

"THE KING" IS ALIVE!

References in this leaflet are from the Bible:

1. 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verse 6
2. 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verses 3 and 4

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Elvis Presley, dubbed "The King" by his fans, died on 16 August 1977.

Yet even today, people claim to have seen him alive in all sorts of places.

Few take these stories seriously of course, but they appeal to us because Elvis's music means something special to many people and that loss is mourned.

How could this iconic figure, who was once so full of life, possibly be dead?

This Easter time, millions will be celebrating - not mourning - because a man who died is alive. He was seen - not just by a handful of deluded wishful-thinking fans who thought they saw someone ... somewhere ... who looked a bit like the man - but by His closest friends, His family, His followers and, according to one commentator a few decades later, "by more than five hundred ... at the same time; most of whom are still living".¹

These people had all seen Him - and if you'd had any doubts, you could go and ask them, and they wouldn't be able to hold it back - **their leader, their King was most certainly alive!**

I'm talking about Jesus of course - whose followers, though they came from all walks of life, recognised Jesus as King of their lives.

He'd promised to make men and women right with God by having their sins forgiven, so that they could live life to the full. So it was in disbelief and horror that His followers looked on as He faced a mockery of a trial and was condemned to be executed in the Roman Empire's most agonising way: crucifixion.

And they'd seen His body sealed in a tomb. No one - especially those who had watched all this happen with tear-filled eyes - expected to see Him again ... ever!

Yet three days later He astonished everyone by appearing in Jerusalem, where He ate and drank with His friends and taught His disciples.

Their King was very much alive!

Jesus' death was no mistake.

It was God's plan that Jesus would take the punishment for all the sin and selfishness that men and women everywhere have ever committed - all the wrong things we've said, thought and done - so that we wouldn't have to face God's justice. God showed that He accepted this selfless sacrifice by bringing Jesus back from the dead.

Are there things in your life that you can't even forgive yourself for? Well, Jesus has been punished for them, so that you can be forgiven by God.

Believe today "that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures".² If you do, you will have Jesus Christ as your living Saviour, Friend and King!