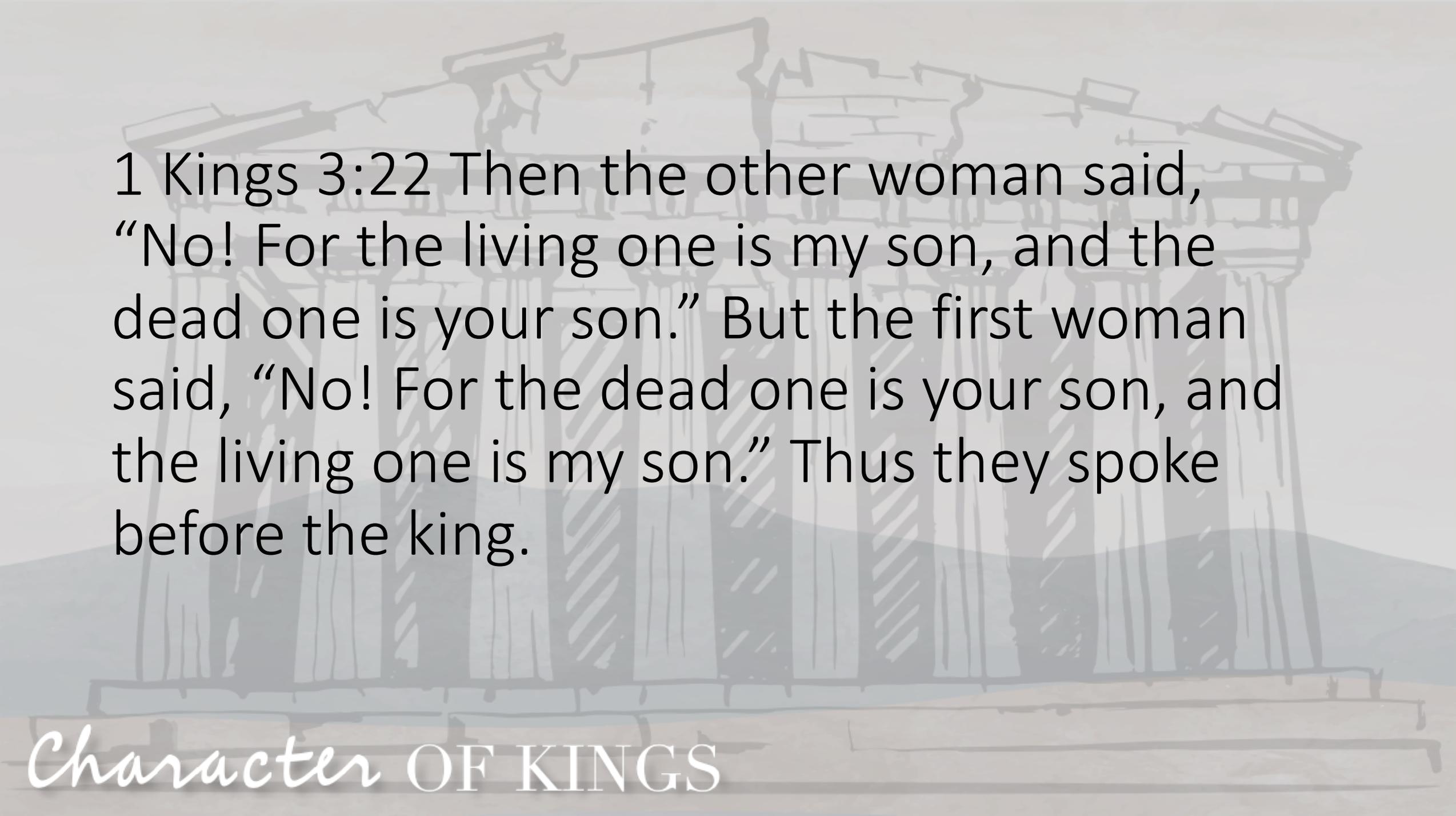
- Both gave birth – Mom #1 & Mom #2
- Mom #2 child died – tragedy!
- Mom #2 exchanges sons – dead for live
- Mom #1 wakes to find Mom #2 son with her



*“A lie can travel halfway around
the world while the truth
is putting on its shoes.”*

Charles Spurgeon

Character OF KINGS



1 Kings 3:22 Then the other woman said, “No! For the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son.” But the first woman said, “No! For the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son.” Thus they spoke before the king.

Character OF KINGS

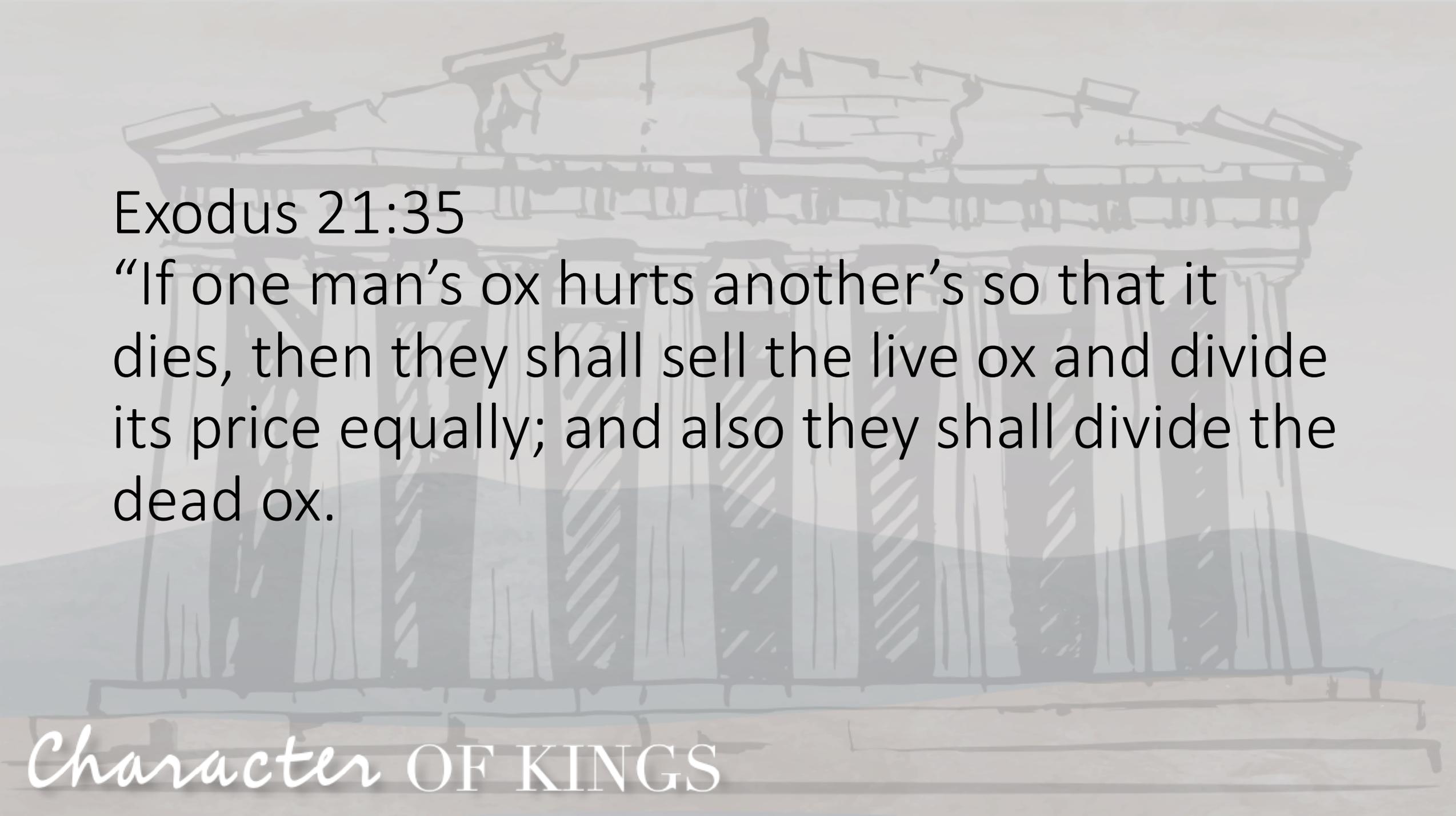
Moral Dilemma 22

- Mom #2 – the living one is mine
- Mom #1 – the living one is mine
- Mom #2 – the dead one is yours
- Mom #1 – the dead one is yours
- 2 Moms – 1 child – 1 truth

