How can we remain righteous in chaotic times?

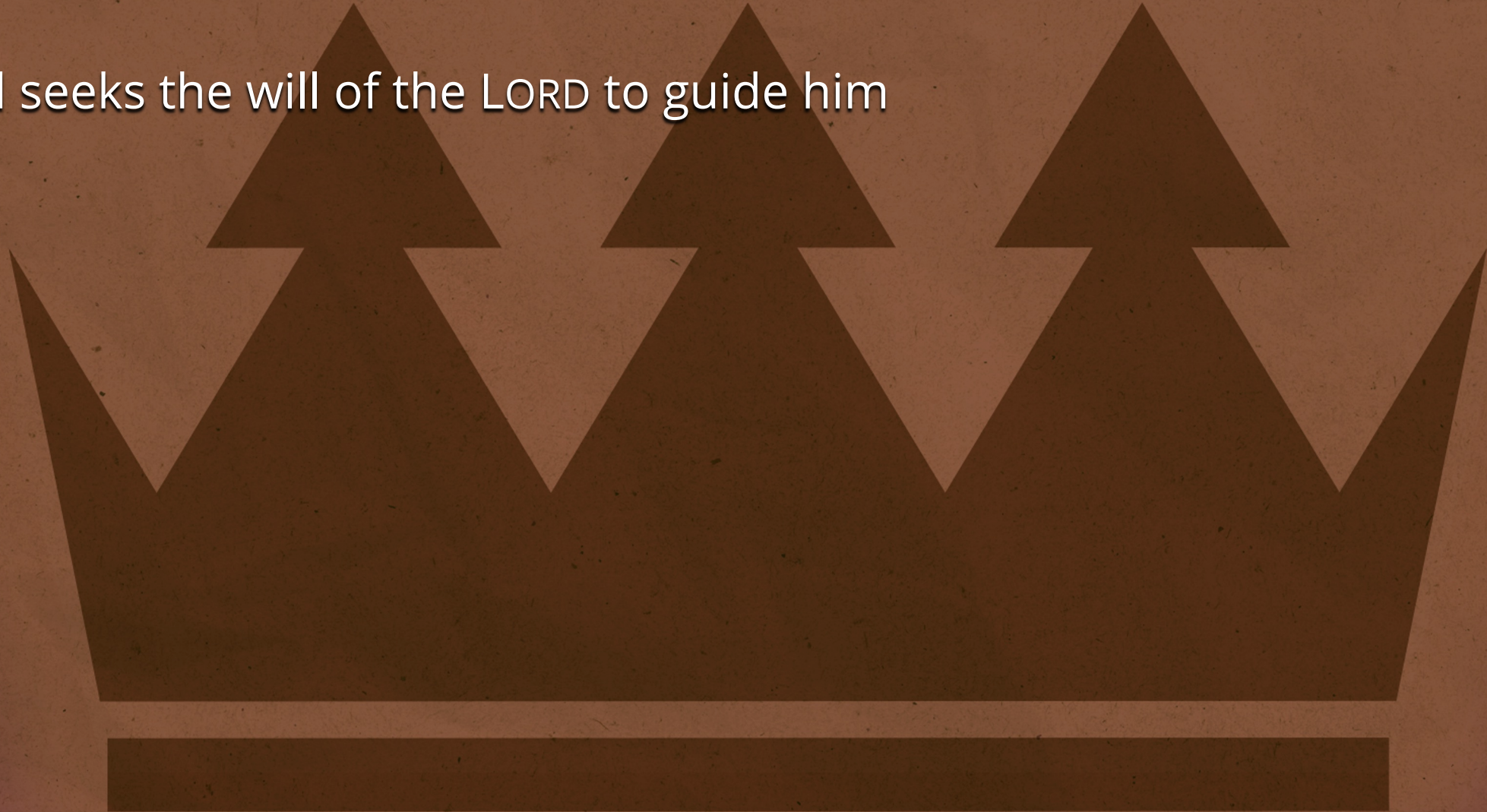How does David remain righteous in chaotic times?

