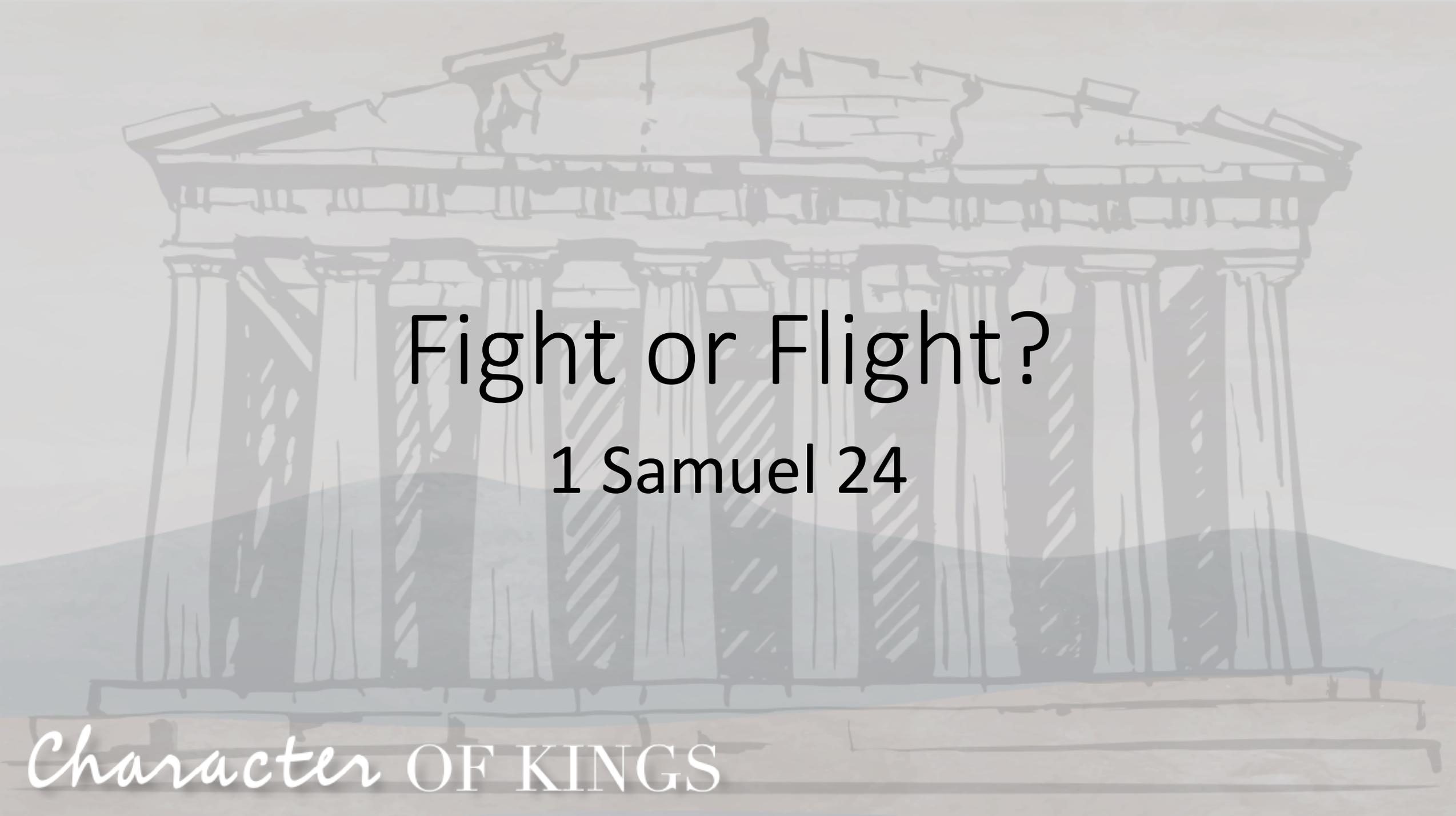


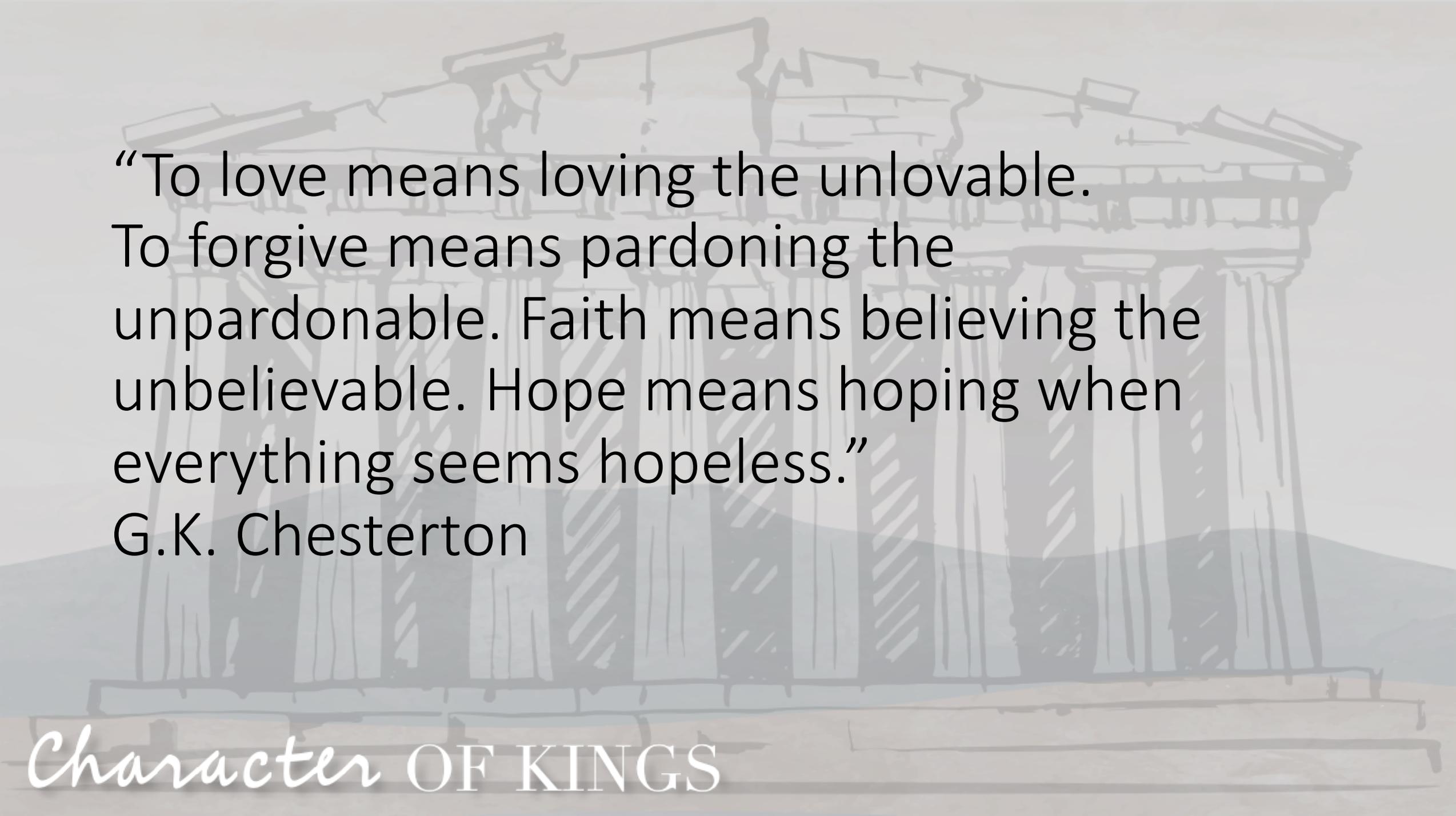
Character
OF KINGS



Fight or Flight?

1 Samuel 24

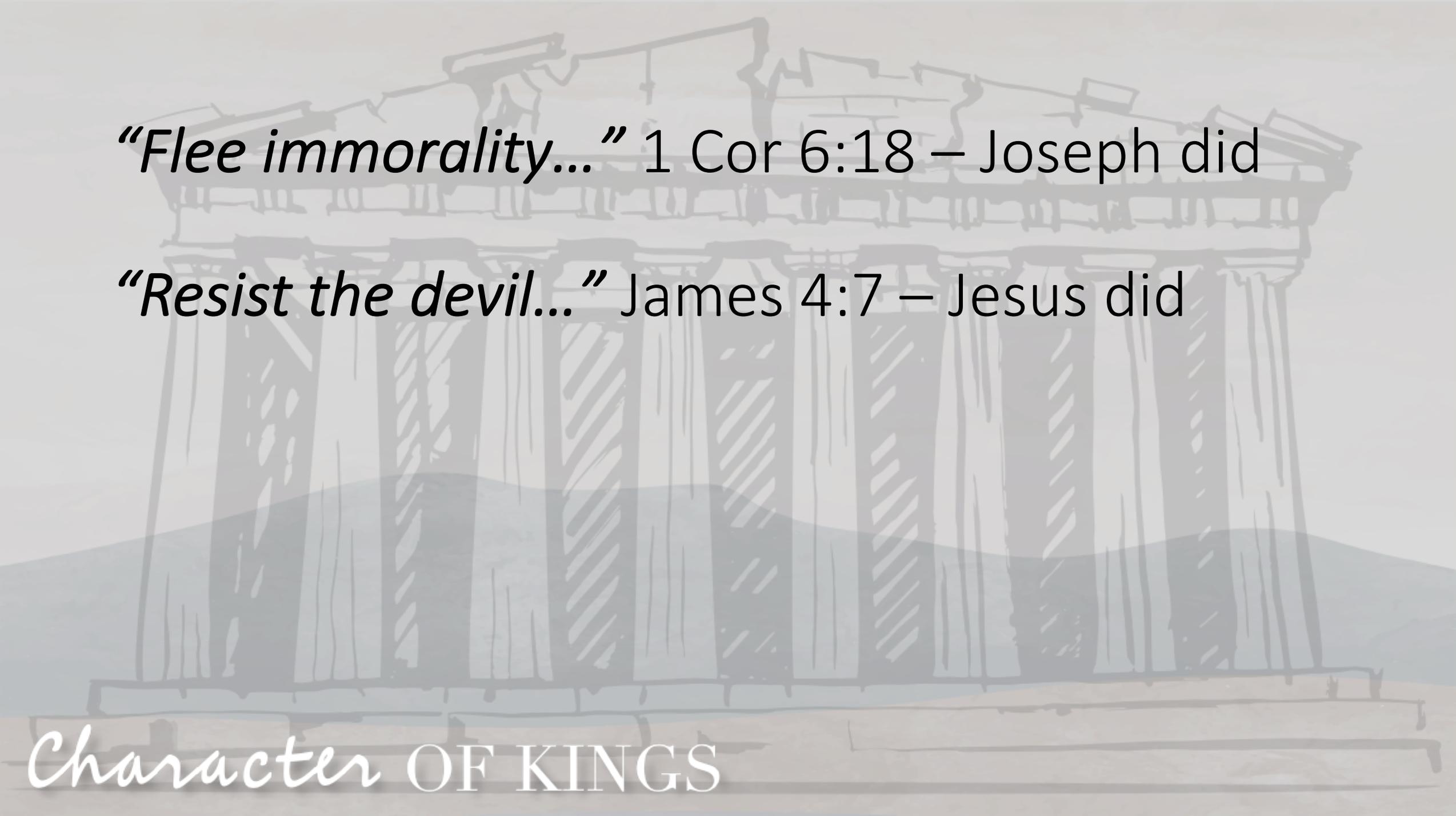
Character OF KINGS



“To love means loving the unlovable.
To forgive means pardoning the
unpardonable. Faith means believing the
unbelievable. Hope means hoping when
everything seems hopeless.”