Character OF KINGS

Moral Dilemma 22

- Luck – flip a shekel
- Like – who looks like the best mom?
- Lift – neither of you get him
- Lop it – each get half



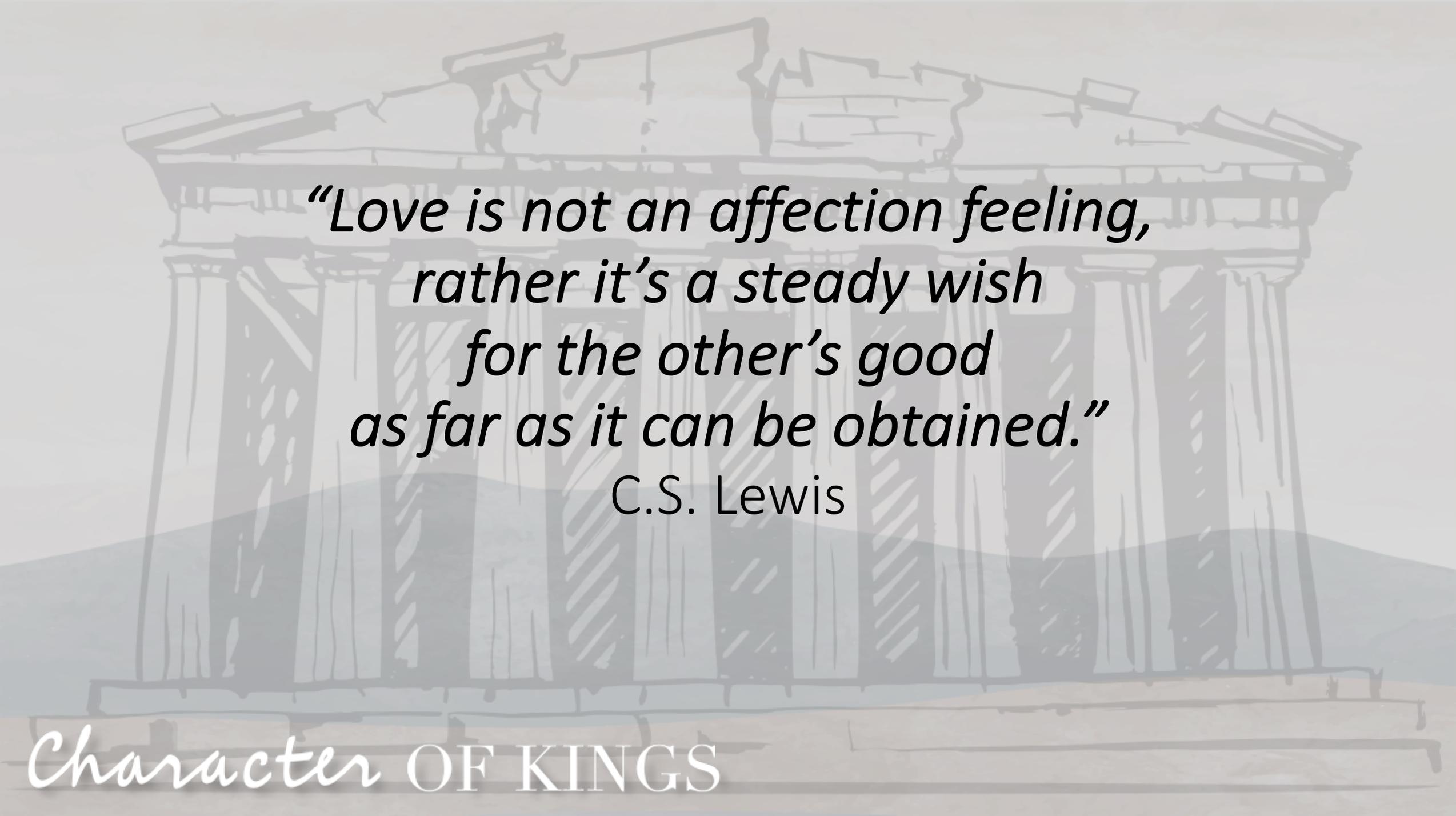
Exodus 21:35

“If one man’s ox hurts another’s so that it dies, then they shall sell the live ox and divide its price equally; and also they shall divide the dead ox.

Character OF KINGS

Moral Dilemma 22

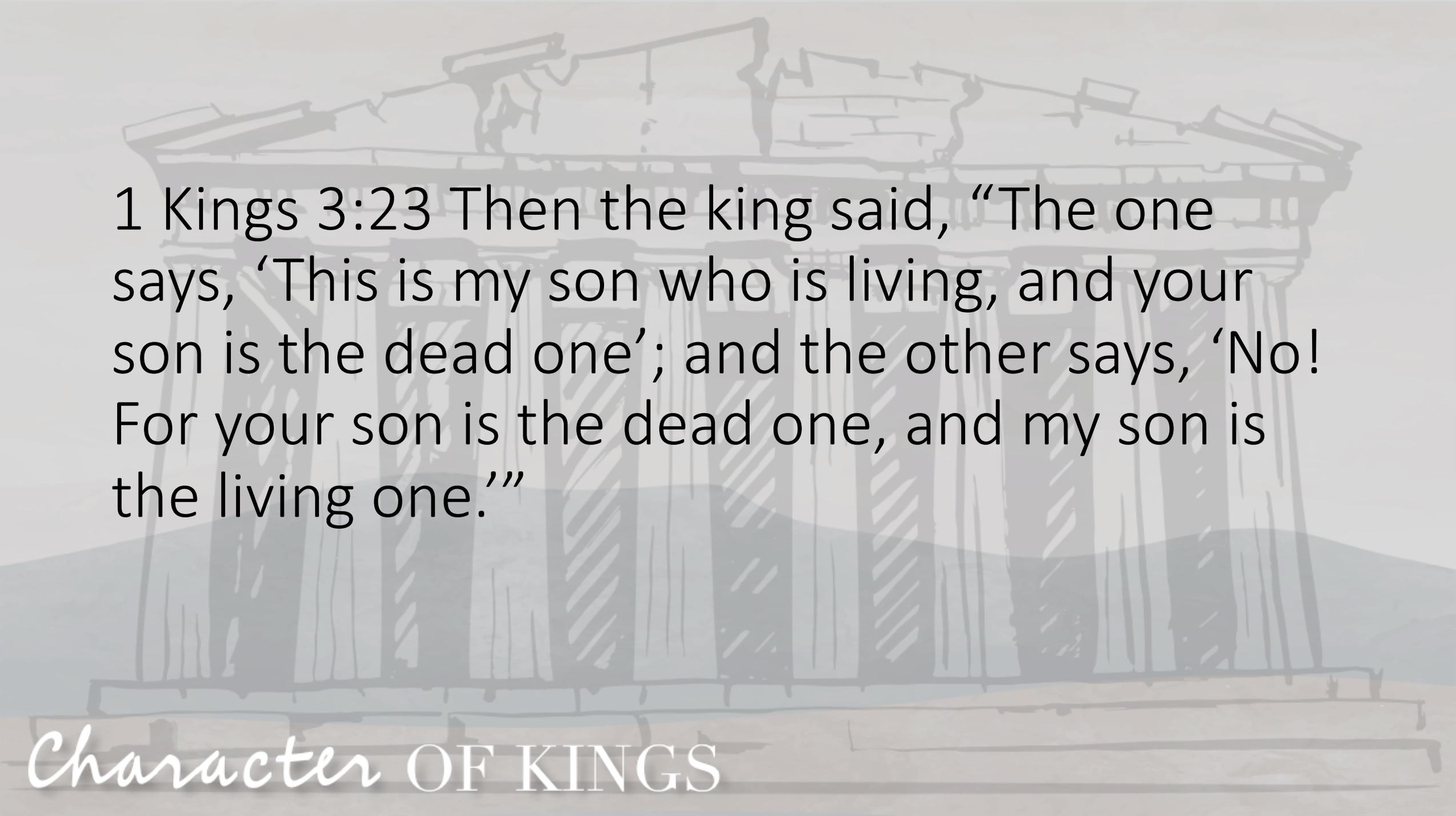
- Luck – flip a shekel
- Like – who looks like the best mom?
- Lift – neither of you get him
- Lop it – each get half
- Love – who will sacrifice?



