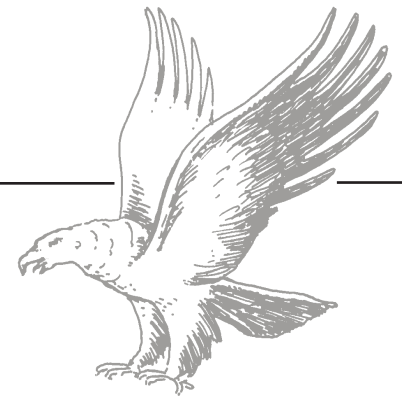


# Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”  
Isaiah 40:31*



March 26, 2017

## Where Are the 7,000?

In dark times, it's easy to feel alone and abandoned. But the story of Elijah reminds us that there are more good people out there than we realize. And we're all engaged in the same struggle.

*“And he said, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.’ Then the Lord said to him, ‘. . . I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him’” (1 Kgs. 19:14-15, 18).*



Elijah the prophet served the Lord during a critical time in Israel's history. Ahab and Jezebel had almost eradicated the worship of God from the land, replacing it with Baal worship, a vile religion. In the preceding chapter, Elijah stood alone against hundreds of prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel. He won that showdown, but his only reward was a death sentence from Jezebel. It seemed like the harder he worked, the stronger his enemies became. A gruesome end seemed inevitable. So at this point, he was ready to give up. Why go on any further, if the outcome was so clearly settled?

But the situation was not as bleak as Elijah believed it to be. Within a few years, Ahab and Jezebel and their extended family would all be dead, Baal worship would be exterminated by a ruthless new king, and the nation would experience at least a partial revival, spiritually and politically.

Of course, in his current predicament, Elijah could not see that future. He must have been shocked to hear God's assurance that there were 7,000 others who were in the same boat he was in—faithful to the Lord, but scared into silence by a powerful enemy. Who were these people? Where were they? How had they managed to survive? God did not provide those details, but it wasn't necessary. It was enough for Elijah to know that he was *not* alone, that his struggle was in behalf of a hidden but sizable population of good people. Recharged by that knowledge, Elijah got back into the game and set in motion a sequence of events that turned the fortunes of the nation around.

No matter how dark the circumstances may appear to be in our own

time, we should remember the story of Elijah's 7,000. We are never truly alone in this world, no matter how powerful Satan's allies appear to be. God is still in control—will *always* be in control—and will ensure that righteousness will triumph in the end. It is not our place to know all the details of how He will accomplish that, nor is it our place to know how many other people are going through the same struggle we are. But we can be assured they are there. We owe it to them to stay firm in our faith and never give up the struggle for God's truth.

We do not know how many of those 7,000 Elijah got to meet before he was taken up to heaven. But we do know the work of Elisha, Jehu, and a number of other anonymous individuals who, each in their own way, contributed to the downfall of the house of Ahab and Baal worship. In similar fashion, God is working out His plan today, and He has far more chess pieces in play than we realize. Let's each concentrate on doing our own part, trusting God to use all of us for His own greater purpose.

— David King