G.K. Chesterton

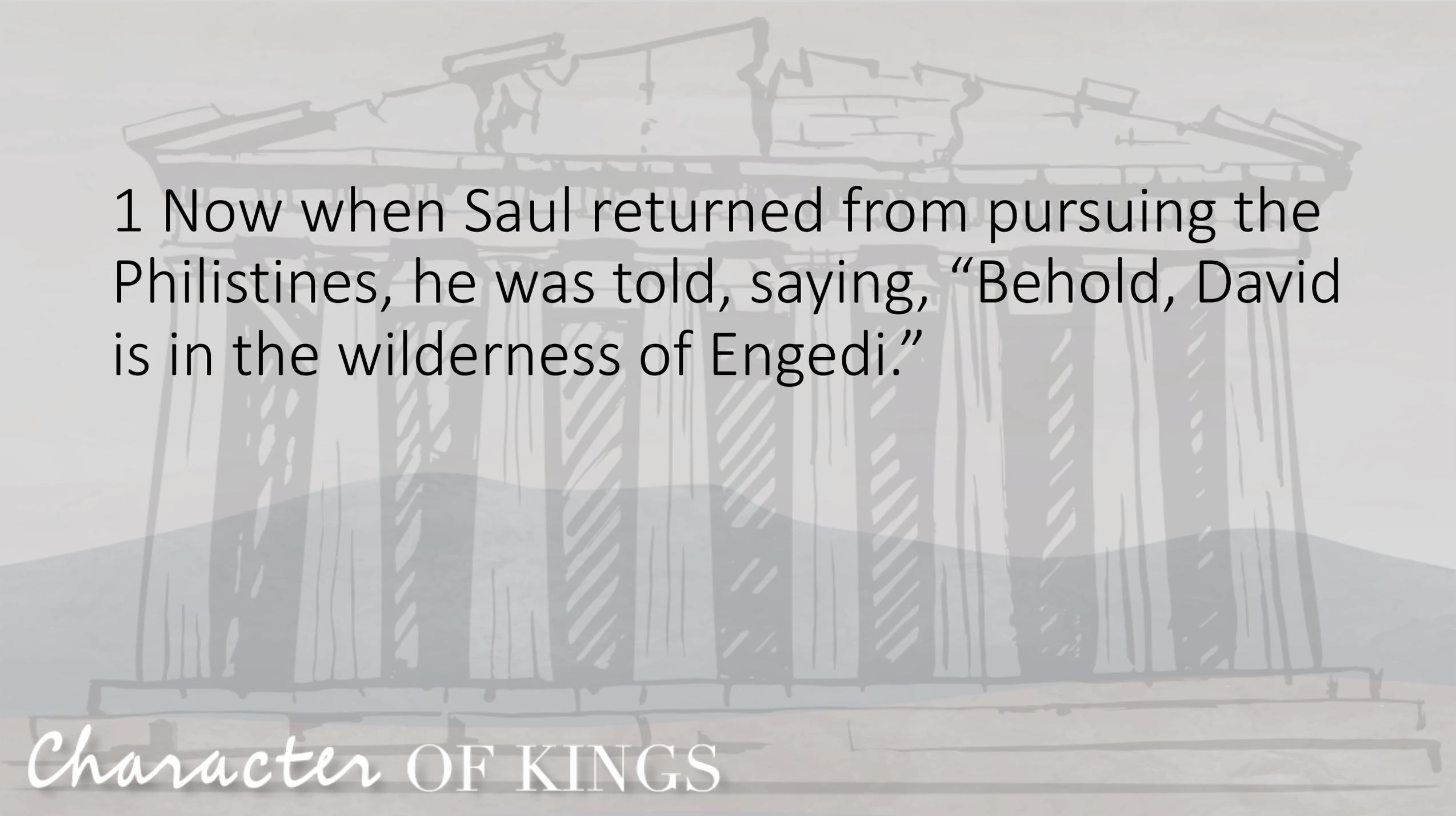
Character OF KINGS



“Flee immorality...” 1 Cor 6:18 – Joseph did

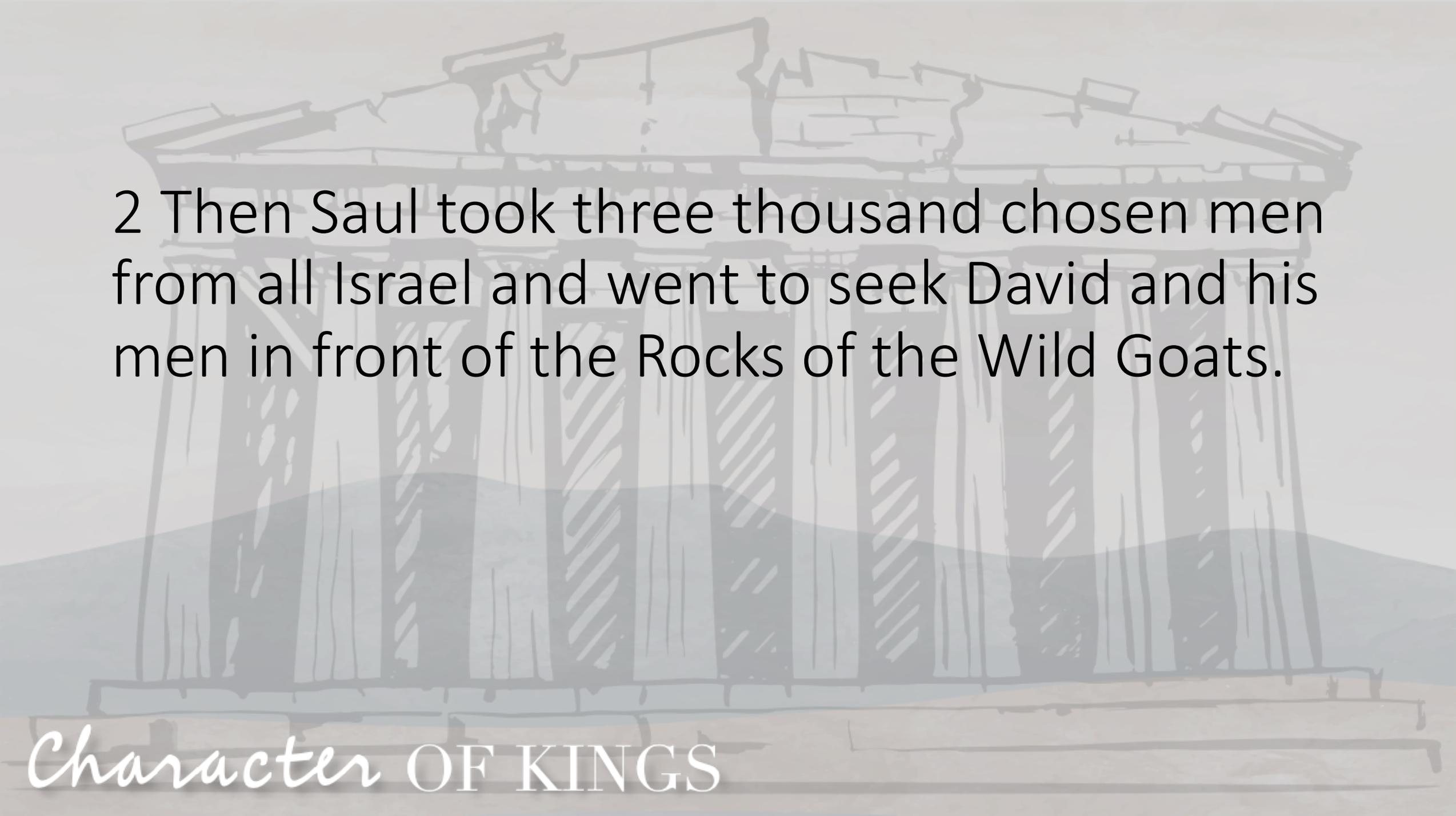
“Resist the devil...” James 4:7 – Jesus did

Character OF KINGS



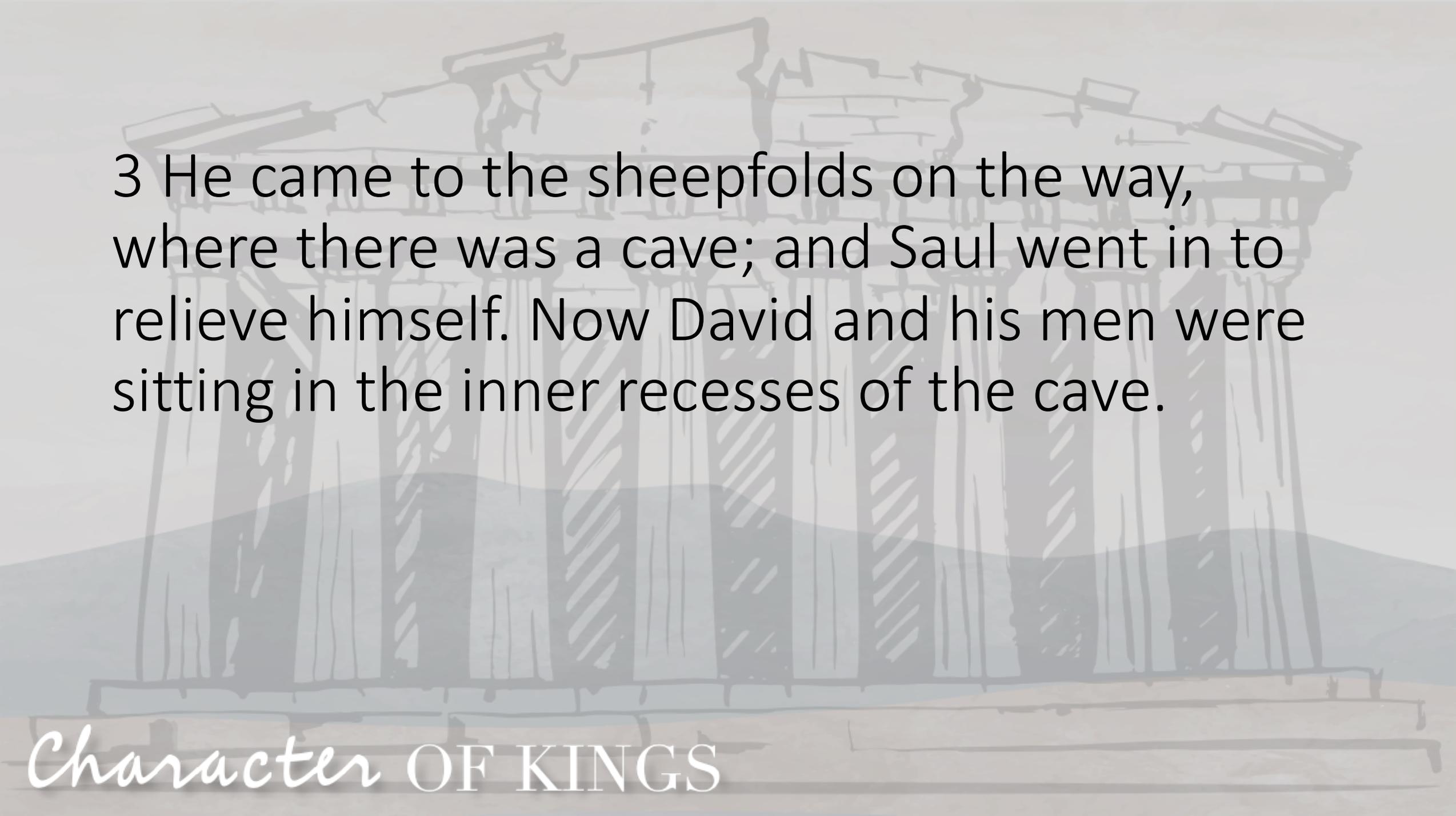
1 Now when Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, saying, “Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi.”