After this David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?" And the LORD said to him, "Go up." David said, "To which shall I go up?" And he said, "To Hebron." So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel.

2 Samuel 2:1-2 ESV

How does David remain righteous in chaotic times?

David seeks the will of the LORD to guide him

And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron. And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.

2 Samuel 2:3-4a ESV

When they told David, "It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul," David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, "May you be blessed by the LORD, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord and buried him.

2 Samuel 2:4b-5 ESV

Now may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing. Now therefore let your hands be strong, and be **valiant**, for Saul your lord is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."
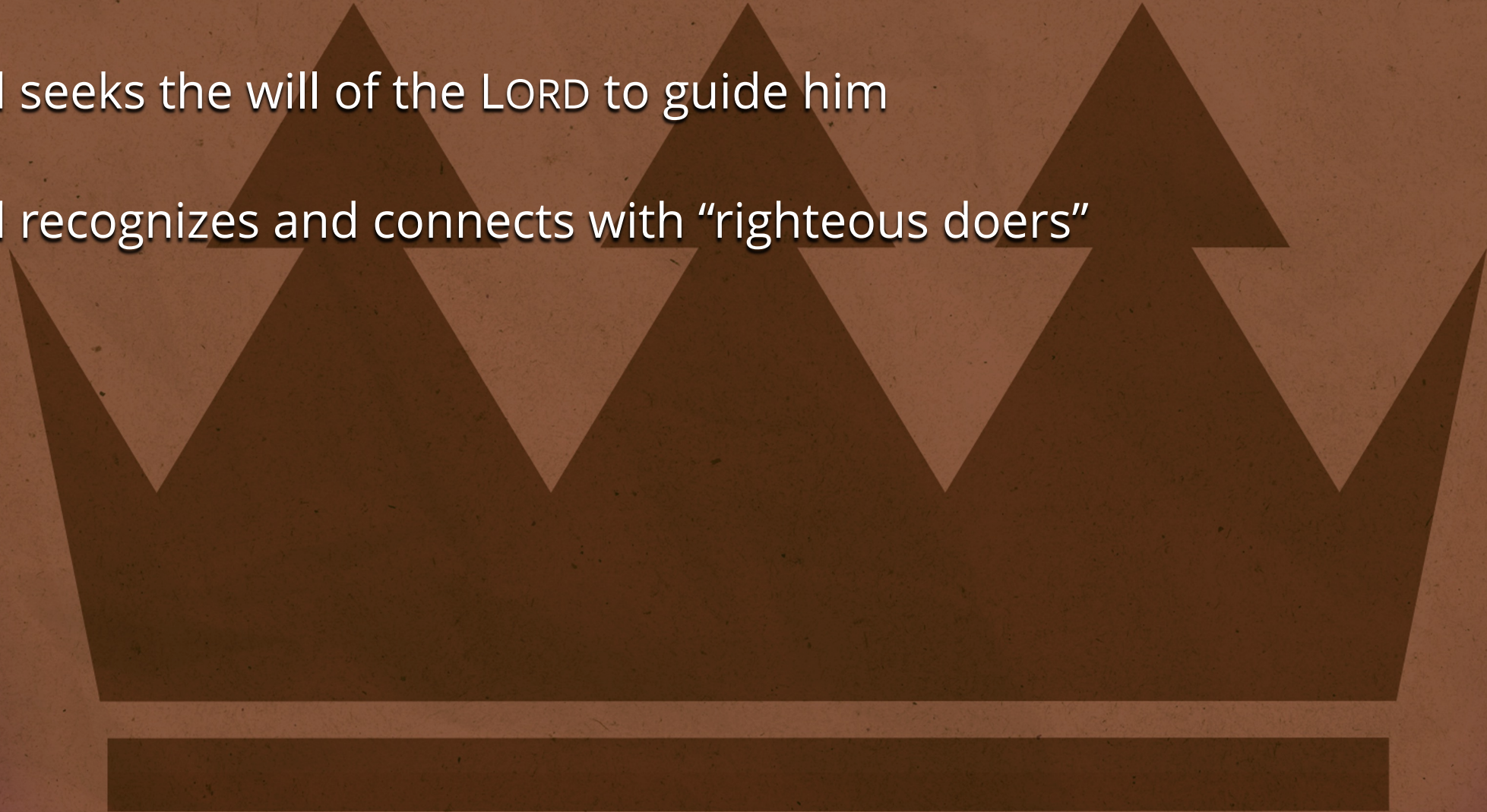
2 Samuel 2:6-7 ESV