*“Love is not an affection feeling,
rather it’s a steady wish
for the other’s good
as far as it can be obtained.”*

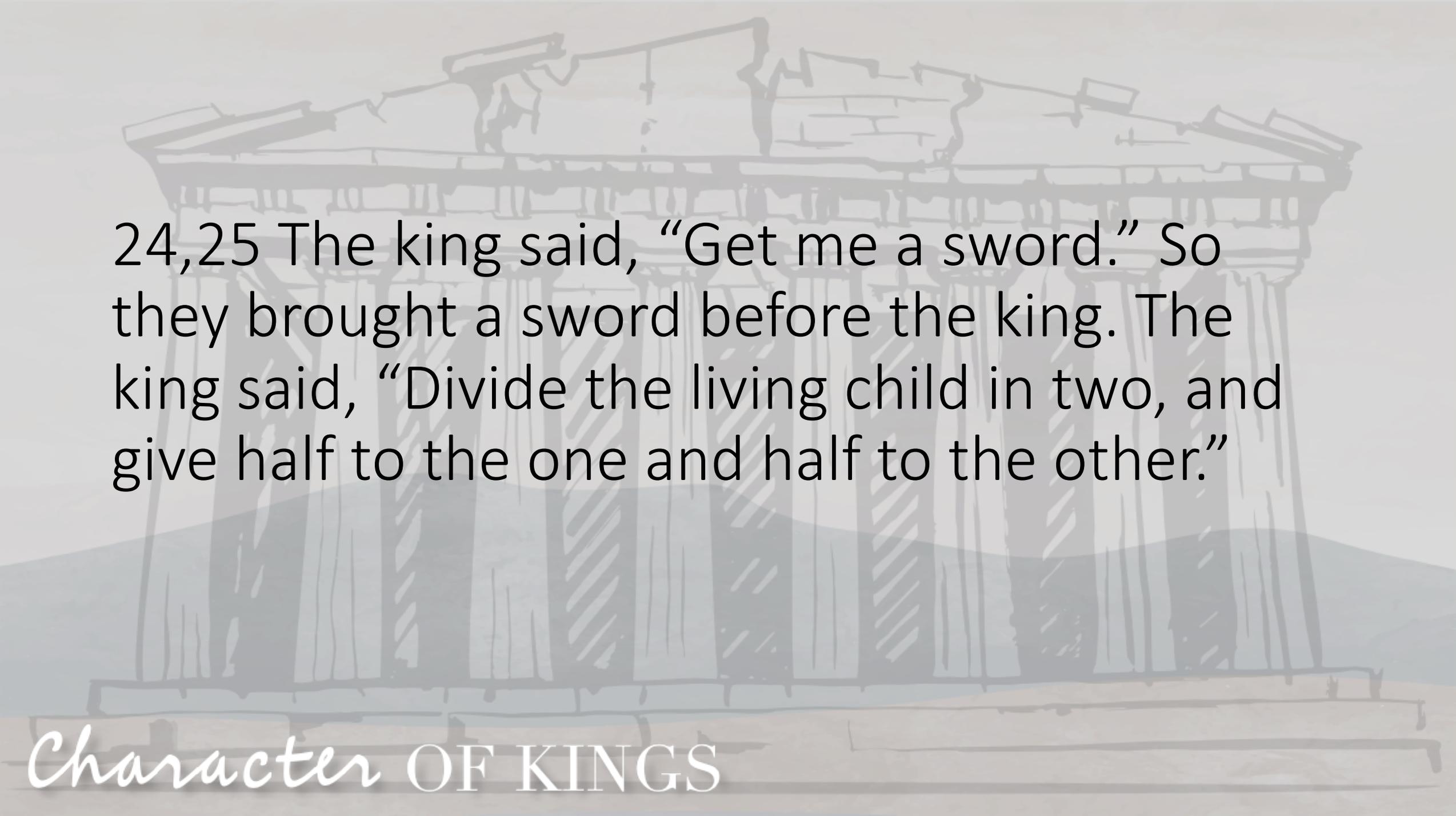
C.S. Lewis

Character OF KINGS



1 Kings 3:23 Then the king said, “The one says, ‘This is my son who is living, and your son is the dead one’; and the other says, ‘No! For your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.’”

Character OF KINGS

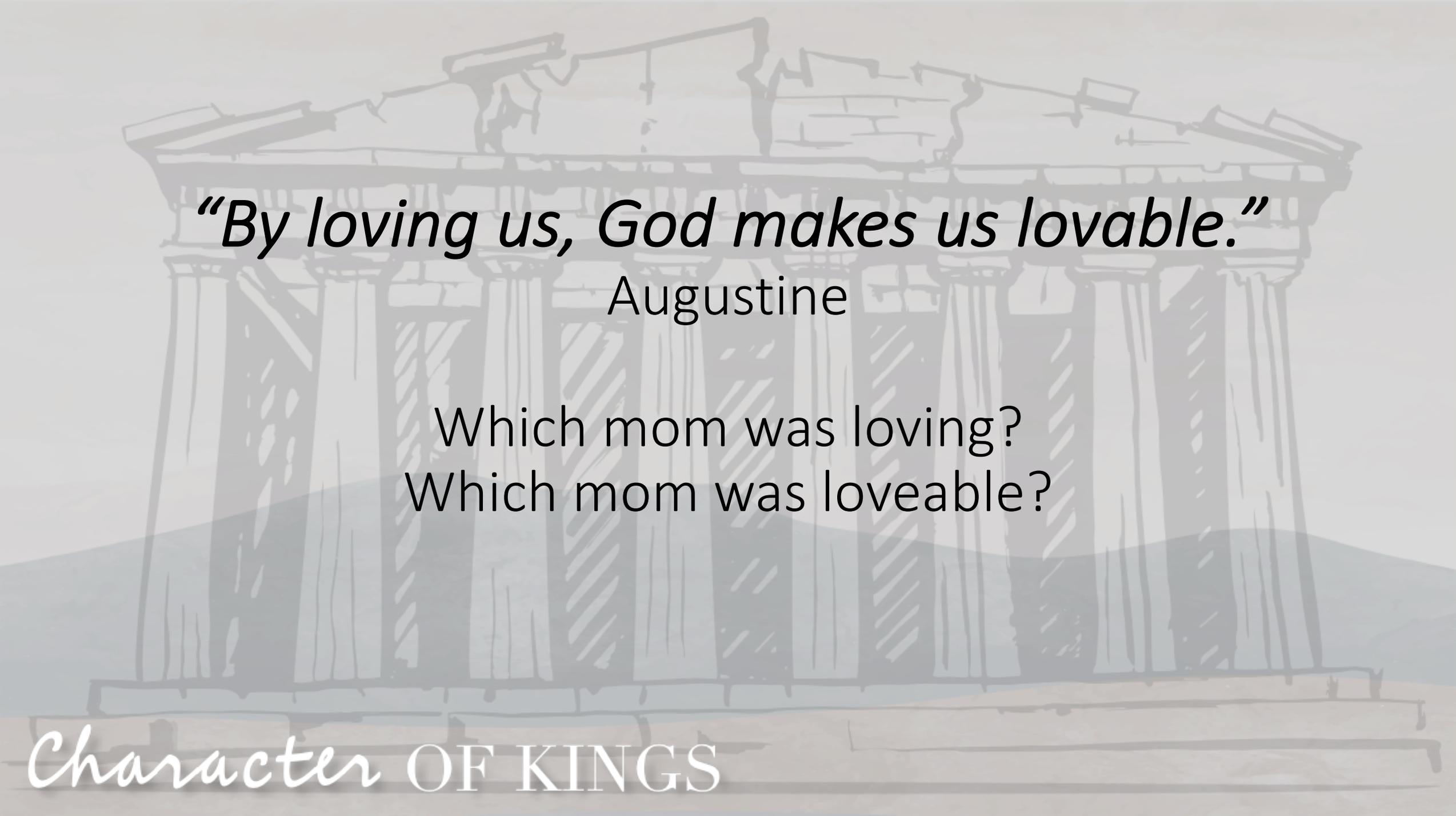


24,25 The king said, “Get me a sword.” So they brought a sword before the king. The king said, “Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other.”