Character OF KINGS



2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

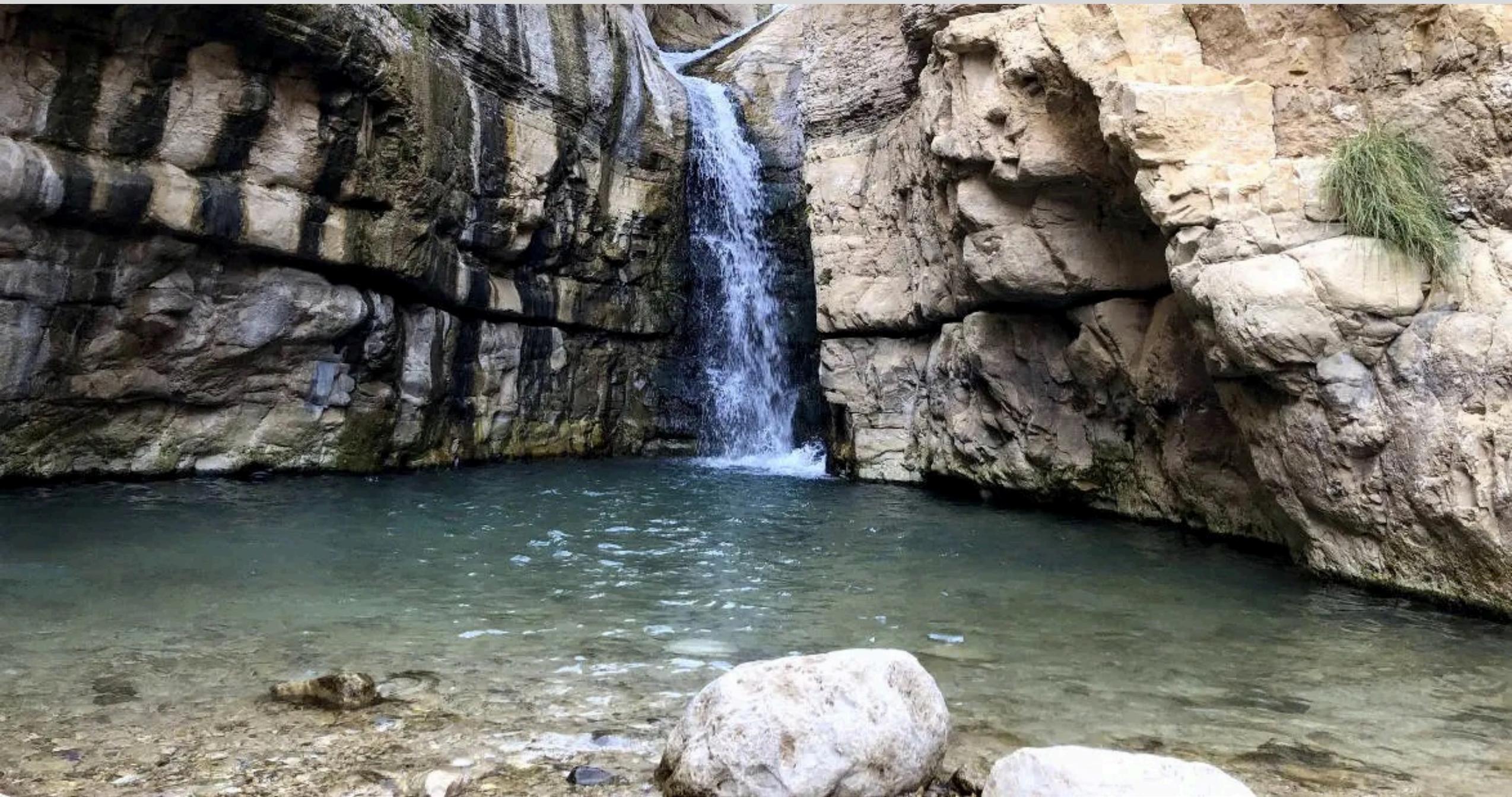
Character OF KINGS



3 He came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave.

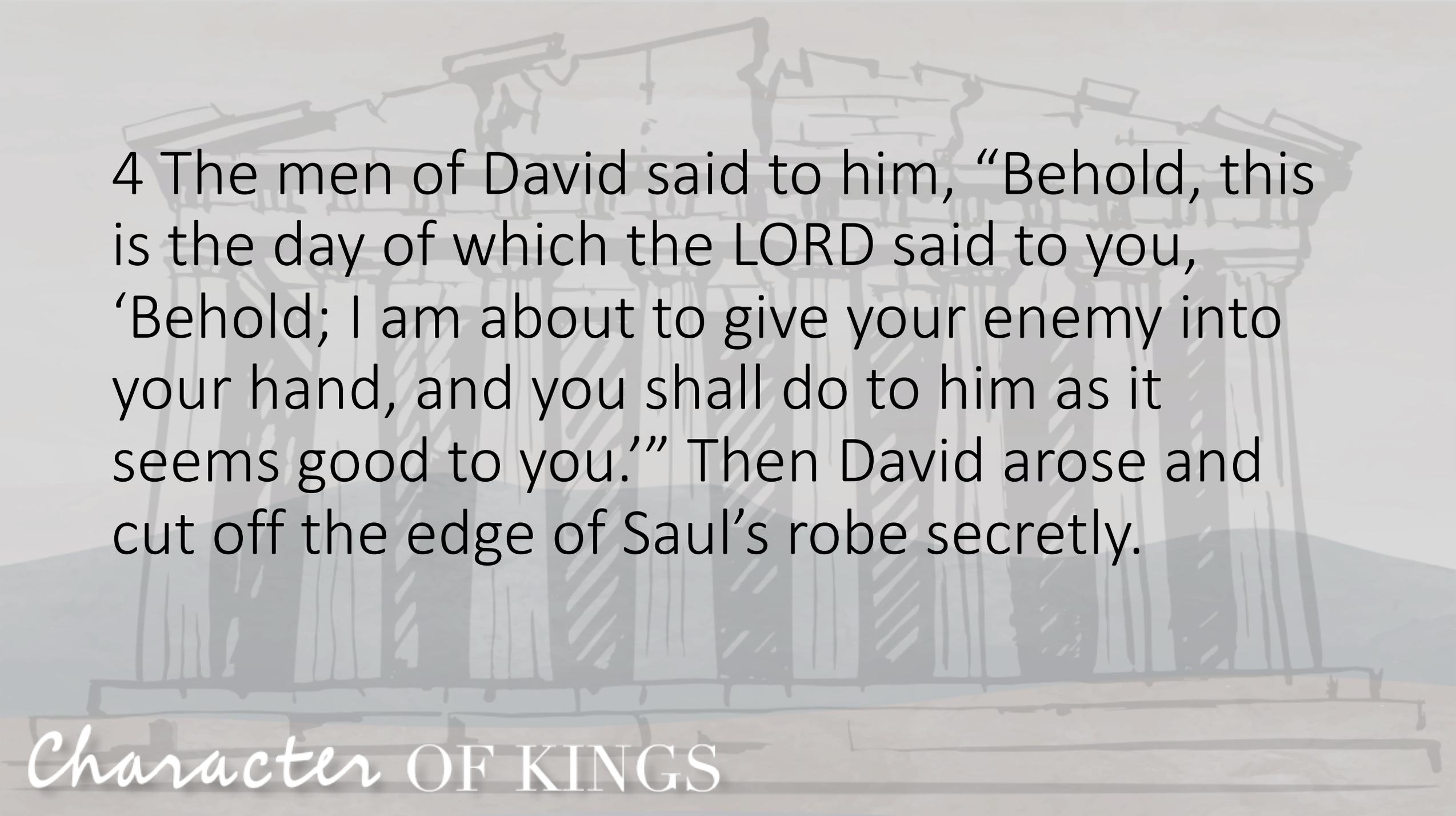
Character OF KINGS





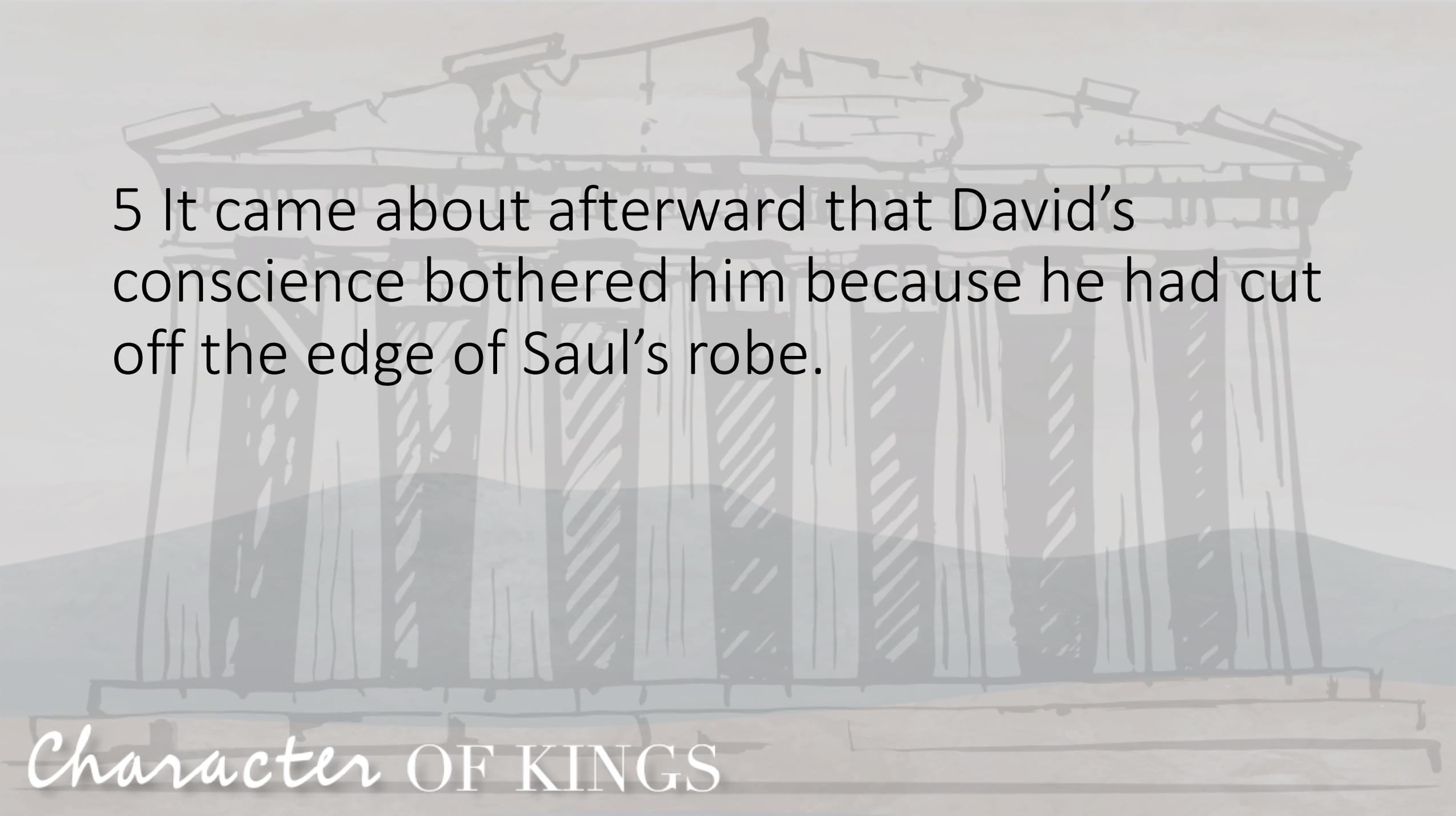
David Spares Saul 1-7

- Saul despises David – ‘envy rots the bones’
- Saul goes to Ein Gedi - Hebrew: עֵין גֶּדִי
- David needs water – shelter – escape
- Saul needs water – privacy – restroom
- Several caves – tiers – waterfalls



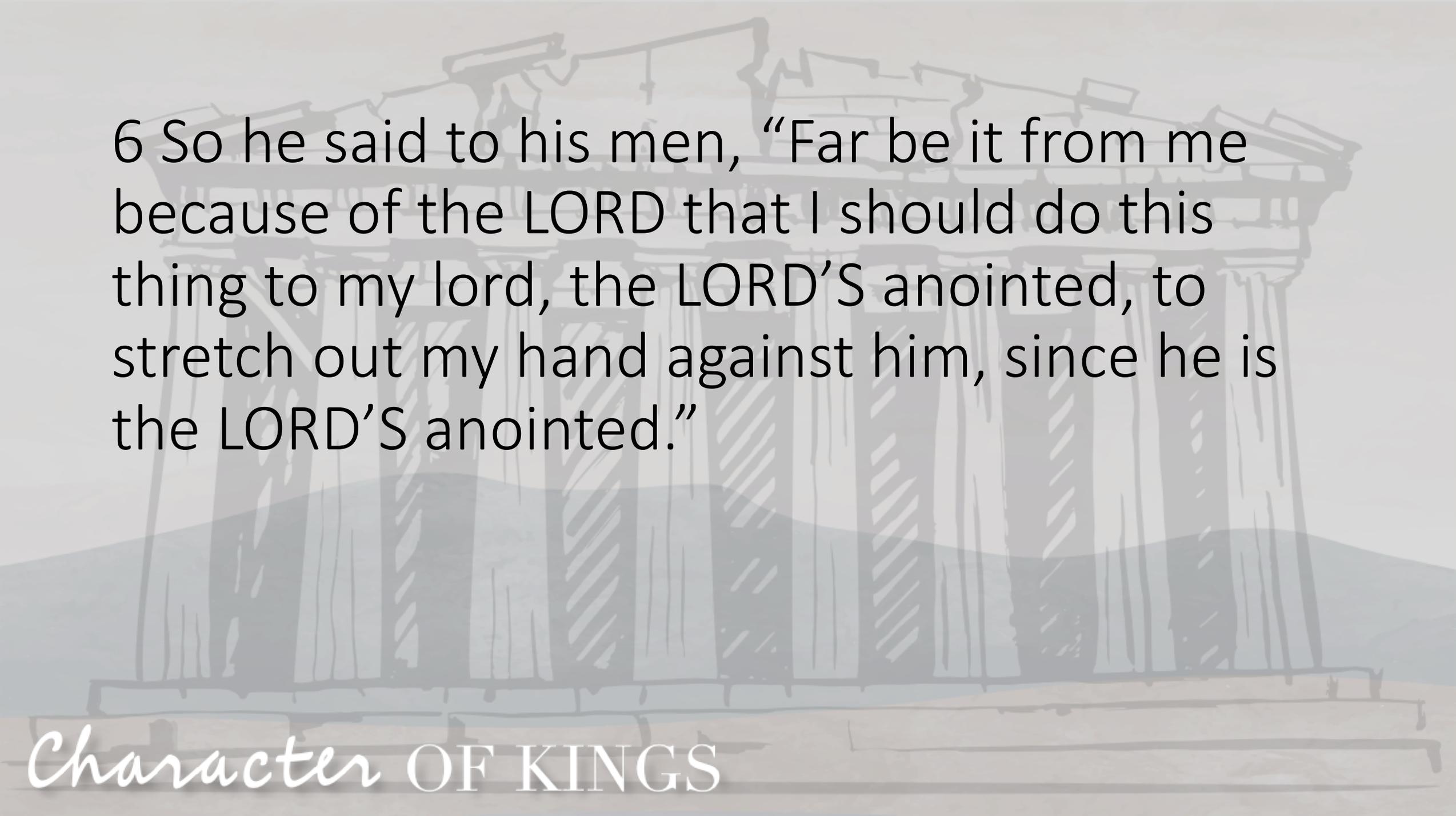
4 The men of David said to him, “Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, ‘Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.’” Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul’s robe secretly.