Now may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing. Now therefore let your hands be strong, and be **sons of valor**, for Saul your lord is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

2 Samuel 2:6-7 ESV

How does David remain righteous in chaotic times?

David seeks the will of the L\ord to guide him

David recognizes and connects with "righteous doers"

But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took Ish-bosheth the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim, and he made him king over Gilead and the Ashurites and Jezreel and Ephraim and Benjamin and all Israel.

2 Samuel 2:8-9 ESV

Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David. And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

2 Samuel 2:10-11 ESV

Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon. And Joab the son of Zeruiah and the servants of David went out and met them at the pool of Gibeon. And they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool.

2 Samuel 2:12-13 ESV

And Abner said to Joab, "Let the young men arise and compete before us." And Joab said, "Let them arise." Then they arose and passed over by number, twelve for Benjamin and Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David.

2 Samuel 2:14-15 ESV

And each caught his opponent by the head and thrust his sword in his opponent's side, so they fell down together. Therefore that place was called Helkath-hazzurim, which is at Gibeon.

2 Samuel 2:16 ESV

And the battle was very fierce that day. And Abner and the men of Israel were beaten before the servants of David.

And the three sons of Zeruiah were there, Joab, Abishai, and Asahel. Now Asahel was as swift of foot as a wild gazelle. And Asahel pursued Abner, and as he went, he turned neither to the right hand nor to the left from following Abner. Then Abner looked behind him and said, "Is it you, Asahel?" And he answered, "It is I."

2 Samuel 2:18-20 ESV

Abner said to him, "Turn aside to your right hand or to your left, and seize one of the young men and take his spoil." But Asahel would not turn aside from following him. And Abner said again to Asahel, "Turn aside from following me. Why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I lift up my face to your brother Joab?"

2 Samuel 2:21-22 ESV

But he refused to turn aside. Therefore Abner struck him in the stomach with the butt of his spear, so that the spear came out at his back. And he fell there and died where he was. And all who came to the place where Asahel had fallen and died, stood still.

2 Samuel 2:23 ESV

But Joab and Abishai pursued Abner. And as the sun was going down they came to the hill of Ammah, which lies before Giah on the way to the wilderness of Gibeon. And the people of Benjamin gathered themselves together behind Abner and became one group and took their stand on the top of a hill.

Then Abner called to Joab, "Shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that the end will be bitter? How long will it be before you tell your people to turn from the pursuit of their brothers?" And Joab said, "As God lives, if you had not spoken, surely the men would not have given up the pursuit of their brothers until the morning."

2 Samuel 2:26-27 ESV

So Joab blew the trumpet, and all the men stopped and pursued Israel no more, nor did they fight anymore. And Abner and his men went all that night through the Arabah. They crossed the Jordan, and marching the whole morning, they came to Mahanaim.

2 Samuel 2:28-29 ESV

Joab returned from the pursuit of Abner. And when he had gathered all the people together, there were missing from David's servants nineteen men besides Asahel. But the servants of David had struck down of Benjamin 360 of Abner's men.

2 Samuel 2:30-31 ESV

And they took up Asahel and buried him in the tomb of his father, which was at Bethlehem. And Joab and his men marched all night, and the day broke upon them at Hebron.

2 Samuel 2:32 ESV

There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. And David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul became weaker and weaker.

