

1  **The Watchtower in the Wilderness**

2 Chronicles 19-20

2  **Jehoshaphat**

3  **Jehoshaphat**

- Jehoshaphat was a godly king who sincerely loved the Lord and wanted to please Him.
- However Jehoshaphat lacked the discernment that came with maturity, which lead to several poor decisions.
- Despite this, Jehoshaphat enacted several reforms, including going around the countryside of Judah himself preaching the Word of God (2 Chronicles 19).

4  **Jehoshaphat**

- Jehoshaphat's reign was prosperous, and Jehoshaphat continued build up Judah's military prowess as had his fathers before him:
- From Judah, Jehoshaphat had a total of 780,000 fighting men.
- From Benjamin, Judah had another 380,000, including 180,000 skilled Benjamite archers.

5  **Jehoshaphat**

- Jehoshaphat brought several of the neighboring gentile nations into submission early in his reign, including the Philistines and the Arabs, both of whom paid tribute to him.
- *And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah, and they made no war against Jehoshaphat. (2Ch 17:10)*
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6  **Fatal compromise**

- In 2 Chronicles 18, Jehoshaphat makes marriage alliances with wicked king Ahab, and then later goes out with Ahab to war despite God's commands.
- In 2 Chronicles 19, Jehu the prophet comes to Jehoshaphat and tells him the consequences of his compromise:

7  **2 Chronicles 19:2-3**

- *But Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Because of this, wrath has gone out against you from the LORD. Nevertheless, some good is found in you, for you destroyed the Asherahs out of the land, and have set your heart to seek God."*

8  **A hole in the umbrella**

- It is this compromise that creates this hole in Jehoshaphat's protective umbrella.
- Previously, God had made the surrounding nations too afraid to attack Jehoshaphat.
- Now, God's wrath is on Judah, and in 2 Chronicles 20, we see that fear has been lifted and Judah is in grave danger.

9  **The invasion**

- *After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar" (that is, Engedi). Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. (2Ch 20:1-3)*

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11  **Lot**

- Genesis 19 tells the story of Lot, and of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Lot was a righteous man who had allowed gradual compromise to slip in and was now living within the wicked city of Sodom.
- God decides to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah for their sins and sends angels to extract Lot and his family.

12  **Lot**

- Lot's wife turns back as they are fleeing the city, and she is transformed into a pillar of salt.

- Lot and his two daughters initially want to flee to a smaller city of the plain although God has commanded them to flee to the mountains.
- In despair, they later revert to God's original plans. However, once in the mountains, the two daughters doubt that God can provide for their long-term needs.

13  **Moab and Ben-Ammi**

- The direct result of his daughters' trust in God is two children:
 - Moab (means "son of her father")
 - Ben-Ammi (or Ammon, meaning "inbred")
- Moab would be the father of the Moabites, some of Israel/Judah's most persistent foes.
- Ben-Ammi would be the father of the Ammonites, another of Israel/Judah's most hated enemies.

14  **Moab**

- Moab was one of the nations that opposed the invasion of Canaan by the Children of Israel.
- Moab's method of dealing with the invasion was unique: they hired a seer, or prophet, by the name of Balaam, to pronounce a curse upon Israel.
- Although this did not succeed, Israel would eventually lose God's blessings for their own compromise.

15  **Numbers 25:1-3**

- *While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.*

16  **Ammon & Moab**

- Ammon and Moab would letter enslave Israel under Eglon the Moabite, during the time of the judges.
- Throughout Scripture, Moab & Ammon represent the doubt and compromise that seek to infiltrate and enslave us.

17  **Doubt & Compromise**

- Doubt is always followed by compromise or disobedience, just as faith is always followed by obedience.
- *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" (Gen 3:1)*

18  **Esau**

- Esau was a sensual man in the most literal sense of the word: he was ruled by his appetites to the point that he would give his birthright for a pot of stew.
- *When Esau was forty years old, he took Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite to be his wife, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah. (Gen 26:34-35)*

19  **Esau**

- *So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father, Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife, besides the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth. (Gen 28:8-9)*

20  **Edom**

- The descendants of Esau would become Edom, one of the most antagonistic nations in the region. Judah would have to deal with them time and again.
- Like Ammon and Moab, Edom opposed the invasion of Canaan.
- Edom had been a vassal of Judah since the time of David. David and Joab had defeated the Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

21  **Edom**

- Throughout Scripture Edom represents the flesh, which though it should be subject to Christ, wants to rear up its head and rule over us.

22  **Jehoshaphat's Enemies**

- Jehoshaphat's enemies weren't just three hostile nations. They were also three hostile attitudes that have threatened throughout history to render God's people ineffective:
 - Doubt (God can't, God won't)
 - Compromise (with the world)
 - Slavery (to the flesh)
- Today, when we allow compromise with the world into our lives, we expose ourselves to these same threats.