Character OF KINGS



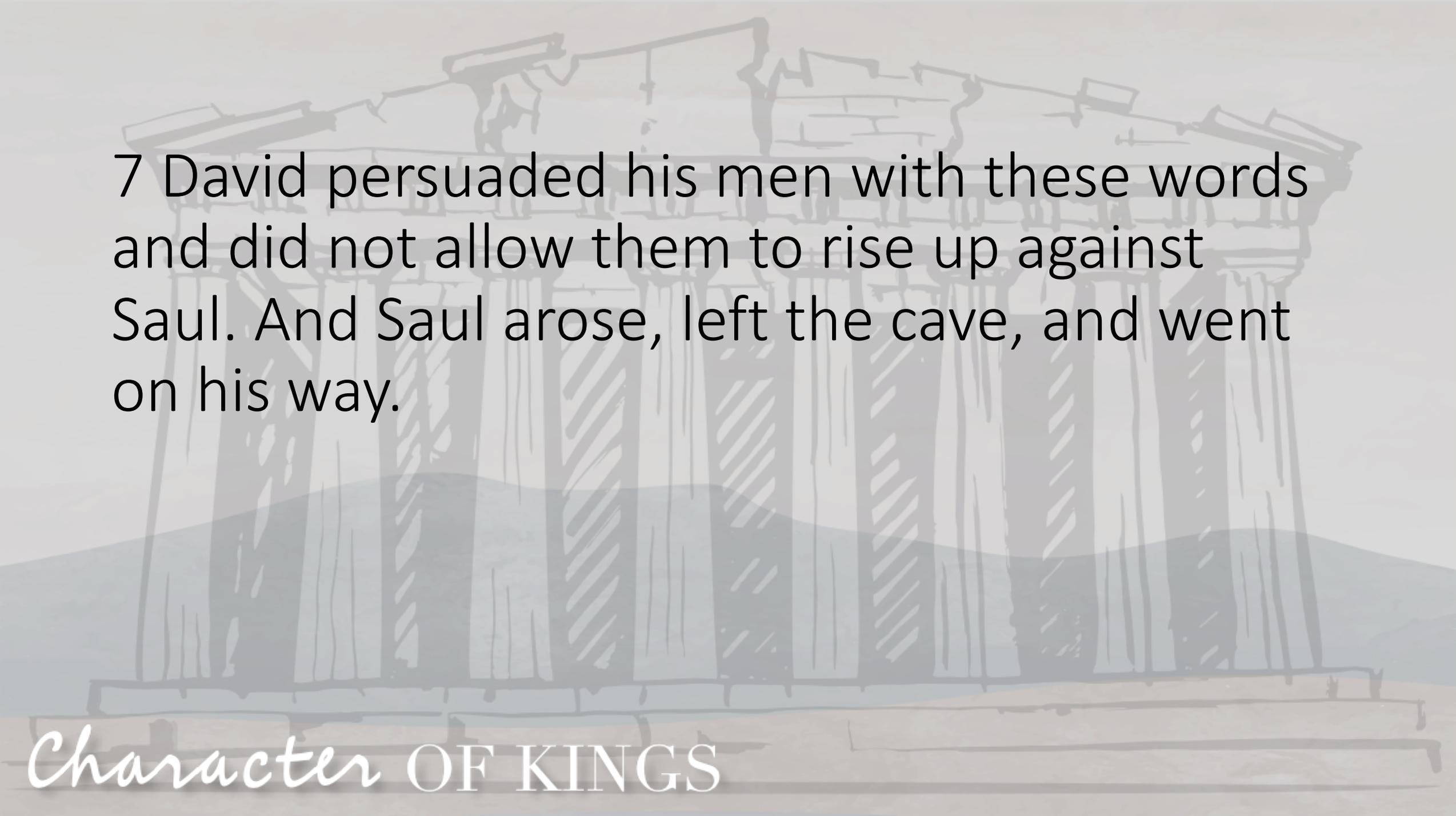
5 It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe.

Character OF KINGS



6 So he said to his men, “Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD’S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD’S anointed.”

Character OF KINGS

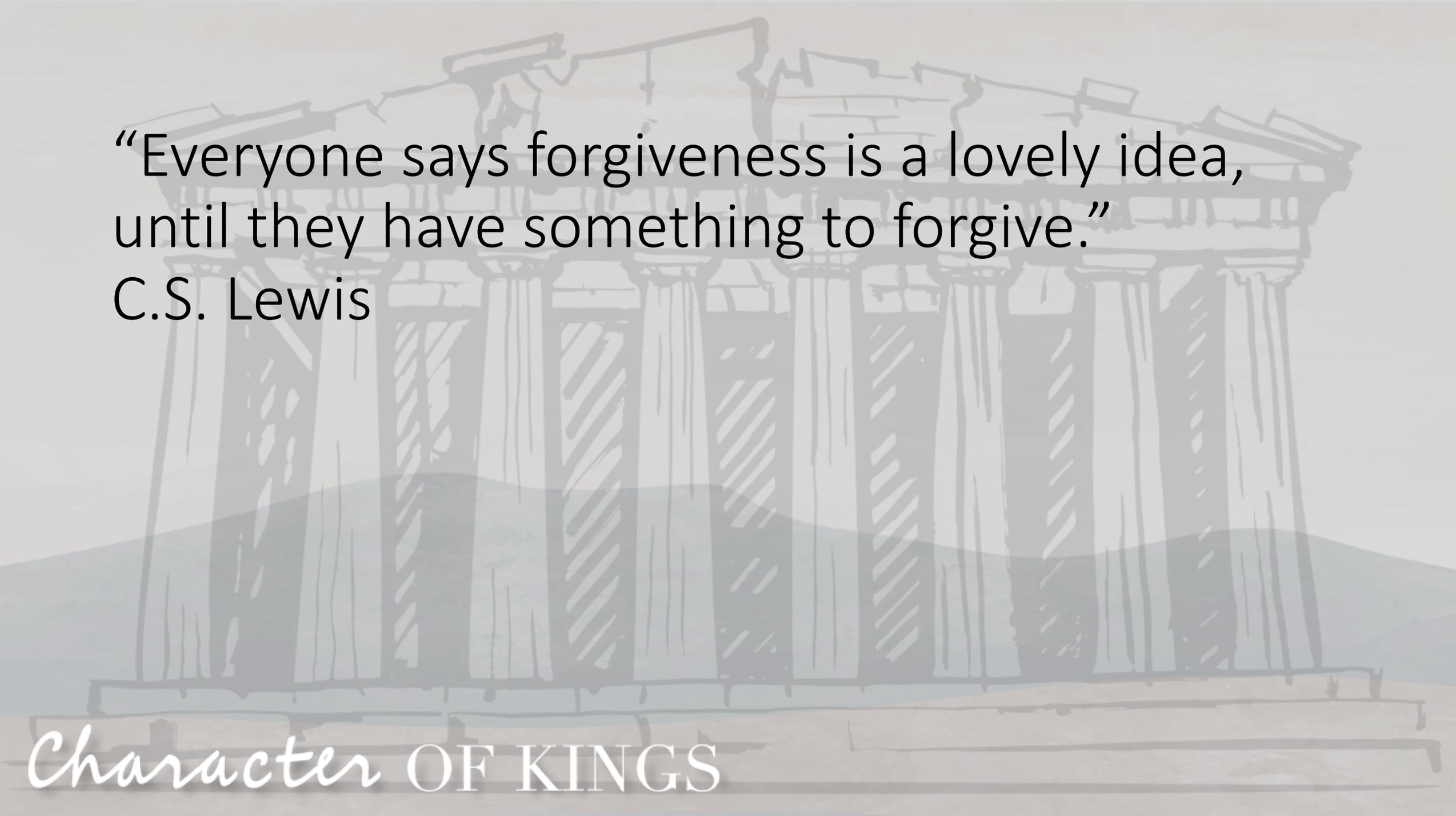


7 David persuaded his men with these words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on his way.

Character OF KINGS

David Spares Saul 1-7

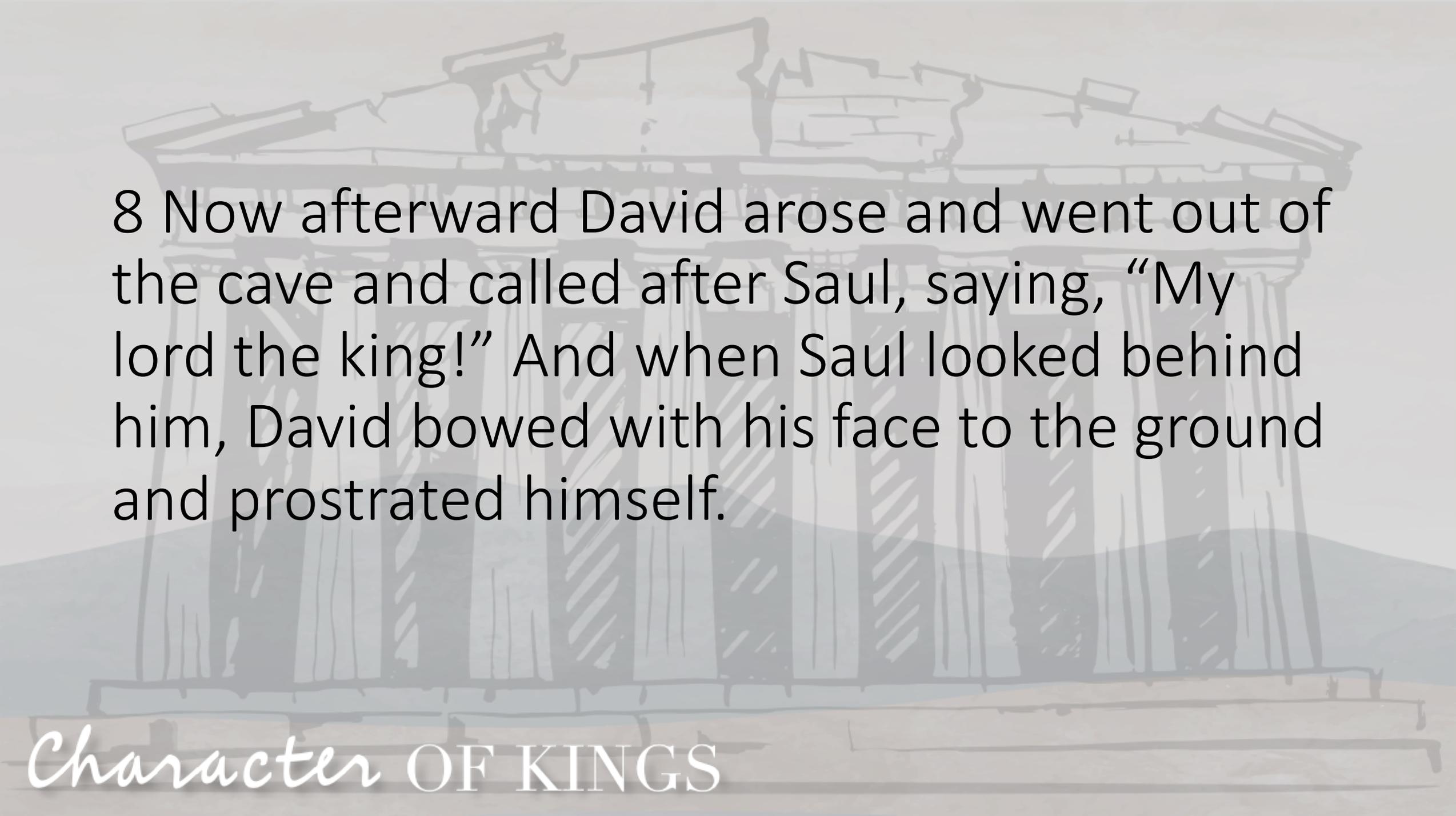
- Saul despises David – ‘envy rots the bones’
- Saul goes to Ein Gedi - Hebrew: עֵיַן גְּדִי
- David’s men read God one way...
- David acts spitefully – ‘I could have...’
- David repents of actions (Paul later quotes)
- David chooses ‘flight’ not ‘fight’



“Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea,
until they have something to forgive.”

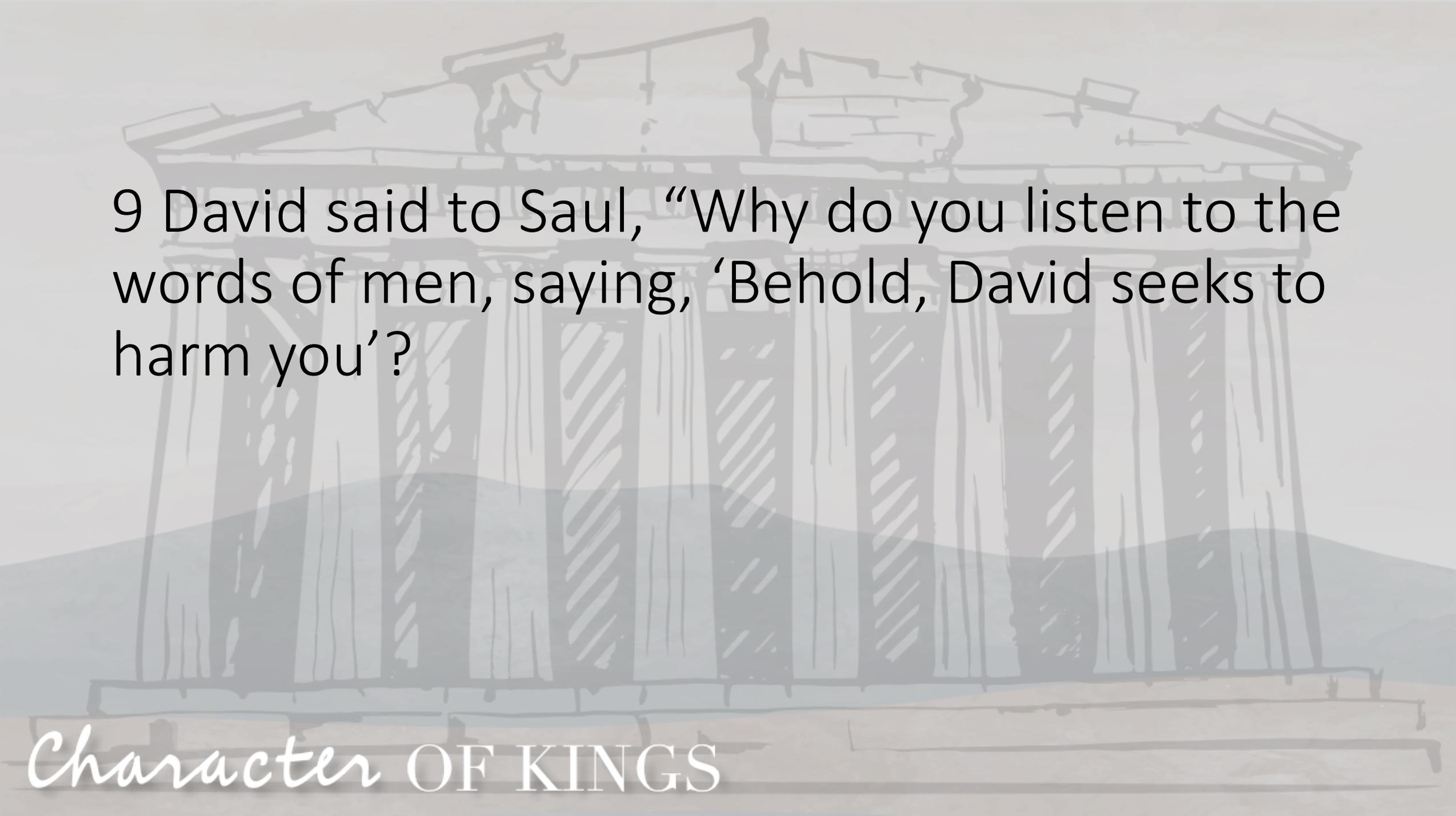
C.S. Lewis

Character OF KINGS



8 Now afterward David arose and went out of the cave and called after Saul, saying, “My lord the king!” And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself.