2 Samuel 3:1 ESV

And sons were born to David at Hebron: his firstborn was Amnon, of **Ahinoam** of Jezreel; and his second, Chileab, of **Abigail** the widow of Nabal of Carmel; and the third, Absalom the son of **Maacah** the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; and the fourth, Adonijah the son of **Haggith**; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of **Abital**; and the sixth, **Ithream**, of Eglah, David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron.

2 Samuel 3:2-5 ESV

While there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, Abner was making himself strong in the house of Saul.

Now Saul had a concubine whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah. And Ish-bosheth said to Abner, "Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?"

2 Samuel 3:7 ESV

Then Abner was very angry over the words of Ish-bosheth and said, "Am I a dog's head of Judah? To this day I keep showing steadfast love to the house of Saul your father, to his brothers, and to his friends, and have not given you into the hand of David. And yet you charge me today with a fault concerning a woman.

2 Samuel 3:7-8 ESV

God do so to Abner and more also, if I do not accomplish for David what the LORD has sworn to him, to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan to Beersheba." And Ish-bosheth could not answer Abner another word, because he feared him.

2 Samuel 3:9-11 ESV

And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, "To whom does the land belong? Make your covenant with me, and behold, my hand shall be with you to bring over all Israel to you." And he said, "Good; I will make a covenant with you. But one thing I require of you; that is, you shall not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see my face."

2 Samuel 3:12-13 ESV

Then David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, saying, "Give me my wife Michal, for whom I paid the bridal price of a hundred foreskins of the Philistines." And Ish-bosheth sent and took her from her husband Paltiel the son of Laish. But her husband went with her, weeping after her all the way to Bahurim. Then Abner said to him, "Go, return." And he returned.

2 Samuel 3:14-16 ESV

And Abner conferred with the elders of Israel, saying, "For some time past you have been seeking David as king over you. Now then bring it about, for the LORD has promised David, saying, 'By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines, and from the hand of all their enemies.'"

2 Samuel 3:17-18 ESV

Abner also spoke to Benjamin. And then Abner went to tell David at Hebron all that Israel and the whole house of Benjamin thought good to do. When Abner came with twenty men to David at Hebron, David made a feast for Abner and the men who were with him.