Character OF KINGS

Fair Proposal 23-25

- Solomon reviews the case
- Solomon reflects on Exodus
- Solomon replies with verdict (only part A)
- Solomon relies on love!

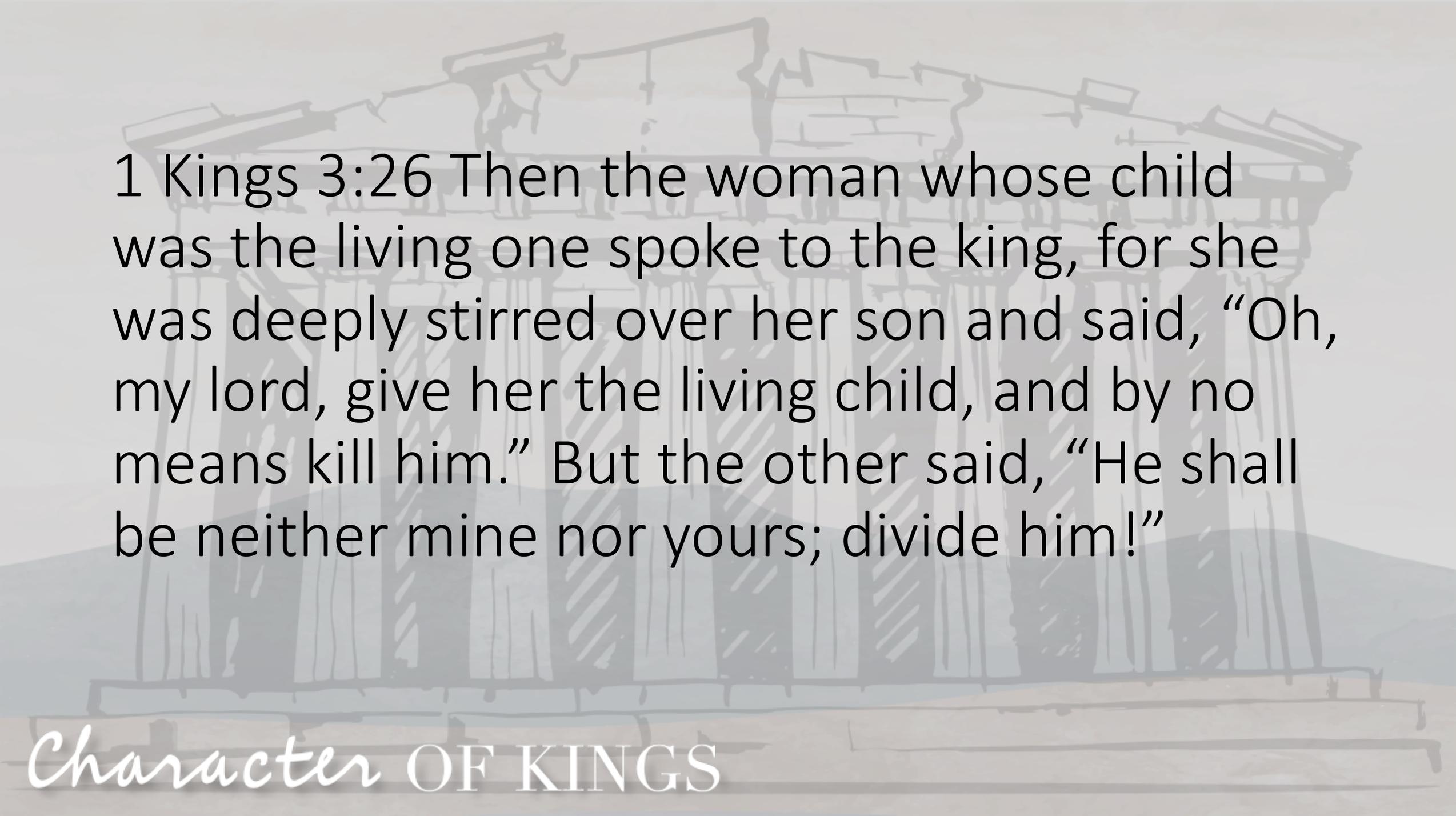


“By loving us, God makes us lovable.”

Augustine

Which mom was loving?
Which mom was loveable?

Character OF KINGS

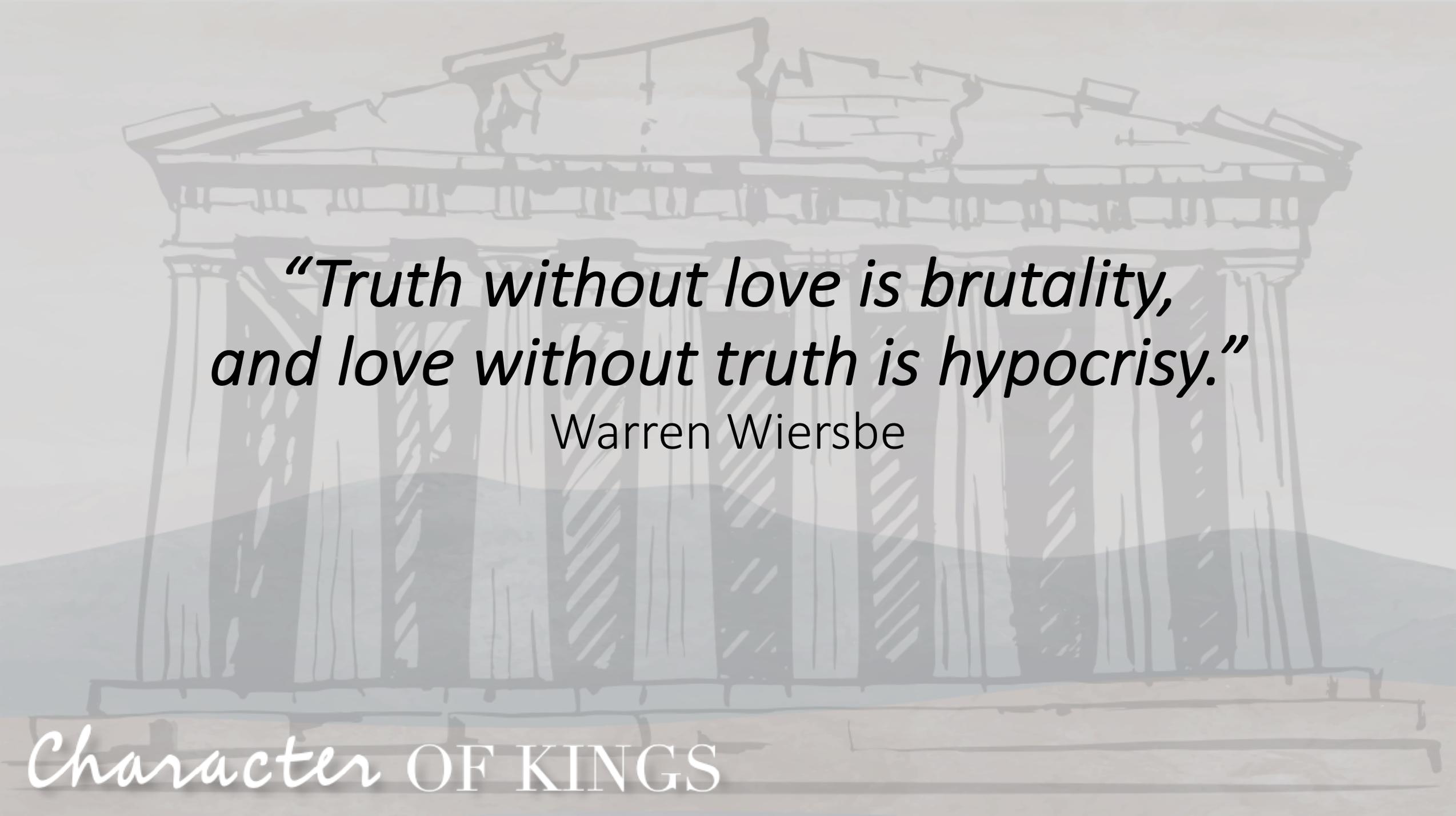


1 Kings 3:26 Then the woman whose child was the living one spoke to the king, for she was deeply stirred over her son and said, “Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him.” But the other said, “He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide him!”