Character OF KINGS



9 David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of men, saying, ‘Behold, David seeks to harm you’?”

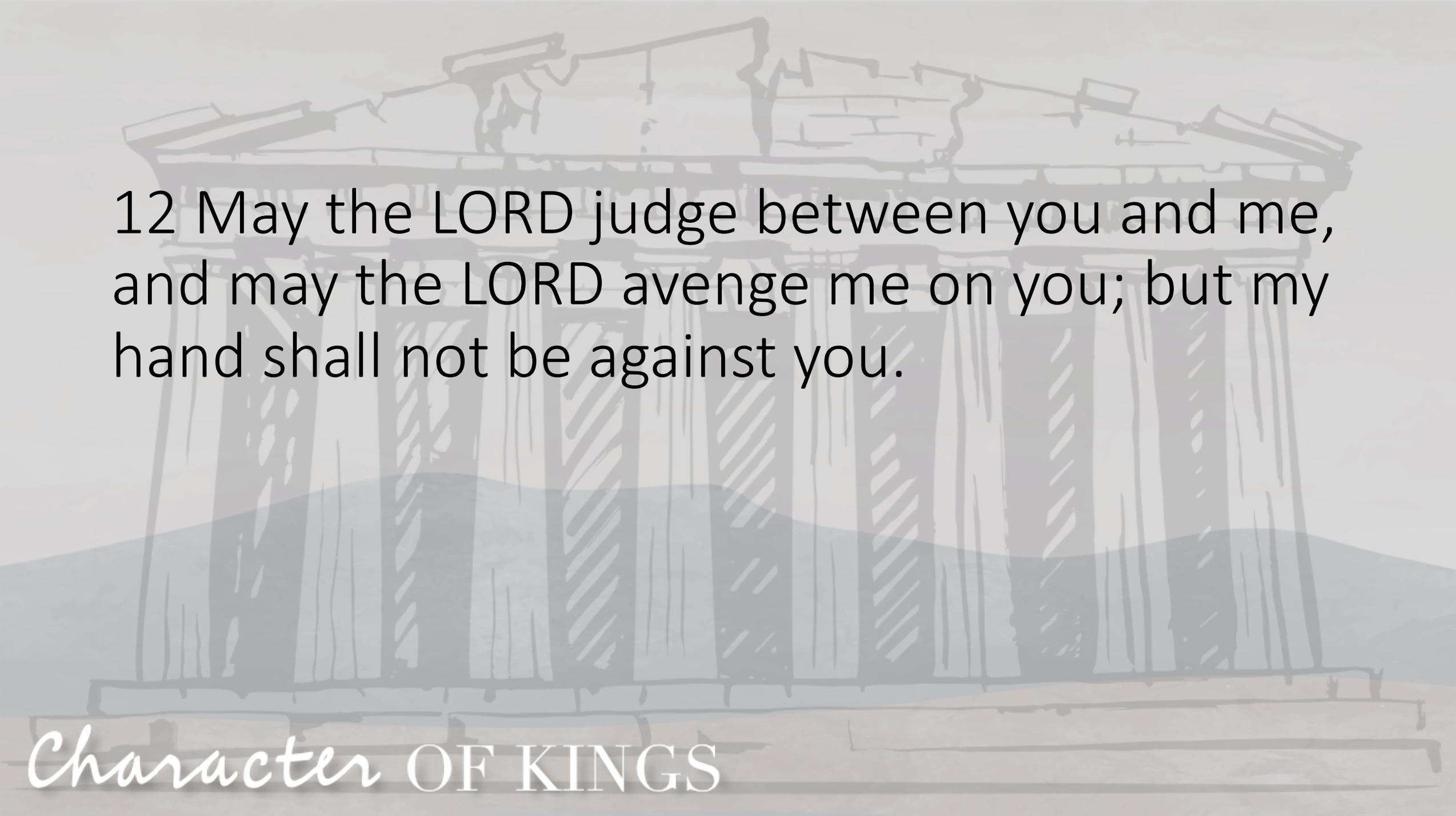
Character OF KINGS

10 Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'

Character OF KINGS

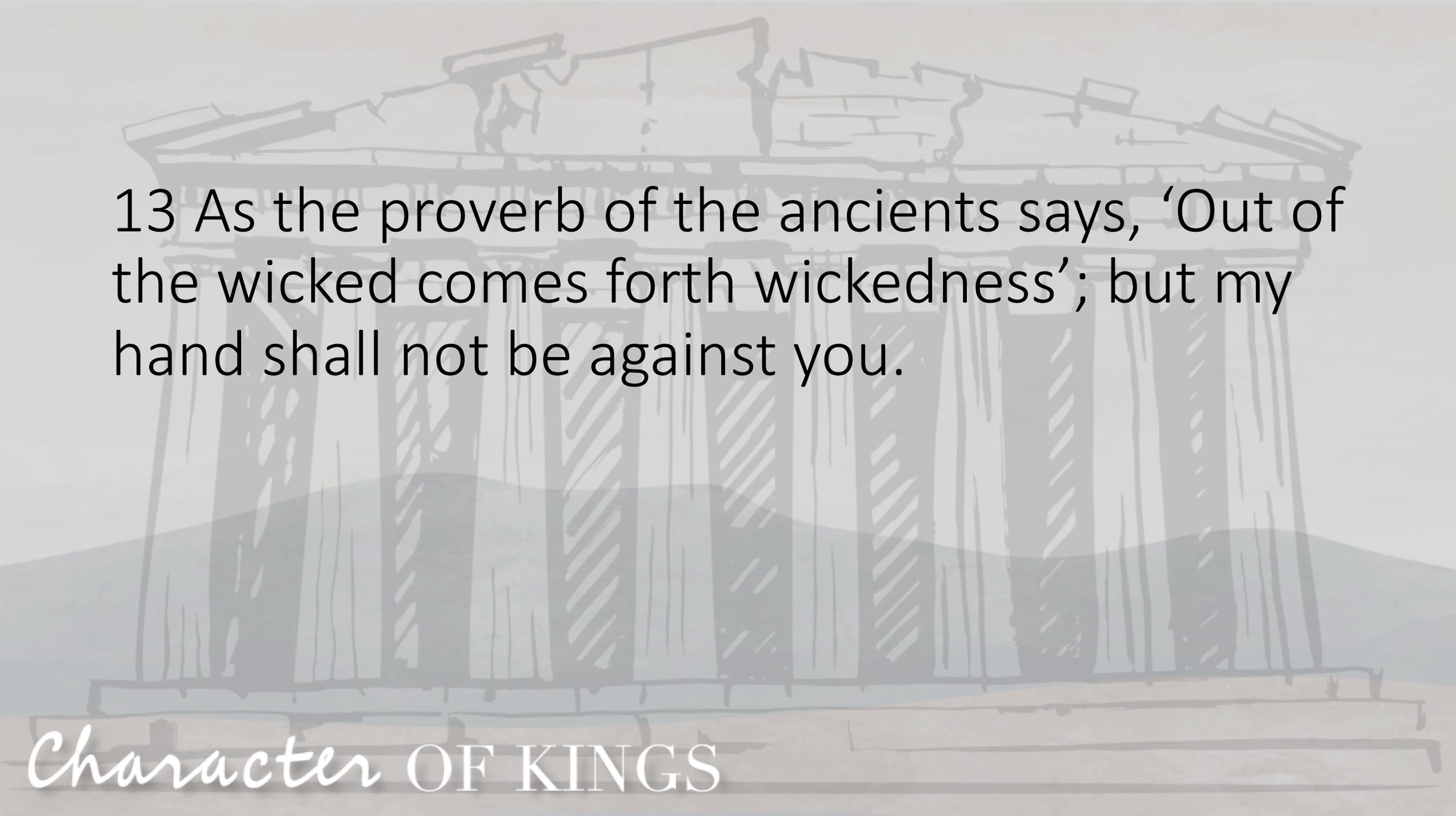
11 Now, my father, see! Indeed, see the edge of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the edge of your robe and did not kill you, know and perceive that there is no evil or rebellion in my hands, and I have not sinned against you, though you are lying in wait for my life to take it.

Character OF KINGS



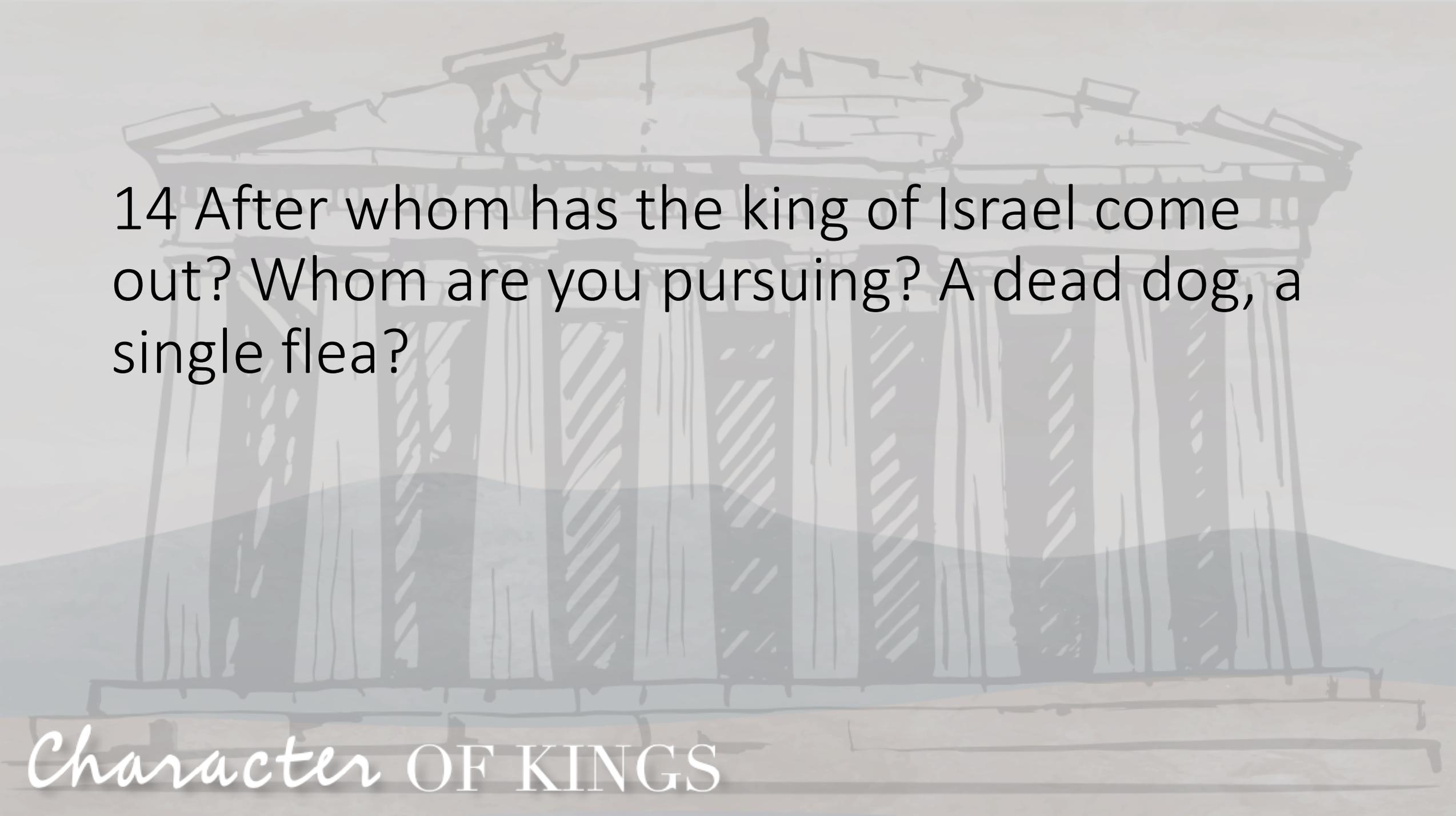
12 May the LORD judge between you and me,
and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my
hand shall not be against you.