And Abner said to David, "I will arise and go and will gather all Israel to my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with you, and that you may reign over all that your heart desires." So David sent Abner away, and he went in peace.
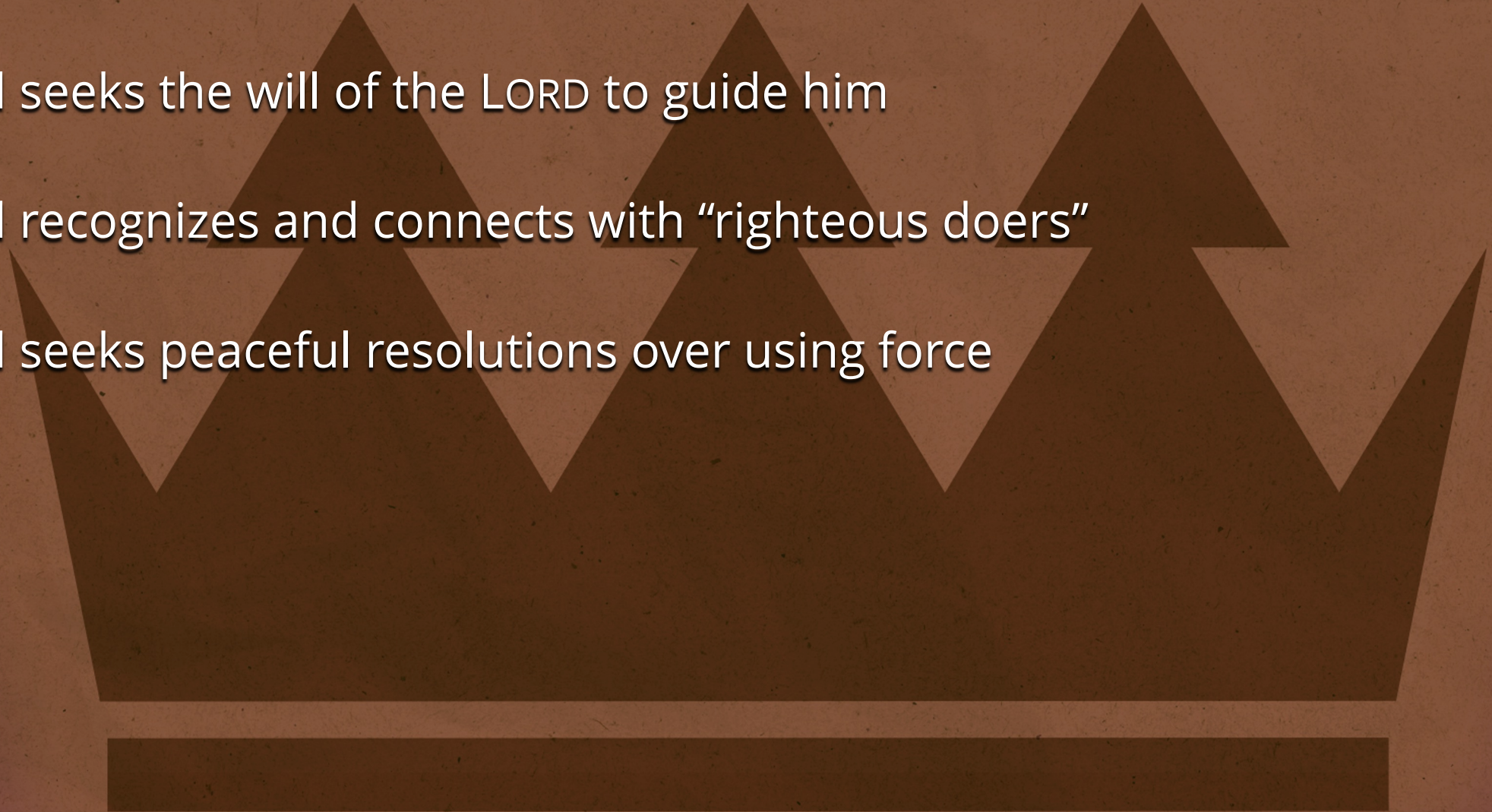
2 Samuel 3:21 ESV

How does David remain righteous in chaotic times?

David seeks the will of the Lᴏʀᴅ to guide him

David recognizes and connects with "righteous doers"

David seeks peaceful resolutions over using force

So David sent Abner away, and he went **in peace**. Just then the servants of David arrived with Joab from a raid, bringing much spoil with them. But Abner was not with David at Hebron, for he had sent him away, and he had gone **in peace**. When Joab and all the army that was with him came, it was told Joab, "Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he has let him go, and he has gone **in peace**."

2 Samuel 3:21b-23 ESV

Then Joab went to the king and said, "What have you done? Behold, Abner came to you. Why is it that you have sent him away, so that he is gone? You know that Abner the son of Ner came to deceive you and to know your going out and your coming in, and to know all that you are doing."

2 Samuel 3:24-25 ESV

When Joab came out from David's presence, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the cistern of Sirah. But David did not know about it. And when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the midst of the gate to speak with him privately, and there he struck him in the stomach, so that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.