Character OF KINGS

Godly Virtue 26

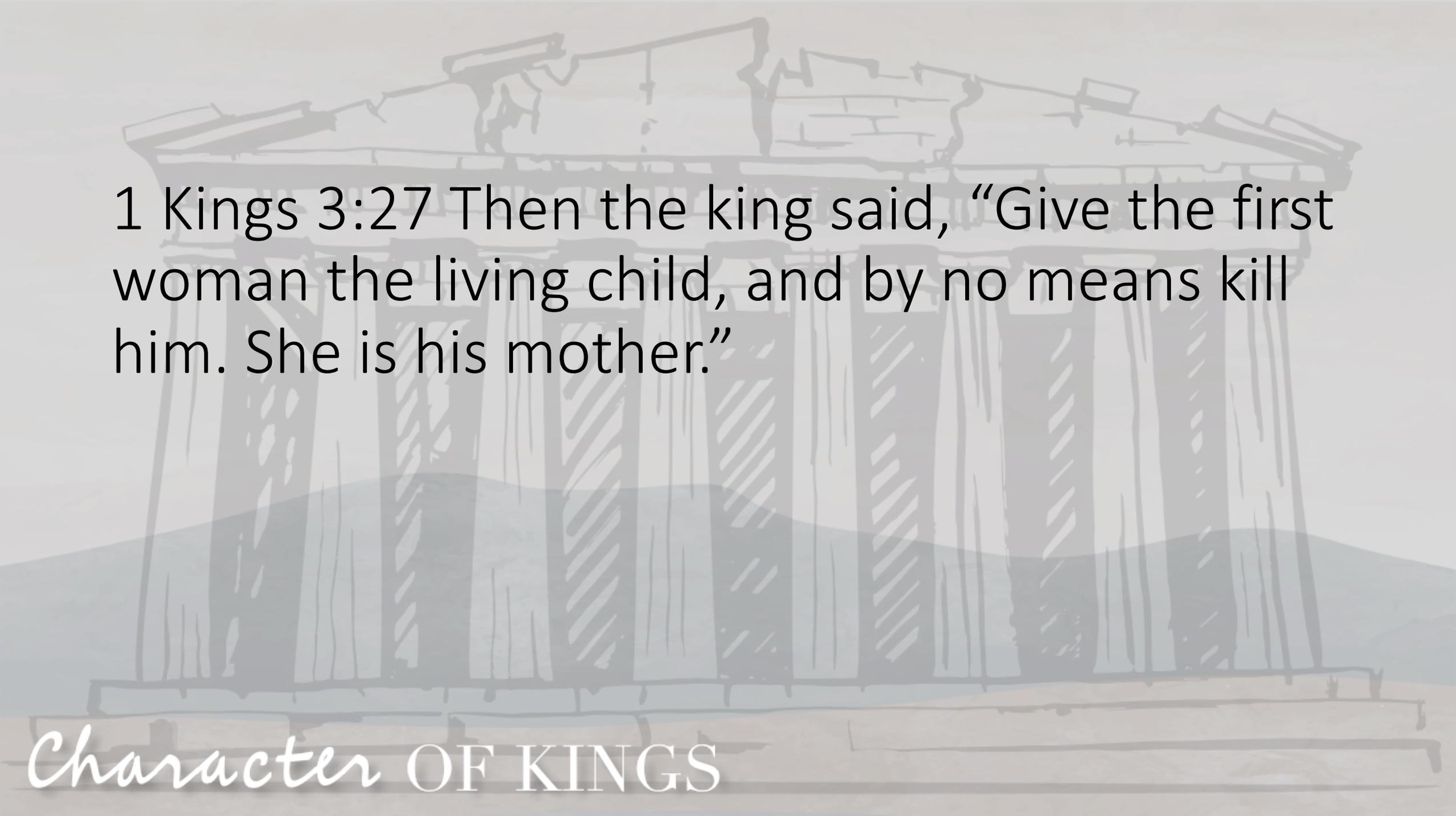
- Mom #1 – ‘deeply stirred’ – Joseph – Jesus
- Mom #2 – reveals selfish heart
 - not mine – I don’t want him really
 - you should not have him – blessing in my loss
 - let the the second son be killed too



*“Truth without love is brutality,
and love without truth is hypocrisy.”*

Warren Wiersbe

Character OF KINGS



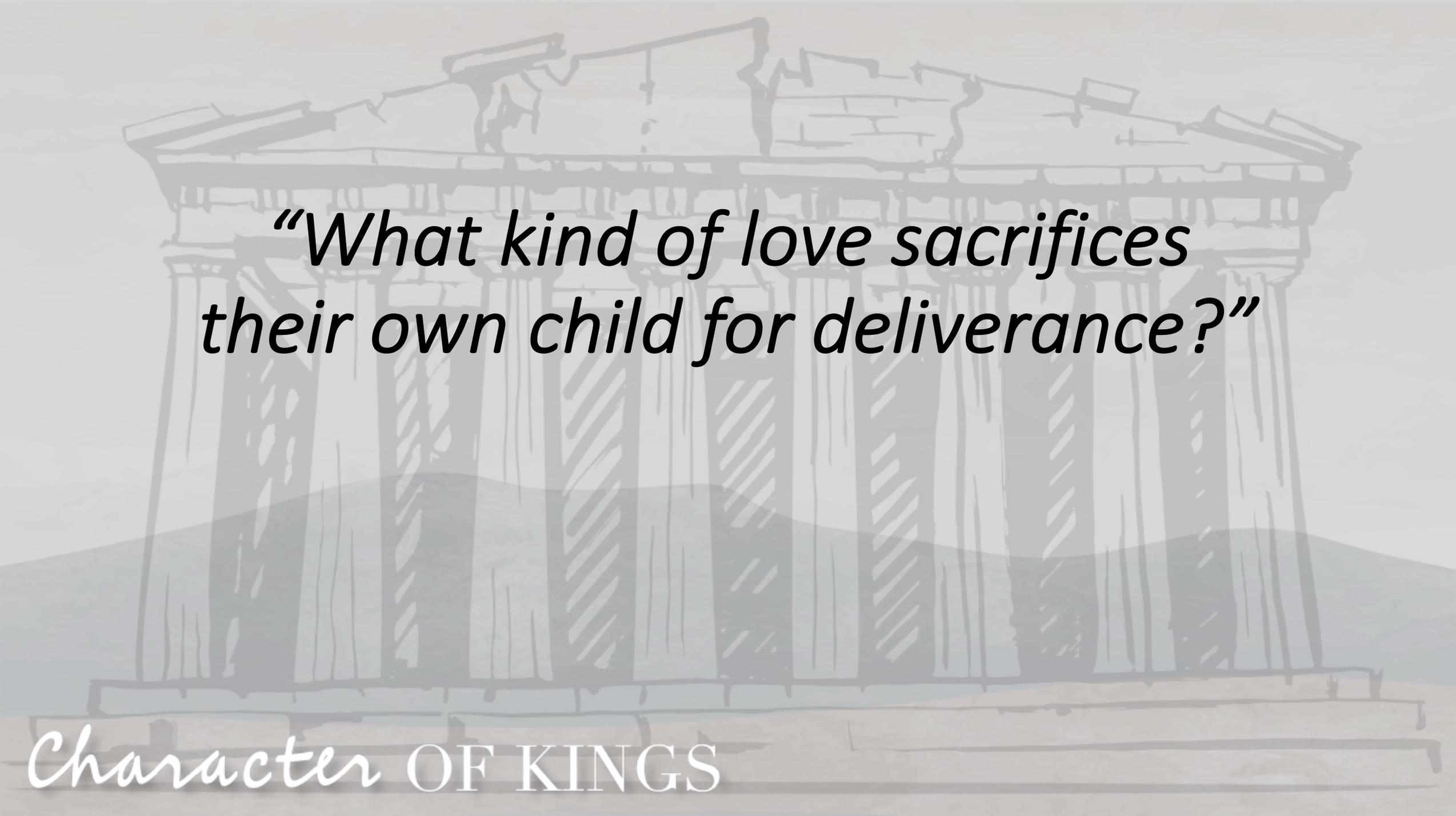
1 Kings 3:27 Then the king said, “Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him. She is his mother.”