Character OF KINGS



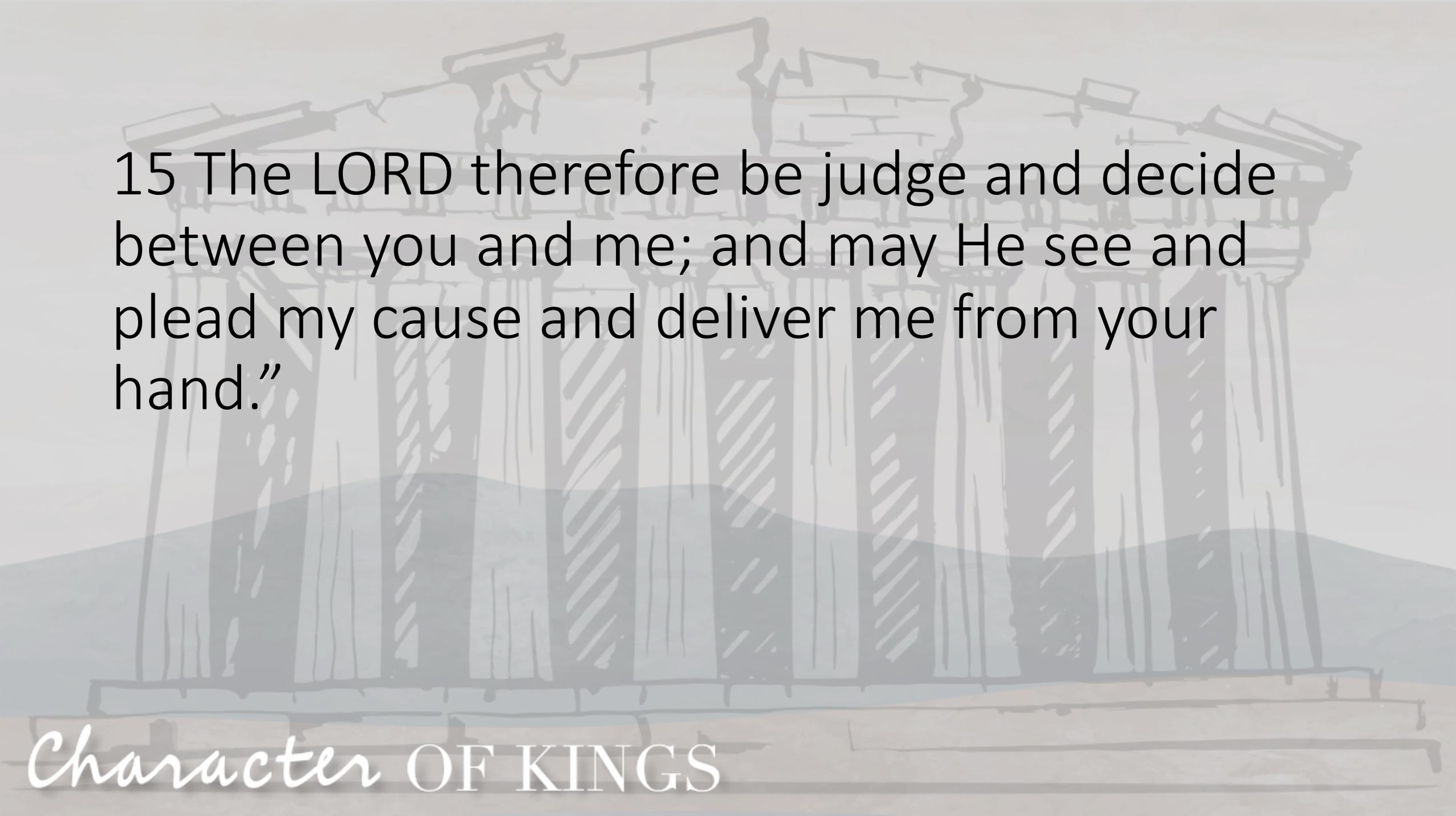
13 As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes forth wickedness'; but my hand shall not be against you.

Character OF KINGS



14 After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog, a single flea?

Character OF KINGS



15 The LORD therefore be judge and decide between you and me; and may He see and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand.”

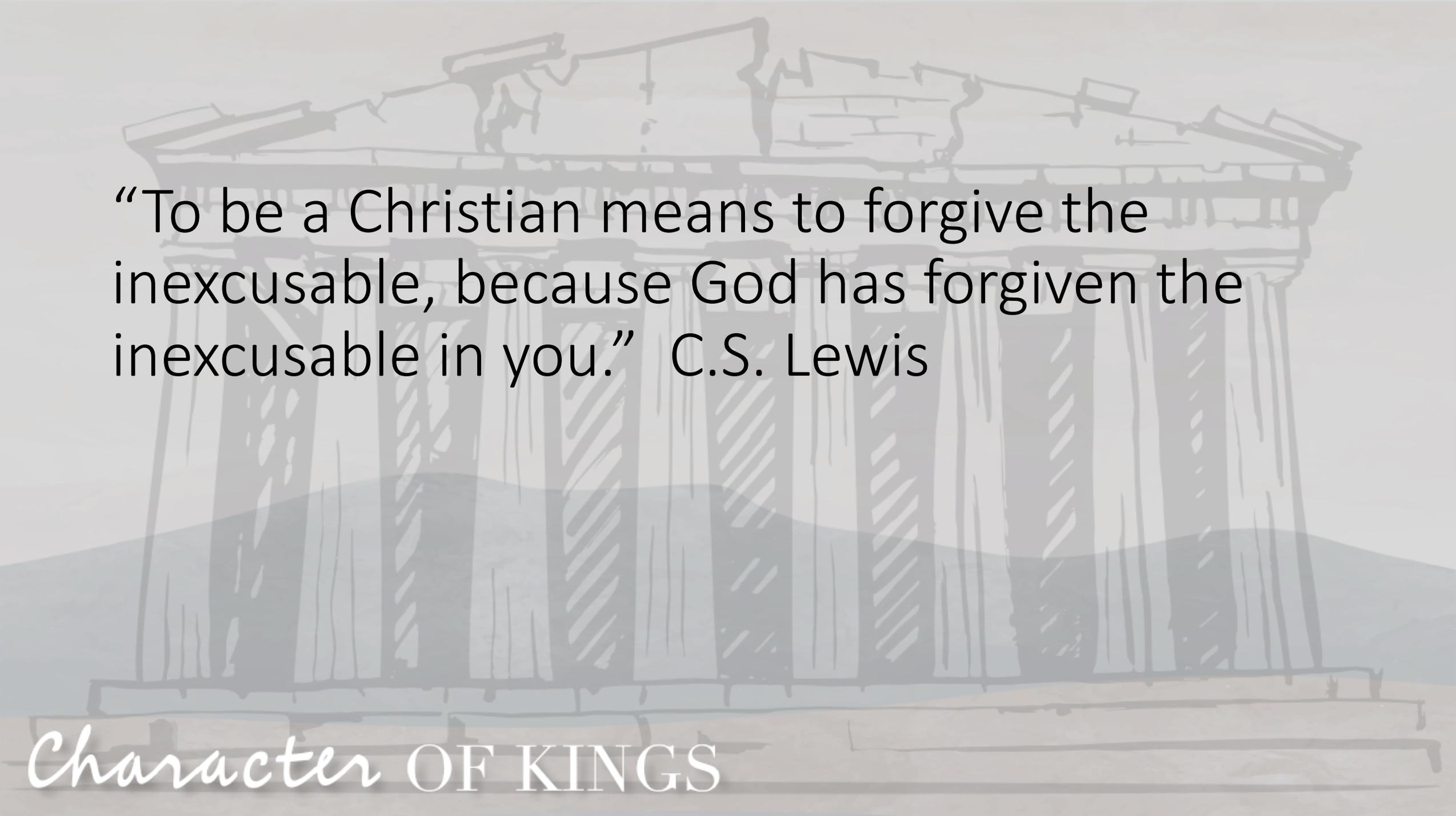
Character OF KINGS

David Confronts Saul 8-15

- David creates 'teachable' moment
- David demonstrates humility
- David questions Saul's advisors
- David shows Saul God's mercy
- David quotes Ex. 22:28 *"You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people"*

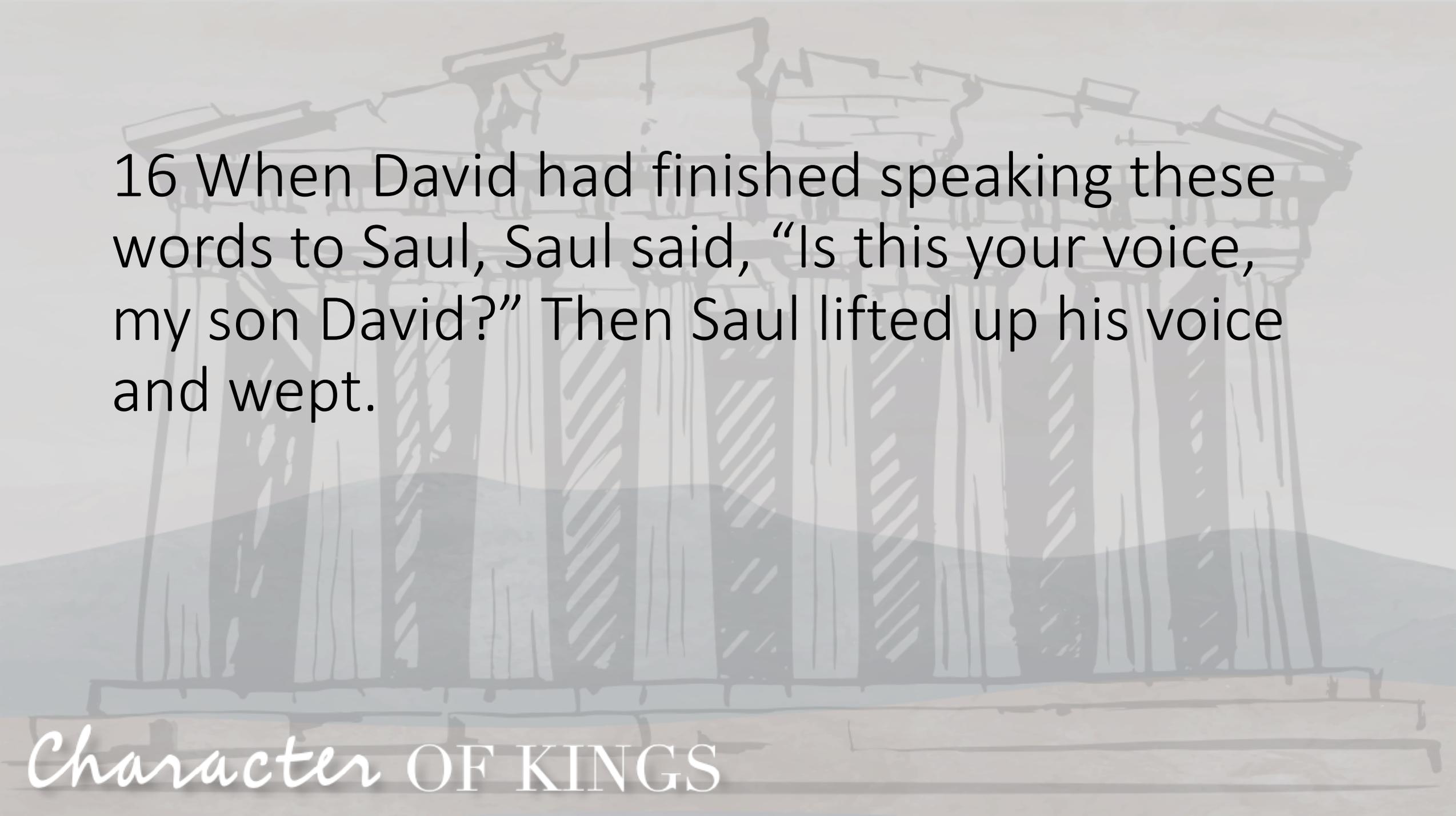
David Confronts Saul 8-15

- David places himself before LORD 12
- David says 'Evil is as Evil does!' Proverb/proverb
- Confrontation ends with God's verdict
- Calling out the King – is this your priority?
- David rests in LORD – whatever happens – His!



