



▲ Please open (unfold) and read inside.



2 No one knows how long this defamation campaign went on, but one day the people got together and decided to side with the dark prince. Some knew exactly what they were doing. Others were confused and hesitant about getting involved but eventually gave in anyway. By the time the revolution reached its height everyone had joined it. But they did not know that their king was also very powerful. In no time his army drowned the opposition and took complete control over the situation.

1 There once was a King of a vast and prosperous domain. The King was very good, fair and benevolent. He was also very strict. The land prospered and all were very content until a prince from a neighboring kingdom started a malignant assault on the population. There was no frontal military attack. The dark prince was very subtle in his approach. He simply started asking questions that would undermine their confidence in their King. "Ever wondered why there aren't any elections?" "Why does the King have to have the last say in everything?..."

7 Receive your official pardon right now!

While we are trying to justify our behavior and be religious enough, God is waiting for us to simply **repent** of our sins; **believe** that His Son Jesus has already received the penalty for them when He died on the cross; and **accept** God's gracious free offer of forgiveness. Sound too simplistic? Too easy? But that's exactly what the Bible says! "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23, 24). Yes, God promises that "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). God offers His pardon freely but you must **ask** for it and **accept** it. You can do so by praying like this: "God, I know I have sinned against you and I realize You are willing to forgive me completely because Jesus died in my place. I accept your forgiveness and place my hope and my life in your hands now and forever. In Jesus' name, amen."

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Scripture quotations from the NIV

Read the Bible. Pray. Join a Christian church that teaches Jesus as the only way to God.



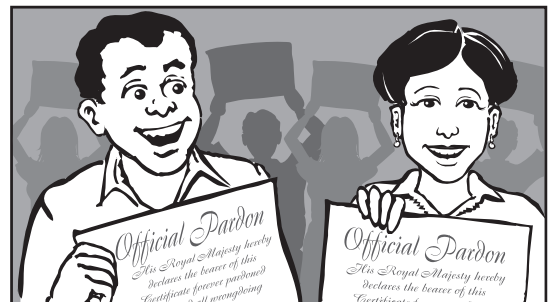
Official Kingdom News

THE KING'S HERALD



GUILTY OF HIGH TREASON, FREELY PARDONED!

See inside for details



Guilty gladly accept official pardon.

3 The King called a general assembly and told his subjects that the dark prince belonged to a tyrannical kingdom where people were enslaved and lived miserable lives. He explained he had allowed the dark prince to campaign against him because he wanted to test their loyalty. He told them that although they were guilty of high treason, he really cared for them and was ready to freely pardon all who were willing to admit their guilt.



4 The King made it clear to his subjects that no amount of good they did could ever compensate for their high treason because good behavior was expected of them in the first place. The only thing that could erase their past was accepting the King's free offer of pardon. Those who accepted the pardon were even offered the status of *citizens* of the kingdom! Those who did not were told they would eventually have to leave and become part of the tyrannical kingdom.



*I'll try harder...
I'll give to the poor...
I know, I'll go to church every week!*

5 The people were in an uproar. Some thought: "There's got to be a catch; this is too simple." Others reasoned: "Our great and benevolent King would never banish anyone to the tyrannical kingdom. If we just live decent lives we are sure to be okay." Still others protested: "How dare this man tell us what to do! What arrogance to require we confess any wrongdoing. Besides, there's probably no such tyrannical kingdom – it's just a ploy to get us to conform." There were a few, however, who took the King at his word and were sorry for what they had done.



What arrogance!

There's got to be a catch...

No, the King is right!

6 Each repentant subject approached the King and said: "I confess that what I did was wrong and I receive your pardon which I don't deserve. From now on I side with your kingdom and want to serve you for the rest of my life." The King gave them a certificate of pardon, signed with his own son's blood to demonstrate how serious he was about his offer. He treated them as though the treason had never happened and even gave them positions of authority. And they indeed lived happily ever after.



The King of this story represents God and the rebellious subjects represent you and me. The story is about receiving God's forgiveness and eternal life (salvation) – which is so simple to do that many simply miss it. See how you can avoid this mistake on page 7.

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