2 Samuel 3:26-27 ESV

Afterward, when David heard of it, he said, "I and my kingdom are forever guiltless before the Lᴏʀᴅ for the blood of Abner the son of Ner. May it fall upon the head of Joab and upon all his father's house, and may the house of Joab never be without one who has a discharge or who is leprous or who holds a spindle or who falls by the sword or who lacks bread!" So Joab and Abishai his brother killed Abner, because he had put their brother Asahel to death in the battle at Gibeon.
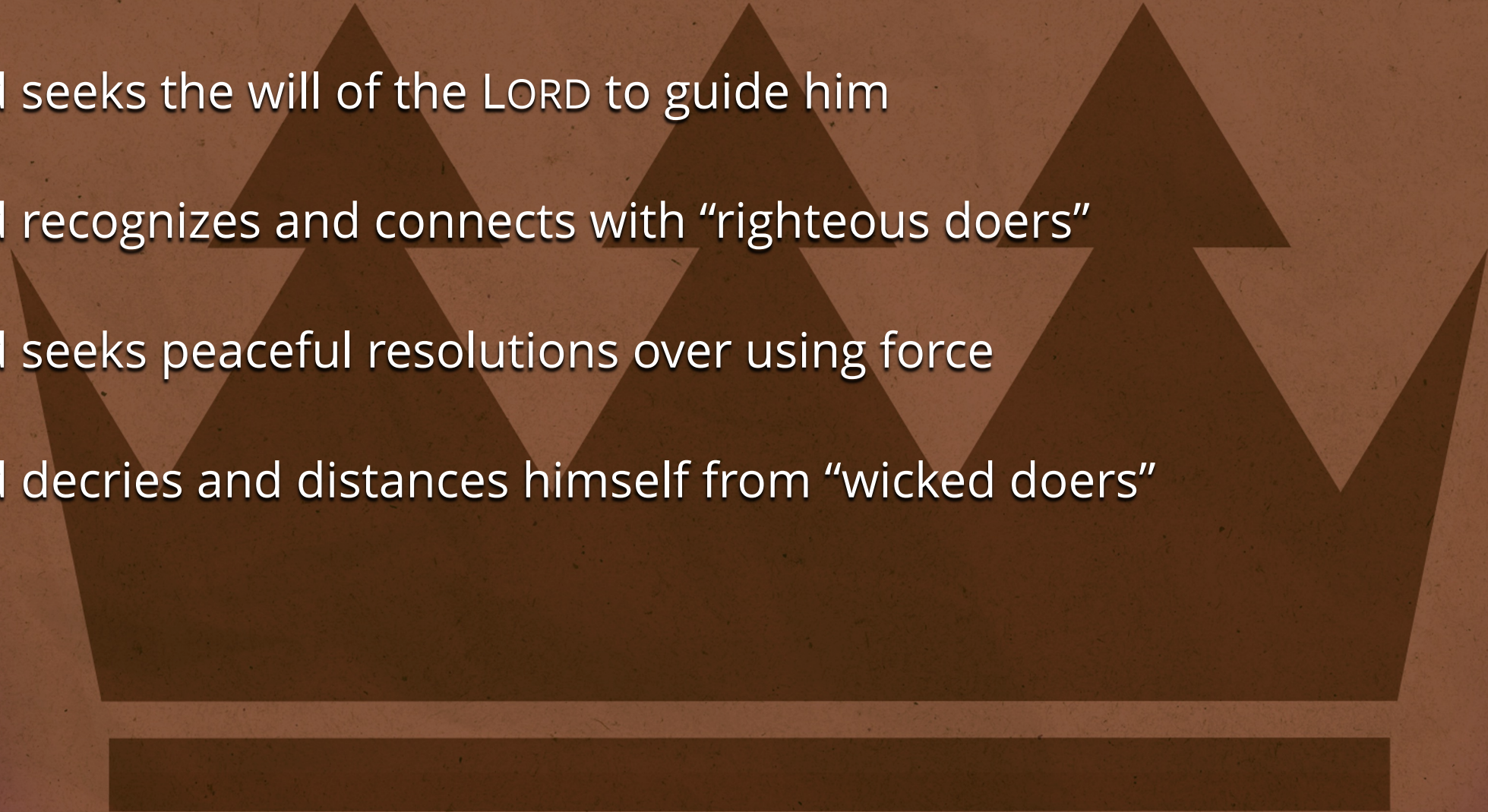
2 Samuel 3:28-30 ESV

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David decries and distances himself from "wicked doers"

Then David said to Joab and to all the people who were with him, "Tear your clothes and put on sackcloth and mourn before Abner." And King David followed the bier. They buried Abner at Hebron. And the king lifted up his voice and wept at the grave of Abner, and all the people wept.