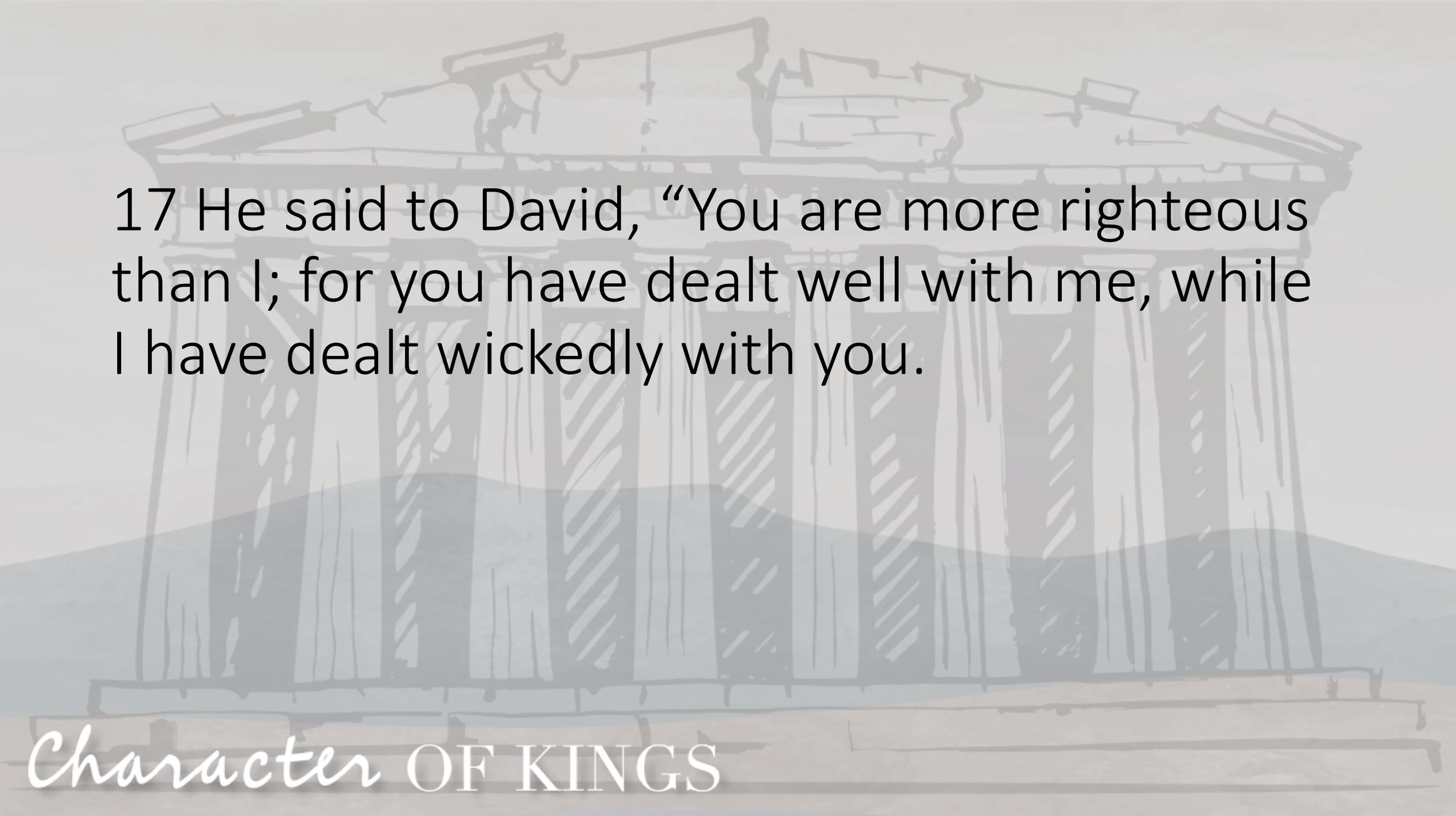
“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” C.S. Lewis

Character OF KINGS



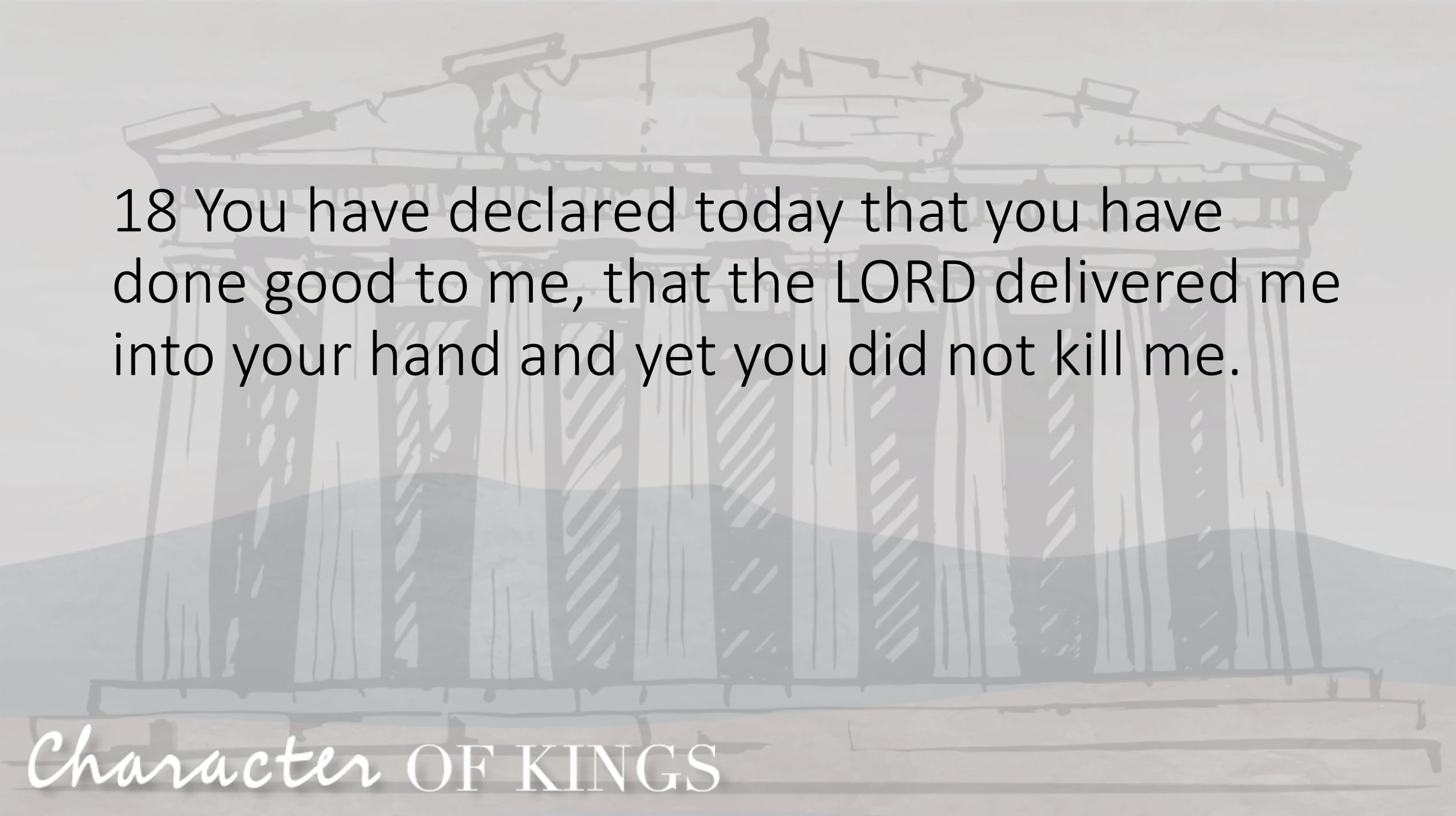
16 When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, “Is this your voice, my son David?” Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

Character OF KINGS



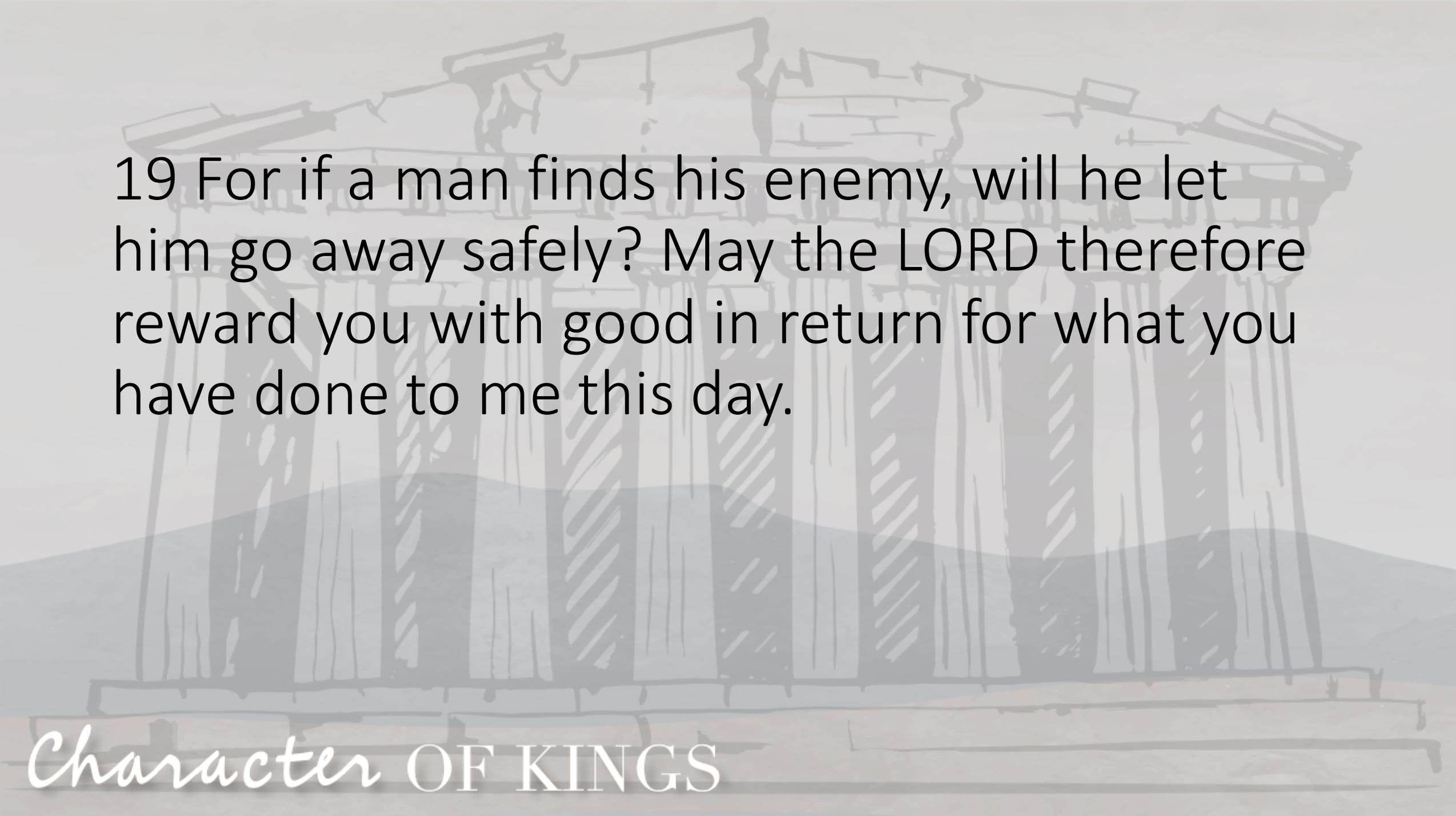
17 He said to David, “You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you.

Character OF KINGS



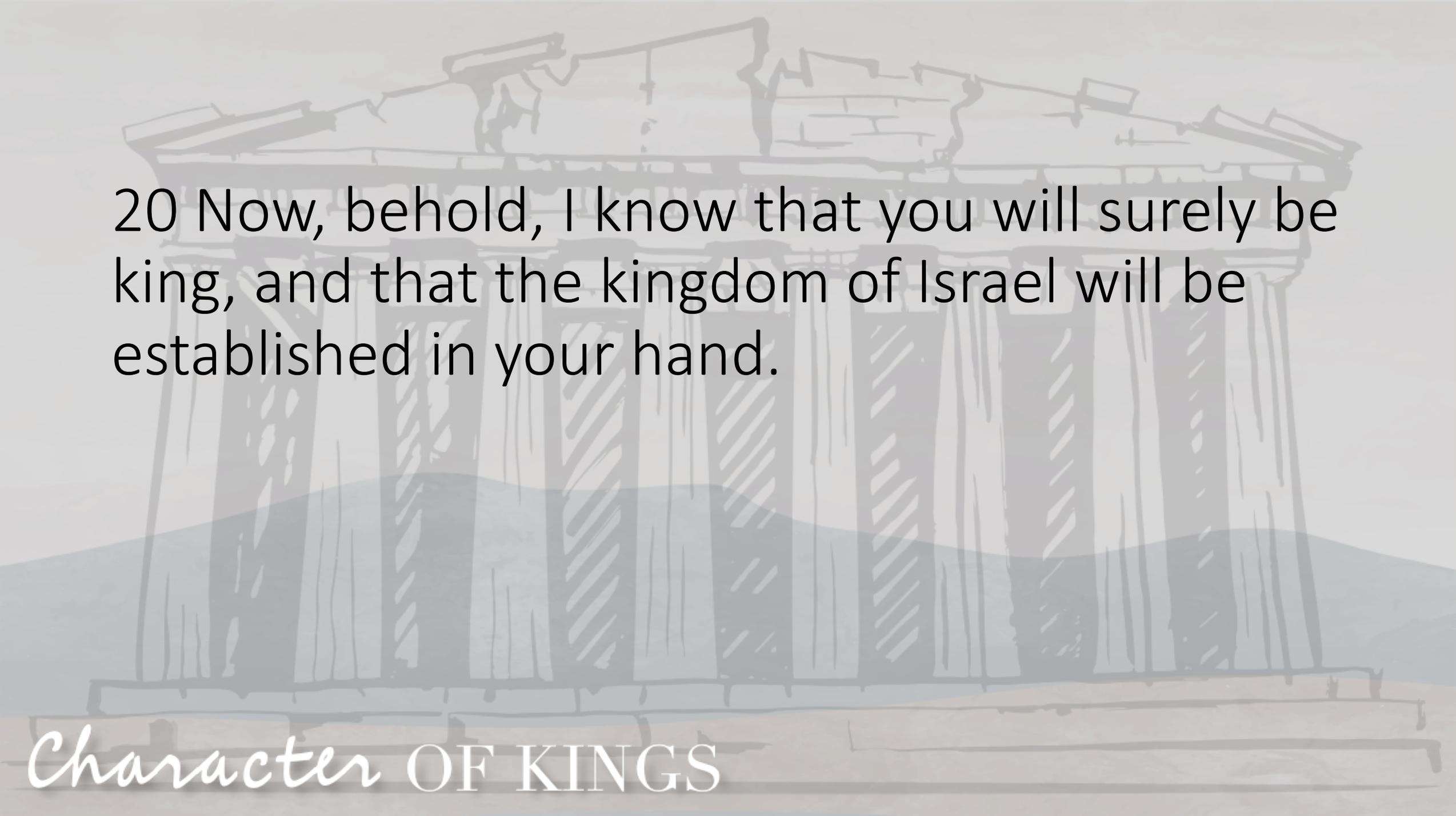
18 You have declared today that you have done good to me, that the LORD delivered me into your hand and yet you did not kill me.

