

J U L Y 1 0 2 0 2 2



For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.

[Psalm 116:8](#) (NKJV)

Thought for today...

How are you? How many times have you been asked that question, and wondered whether the person asking really wants to know the answer? In today's frantic world, so many things can cause our hope to diminish and plunge us into a tailspin — bereavement and other types of loss, ill-health, financial pressures, relationship breakdowns, employment issues, feeling that no one really cares, or a myriad of other reasons.

Elijah the prophet, though used by God to accomplish great things, faced a situation that caused him to despair. He was sent by God to confront Ahab — a wicked king of Israel who **'did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him.'** ([1 Kings 16:30](#) NIV). Ahab led the people astray, worshipping the false gods Baal and Asherah.

Elijah told Ahab to summon the people to Mount Carmel from all over Israel, inviting Ahab to bring **"the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."** ([1 Kings 18:19](#) NIV). Having assembled all the people together, Elijah said: **"Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it."** ([1 Kings 18:23](#) NIV).

Do not be anxious
about anything,
but in every situation,
by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving,
present your requests
to God.

And the **peace of God**,
which transcends
all understanding,
will guard your hearts
and your minds
in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

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“Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God...” ([1 Kings 18:24](#) NKJV).

450 against 1 is hardly a fair fight — the 450 false prophets didn’t stand a chance! Elijah knew that the Spirit of God living in him was greater than the spirit who lives in the world ([1 John 4:4](#)).

Despite trying to summon Baal all day, the false prophets bull lay unlit. Elijah instructed them to drench his bull and wood with water 3 times and then he prayed. **‘Immediately the fire of the LORD flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench!’** ([1 Kings 18:38](#) NLT). Elijah then had the prophets captured and killed. Having heard what Elijah had done, Jezebel — Ahab’s wife — vowed that within a day, she would do to him as he had done to the false prophets, and so Elijah ran for his life! **‘He begged the LORD, “I’ve had enough. Just let me die! ...”’** ([1 Kings 19:4](#) Contemporary English Version).

Who or what is your Jezebel — the person or thing threatening death to your dreams and purpose, causing you to feel that you’ve had enough and would rather die? The enemy of your soul knows that you were created on purpose for a purpose and that you have a kingdom assignment, so he will use whatever means necessary to distract, derail and delay you from reaching and fulfilling your destiny. Life with its ups and downs is a challenge. Jezebel may look and sound scary and appear to have you outnumbered, but declare **“I will not die, but I will live and proclaim what the LORD has done.”** ([Psalm 118:17](#) Christian Standard Bible). As dark as the day may be, God still has a plan for your life.