Character OF KINGS

God's Wisdom 27

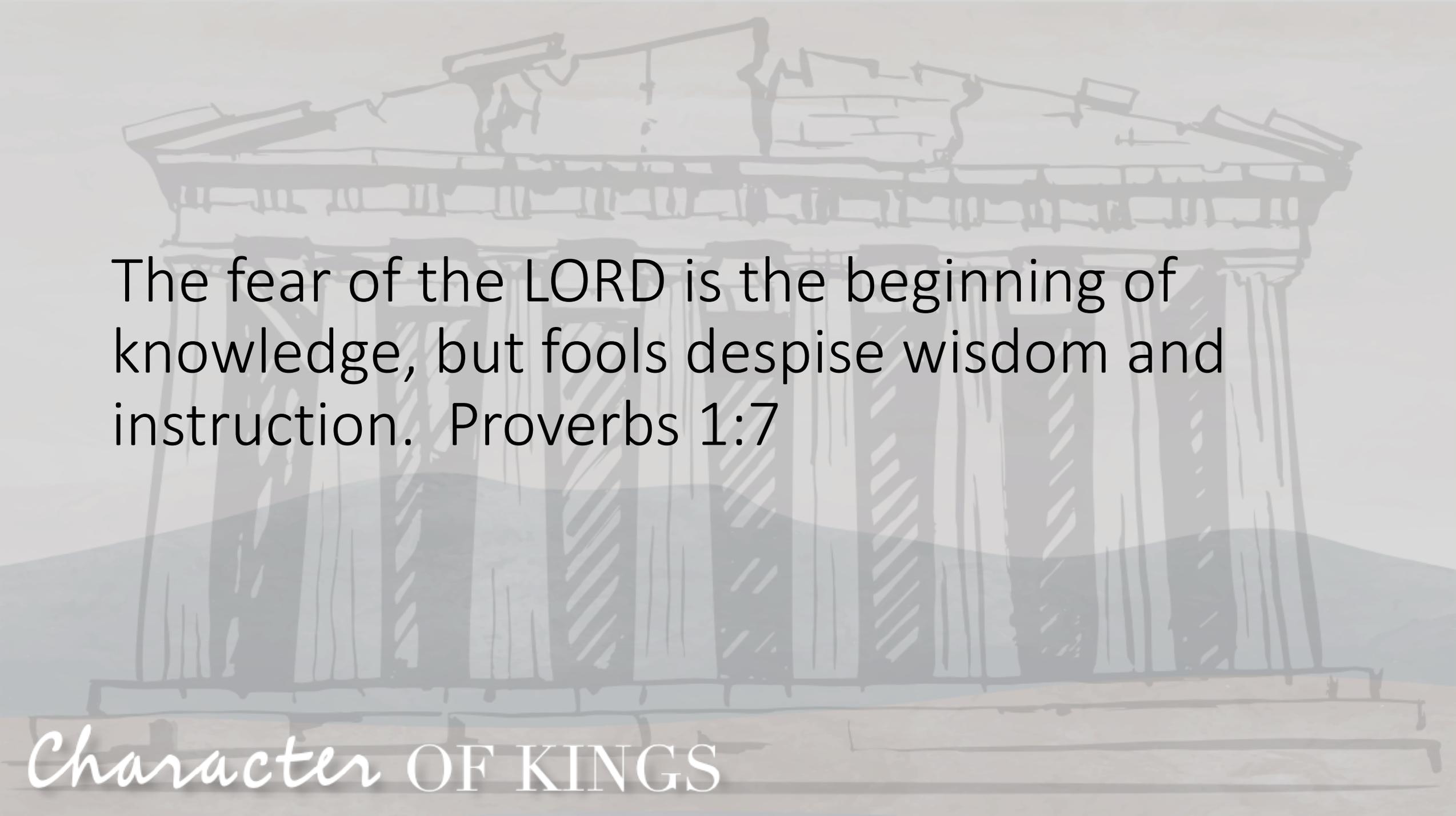
- King recognized true love
- King recognized truth
- King returns the child

Character OF KINGS



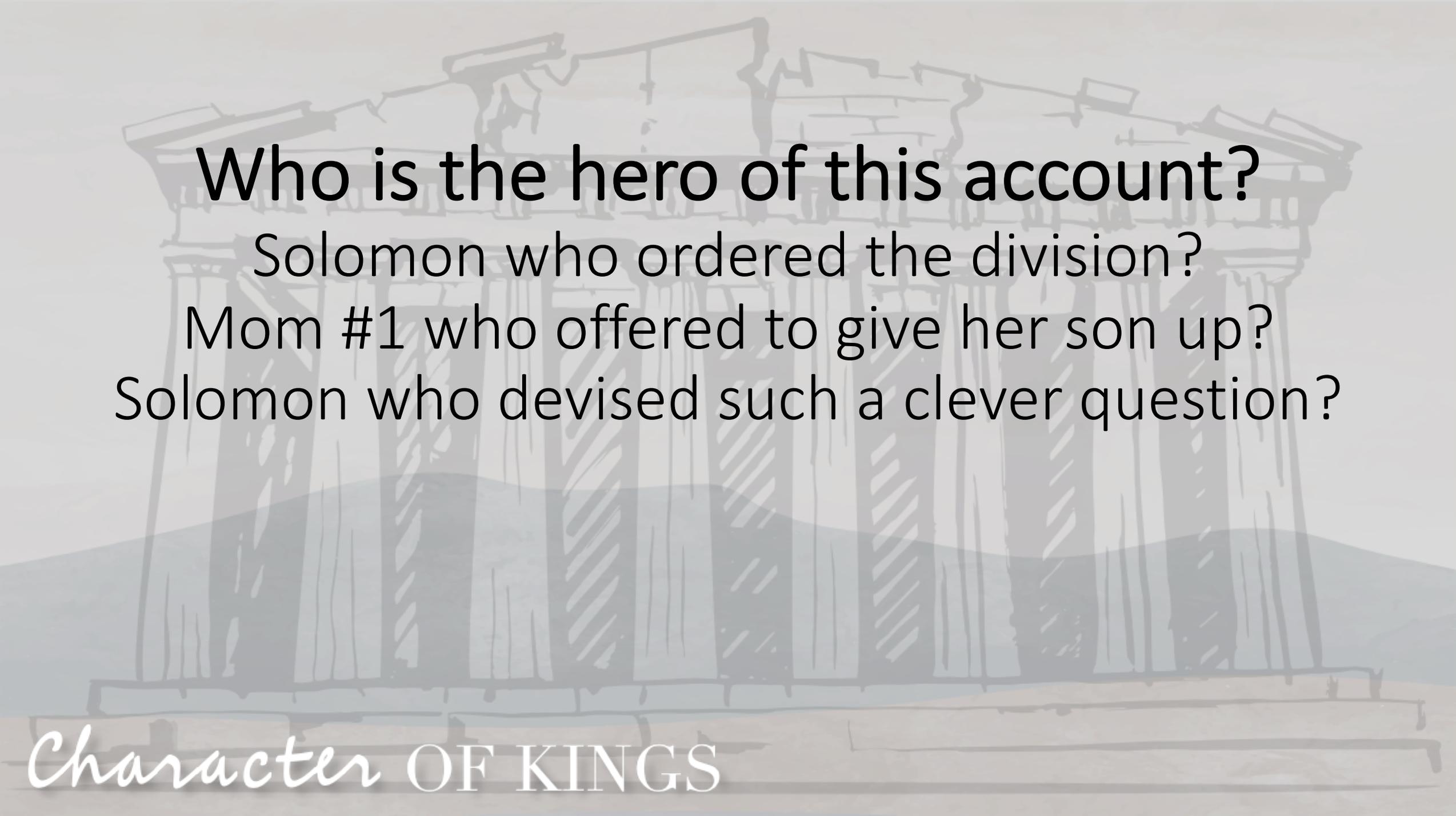
*“What kind of love sacrifices
their own child for deliverance?”*