Character OF KINGS



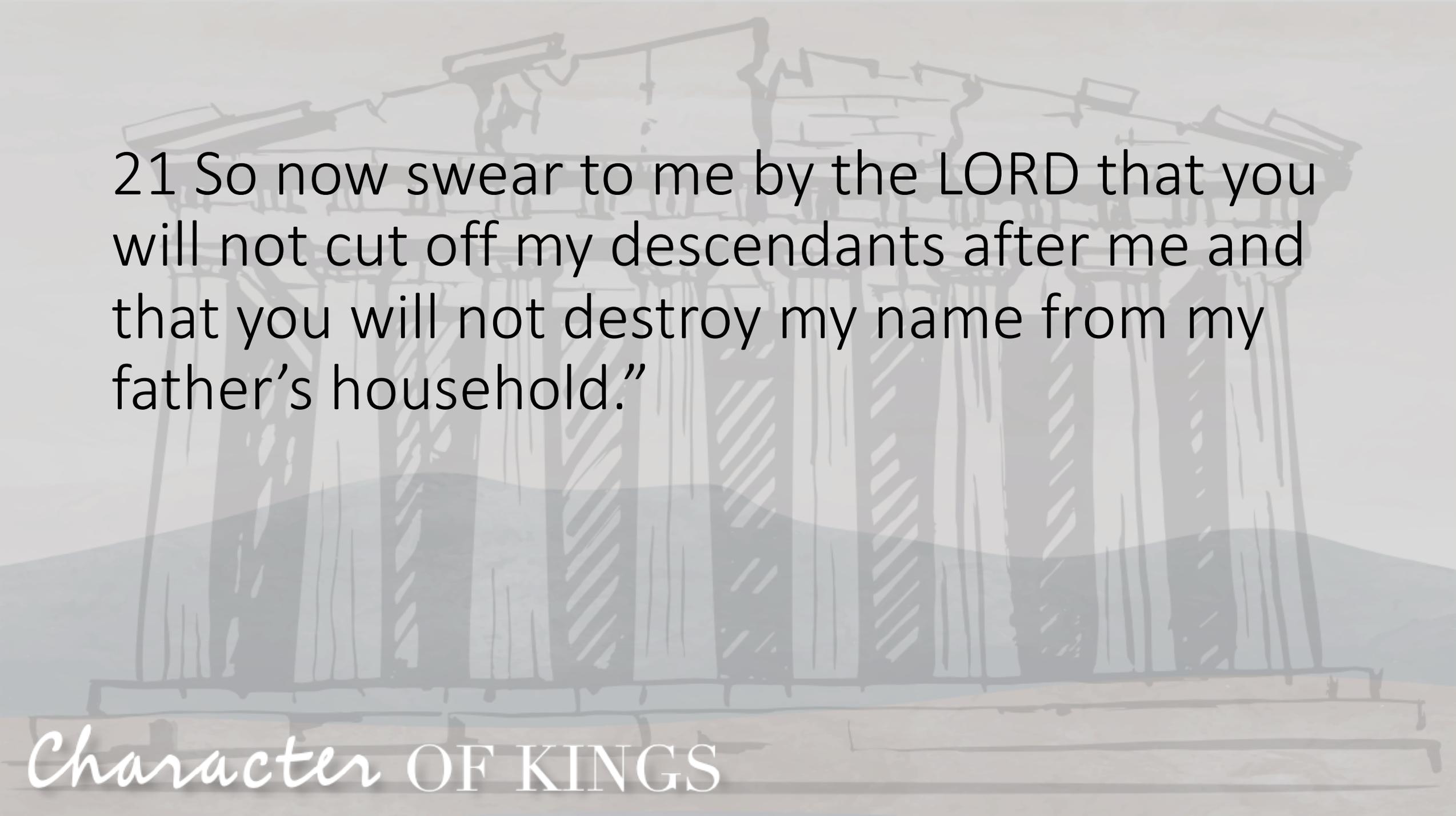
19 For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safely? May the LORD therefore reward you with good in return for what you have done to me this day.

Character OF KINGS



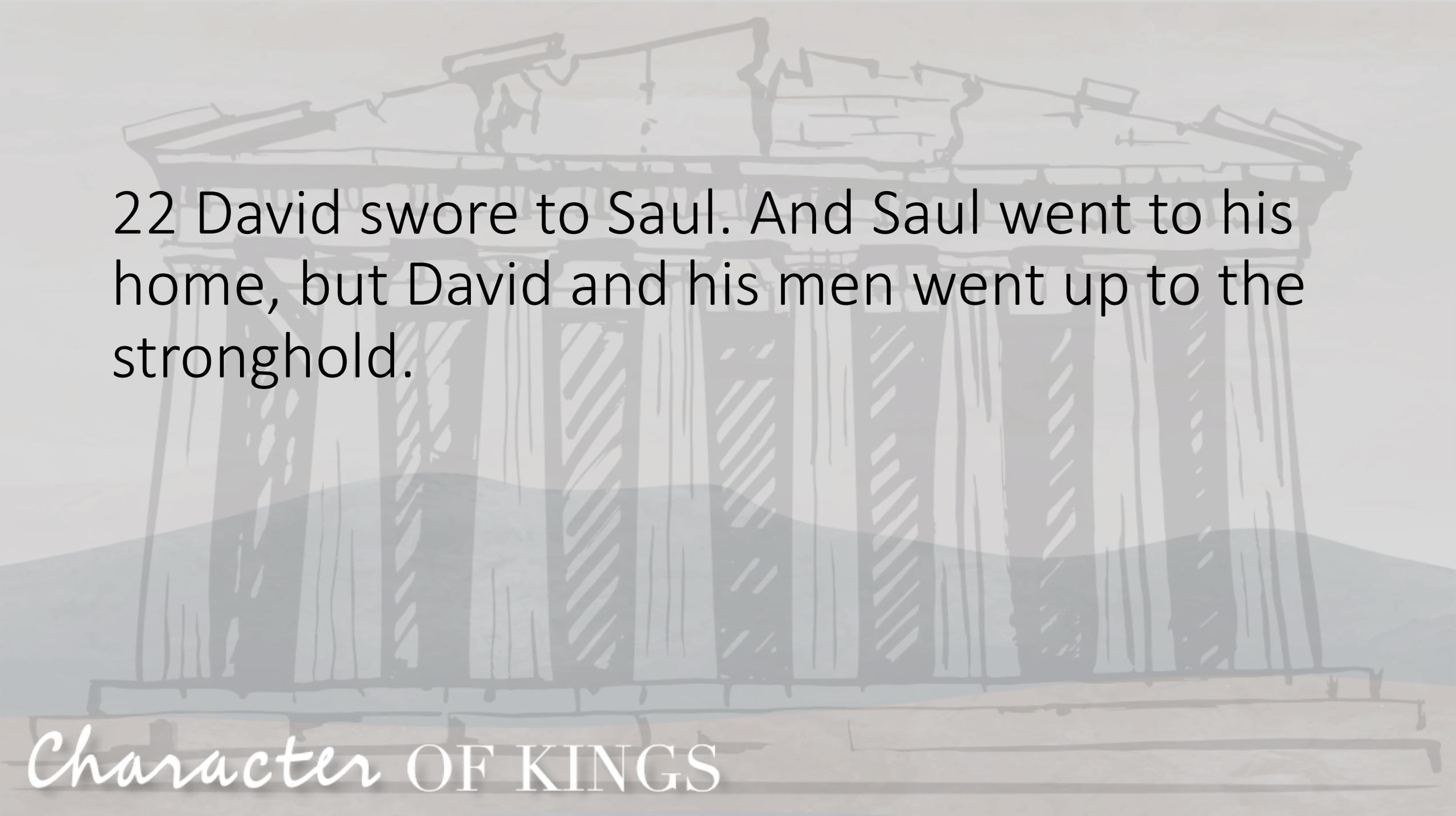
20 Now, behold, I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.

Character OF KINGS



21 So now swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants after me and that you will not destroy my name from my father's household."

Character OF KINGS

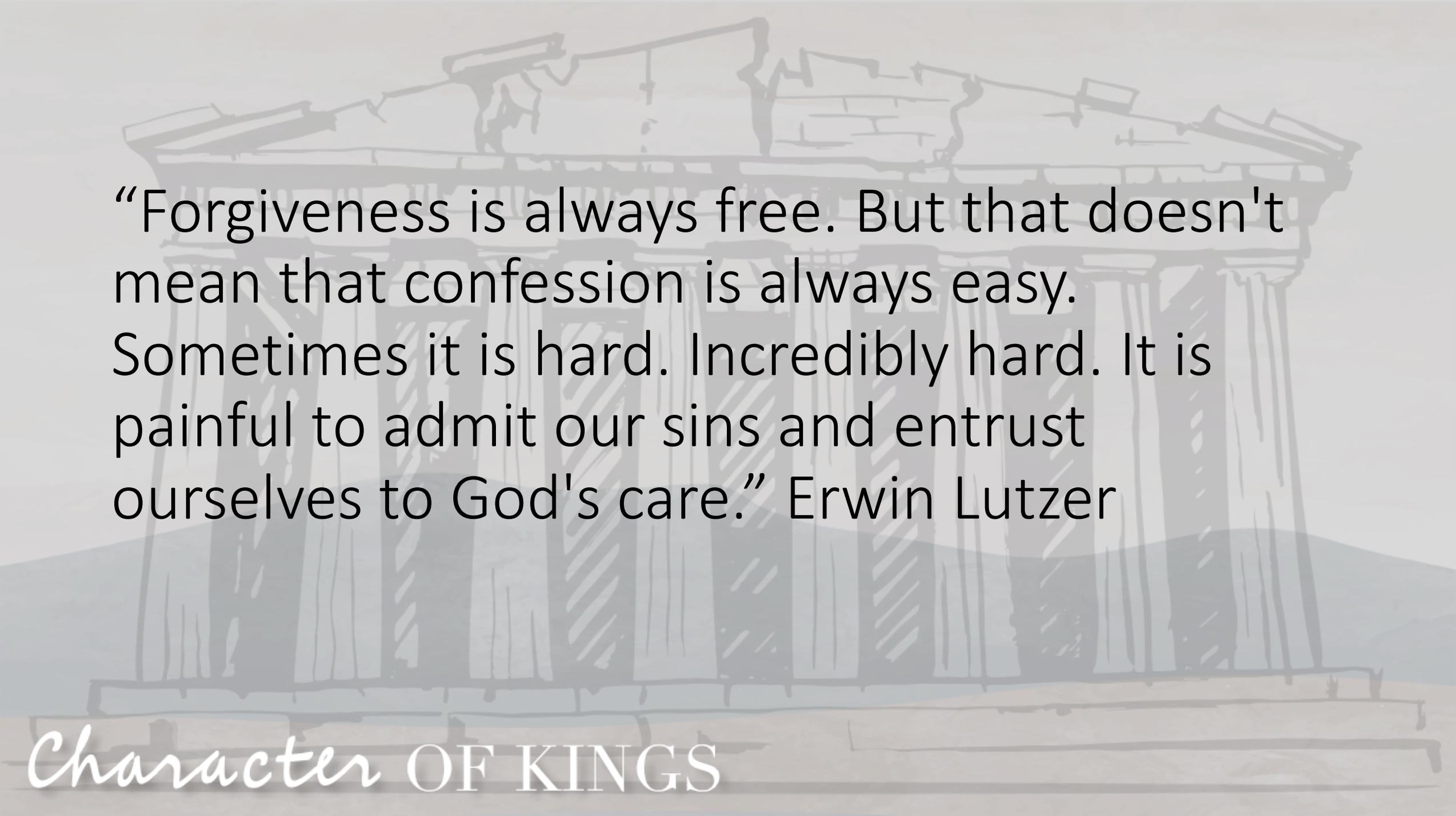


22 David swore to Saul. And Saul went to his home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

Character OF KINGS

David Recognized by Saul 16-22

- Saul convicted and sorrowful 16-19
- μετάνοια - μεταμέλομαι – change of mind/feeling
- Saul chased David again to kill him – 1 Sam 26
- Saul admits God's plan for David – 'your hand'
- Promise me – Mephibosheth – 2 Sam 9



“Forgiveness is always free. But that doesn't mean that confession is always easy. Sometimes it is hard. Incredibly hard. It is painful to admit our sins and entrust ourselves to God's care.” Erwin Lutzer

Character OF KINGS

Fight or Flight?

- Forgive as we are forgiven?
- Vengeance is the LORD'S!
- ***“Forgiveness is the giving, and so the receiving, of life.”*** George Macdonald

Character OF KINGS

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

“Bear with the faults of others as you would have them bear with yours.” Phillips Brooks

Character OF KINGS