2 Samuel 3:31-32 ESV

And the king lamented for Abner, saying, "Should Abner die as a fool dies? Your hands were not bound; your feet were not fettered; as one falls before **the wicked** you have fallen." And all the people wept again over him.

2 Samuel 3:33-34 ESV

And the king lamented for Abner, saying, "Should Abner die as a fool dies? Your hands were not bound; your feet were not fettered; as one falls before **the sons of injustice** you have fallen." And all the people wept again over him.

2 Samuel 3:33-34 ESV

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David decries and distances himself from "wicked doers"

David refuses to rejoice in wicked acts that advance him

Then all the people came to persuade David to eat bread while it was yet day. But David swore, saying, "God do so to me and more also, if I taste bread or anything else till the sun goes down!" And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them, as everything that the king did pleased all the people.

2 Samuel 3:35-36 ESV

So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been the king's will to put to death Abner the son of Ner. And the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel? And I was gentle today, though anointed king. These men, the sons of Zeruiah, are more severe than I. The Lord repay the evildoer according to his wickedness!"

2 Samuel 3:37-39 ESV

When Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, heard that Abner had died at Hebron, his courage failed, and all Israel was dismayed. Now Saul's son had two men who were captains of raiding bands; the name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, sons of Rimmon a man of Benjamin from Beeroth (for Beeroth also is counted part of Benjamin; the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been sojourners there to this day).

2 Samuel 4:1-3 ESV

Now the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, set out, and about the heat of the day they came to the house of Ish-bosheth as he was taking his noonday rest. And they came into the midst of the house as if to get wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped.

2 Samuel 4:5-6 ESV

When they came into the house, as he lay on his bed in his bedroom, they struck him and put him to death and beheaded him. They took his head and went by the way of the Arabah all night, and brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron. And they said to the king, "Here is the head of Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life. The Lord has avenged my lord the king this day on Saul and on his offspring."

2 Samuel 4:7-8 ESV

But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, "As the Lᴏʀᴅ lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity, when one told me, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him at Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and destroy you from the earth?"

2 Samuel 4:9-11 ESV

But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, "**As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity**, when one told me, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him at Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and destroy you from the earth?"

2 Samuel 4:9-11 ESV

And David commanded his young men, and they killed them and cut off their hands and feet and hanged them beside the pool at Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth and buried it in the tomb of Abner at Hebron.

2 Samuel 4:12 ESV

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David seeks peaceful resolutions over using force

David decries and distances himself from "wicked doers"

David refuses to rejoice in wicked acts that advance him

David refuses to allow injustice to go unpunished

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh. In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the Lord said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.'" So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel.

2 Samuel 5:1-3 ESV

How is the LORD's *glory* displayed through this passage?

Who does the LORD exalt?

Who does the LORD bring low?

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Who does the LORD exalt?

Who does the LORD bring low?
Saul's son (Ishbosheth) as the house of Saul fades from "glory"

How is the LORD's *glory* displayed through this passage?

Who does the LORD exalt?
    David as he waits upon the LORD

Who does the LORD bring low?
    Saul's son (Ishbosheth) as the house of Saul fades from "glory"

How is the LORD's *glory* displayed through this passage?

The LORD's anointed becomes king through righteous action and waiting on the LORD

Who does the LORD exalt?

David as he waits upon the LORD

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How can we remain righteous in chaotic times?

We must seek the LORD to guide our steps

How can we remain righteous in chaotic times?

We must refuse to live in false dichotomies

We must seek the LORD to guide our steps

How can we remain righteous in chaotic times?

We must recognize the reality that the LORD is seated on his throne regardless of any present circumstances

We must refuse to live in false dichotomies

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But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, "**As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity,** when one told me, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him at Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and destroy you from the earth?"

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