Character OF KINGS



The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

Character OF KINGS



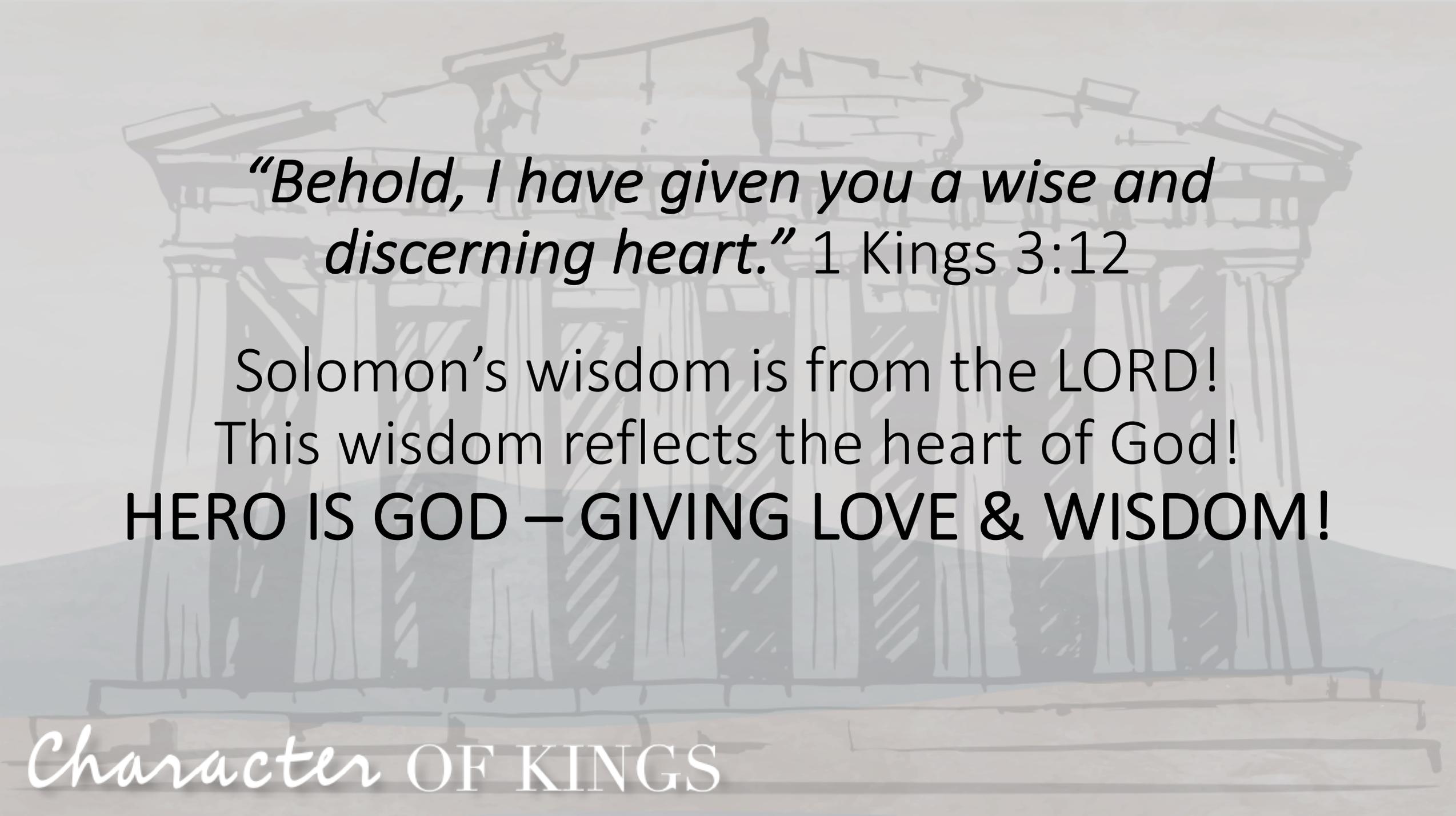
Who is the hero of this account?

Solomon who ordered the division?

Mom #1 who offered to give her son up?

Solomon who devised such a clever question?

Character OF KINGS



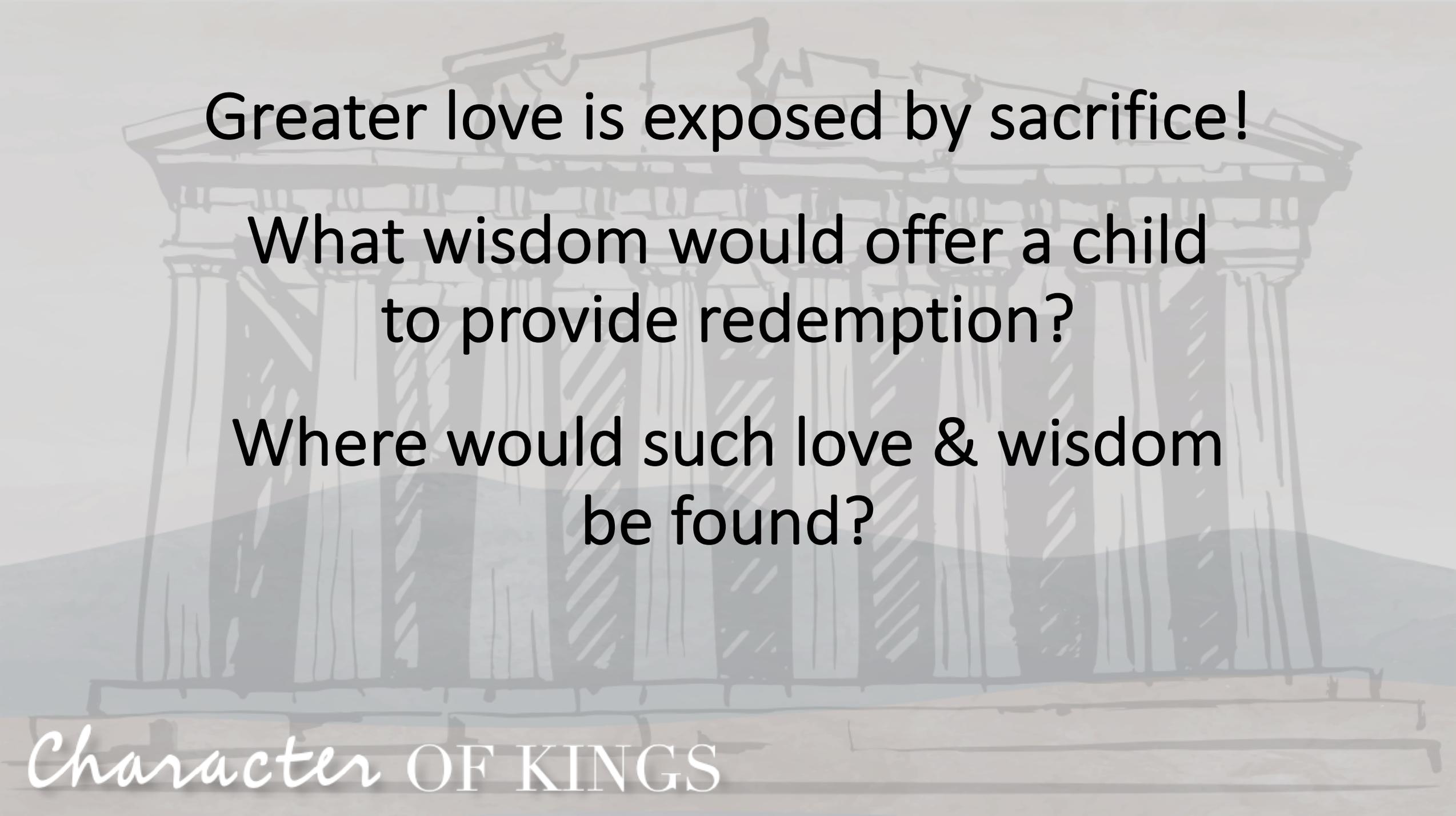
“Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart.” 1 Kings 3:12

Solomon’s wisdom is from the LORD!

This wisdom reflects the heart of God!

HERO IS GOD – GIVING LOVE & WISDOM!

Character OF KINGS

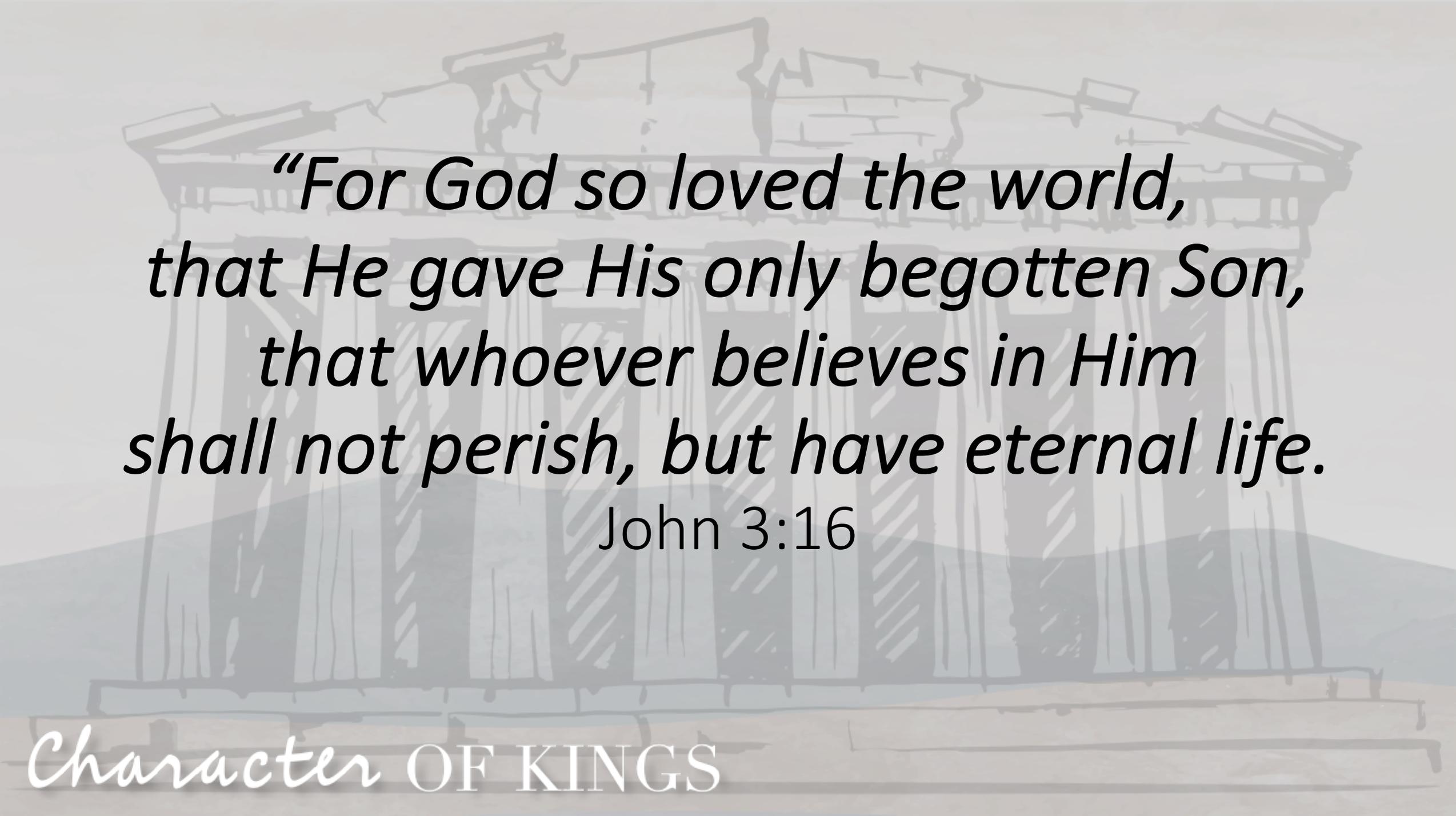


Greater love is exposed by sacrifice!

What wisdom would offer a child
to provide redemption?

Where would such love & wisdom
be found?

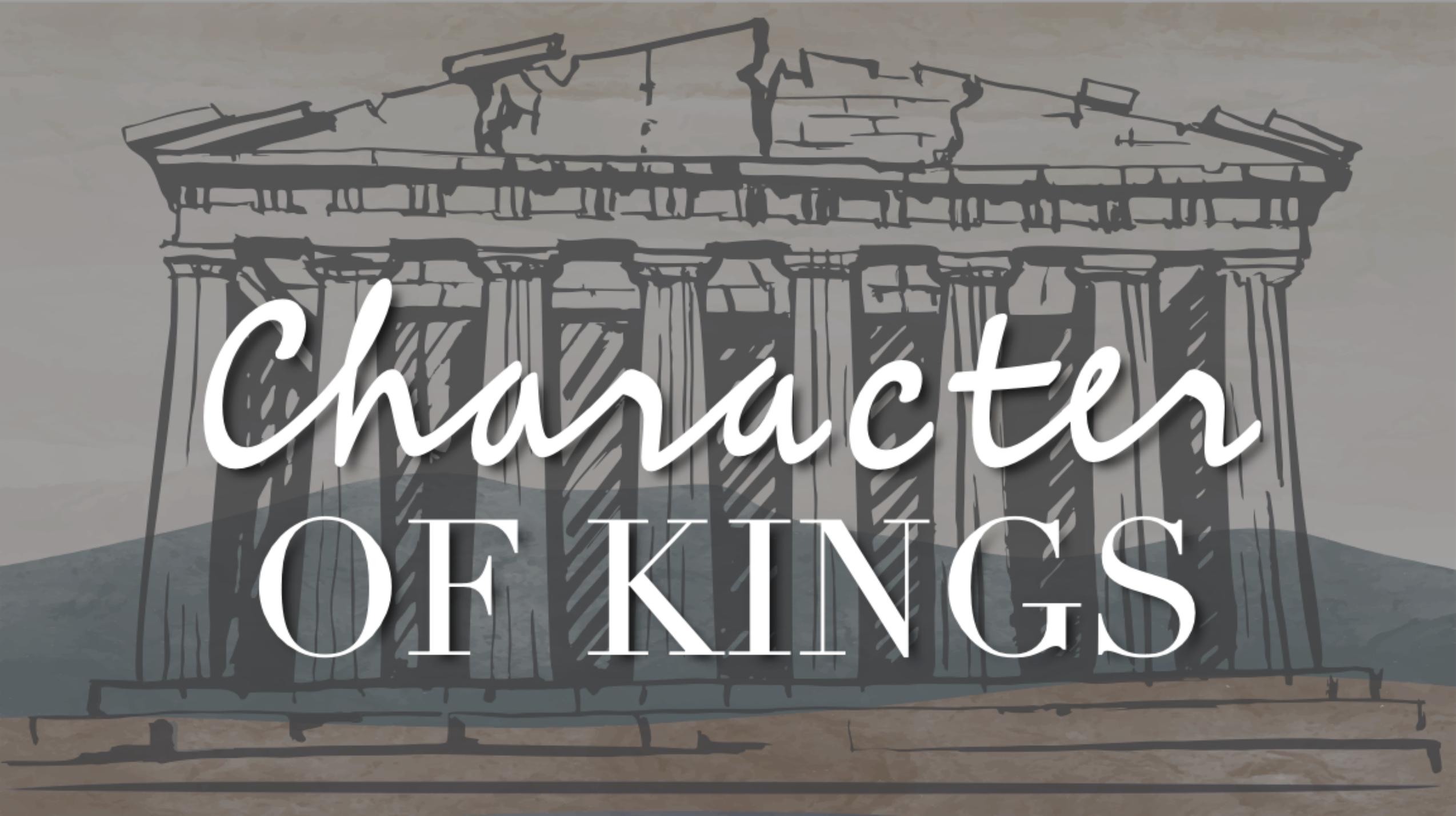
Character OF KINGS



*“For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him
shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

John 3:16

Character OF KINGS



Character
OF KINGS