
Divine Principle In Plain Language

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Chapter 4

Jesus of Nazareth

Jesus has been the most influential man in history. Emerson once said, "To be great is to be misunderstood." Jesus was the greatest man who ever lived, and he is even today the most misunderstood man who ever lived. For the first time we have the true story of Jesus. Let's begin by looking at Jesus' birth.

TAMAR

The *Divine Principle* is revelations from God to Sun Myung Moon. Some of the most fascinating things that Sun Myung Moon has revealed are insights into Jesus' life and his lineage. To help us understand the incredible story of Jesus' mother, Mary, Sun Myung Moon reveals how God had worked to prepare Jesus' lineage by working years before with a woman named Tamar. By understanding Tamar's course we can better understand and see

through God's eyes the meaning of the unusual events that took place for Mary to conceive Jesus.

Sun Myung Moon teaches:

Judah was the fourth son of Jacob, and Judah's son married a woman whose name was Tamar. According to Jewish tradition, if a son died without leaving sons, his brother must act as a husband to the dead brother's wife so that the dead brother's lineage would be continued. Tamar did not have children when her husband died, and when the next brother refused to fulfill his responsibility, he died. However, the third brother was not given to Tamar when he became old enough, and Tamar saw that she had no hope to bear children.

She knew that her mission was to continue the family of her husband and Judah, his father, and she finally decided to sacrifice even her honor and prestige in order to fulfill. Disguising herself as a prostitute, Tamar enticed her father-in-law to have a relationship with her. Without knowing she was his daughter-in-law Judah consented. At that time adultery was punished by death. In order to save her life for the sake of her child, Tamar asked Judah for his signet and staff as a pledge for payment, and then confiscated them.

Three months later when it became obvious that the widow Tamar was pregnant, she was brought before Judah to be judged. You can imagine Judah's horror, "Bring her out, and let her be burned!" But she answered, "By the man to whom these belong, I am with child," and she brought out the things that Judah had given her in his pledge.

Man fell through fornication, and Tamar was one example of how God frequently used women of most unusual character in restoration. Why would God use adulterous women in the dispensation? They are in a satanic position, but

if they completely deny their satanic nature when summoned by God, then they can be restored from one extreme to the opposite extreme.

God selected His champions from the most miserable situations. Tamar was a righteous woman, and though she was originally in a sinful position, she completely dedicated herself to God's mission, risking her life, honor, and prestige. Paralleling the way Eve lied to God and her husband to bring the fall, Tamar deceived her father-in-law and her husband to-be, the third brother of her original husband. She was in a position to reverse the position of Eve by reversing Eve's actions, but the significant thing is that she risked her life to do God's will.

Tamar had conceived twins and in this case, the struggle of Cain and Abel began within her very womb. The *Bible* records how Rebecca's twins also struggled within their mother's womb. She had prayed to God to understand what was happening, and God answered her, saying, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples, born to you, shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, and the elder shall serve the younger." Ultimately Jacob did gain the birthright from his elder brother, Esau.

When the time came for Tamar's children to be delivered, the struggle ensued directly within her womb. The first child started to come out and the midwife tied a red thread around his wrist. That sign foreshadowed the emergence of communism in the Last Days. However, before the first child could be born there was a struggle, and the younger brother pulled the other back inside and was himself born first. That son was named Perez, and the other named Zerah. The result of this struggle is that for the first time the restoration of Cain and Abel took place inside the mother's womb, the younger brother having subjugated his elder brother even prior to birth. Tamar's extraordinary action cleansed Judah's

lineage and rendered it intact from satanic invasion from the time of conception.

Through this victory at the time of Tamar and also Jacob's earlier victory, God could claim a foundation that spanned man's entire life. Jesus was born in the lineage of Judah, and Satan had no way to invade his life because the cleansing process was already completed. Jesus came years after the dispensation of Jacob and Tamar because God had to wait for the national foundation to be established. Conditions were all fulfilled on the family level at the time of Jacob, Tamar and Judah, but God needed to create a foundation to receive the Messiah within a nation, that he might gain victory among the satanic nations.

Finally after 2,000 years, God chose one more woman whose name was Mary. Mary was a revolutionary woman in faith who could follow God's revolutionary tactics. Because the fall of man came through the archangel, an angel was needed to assist Mary by bringing her God's revelation. Mary completely believed what the angel told her of her mission; the angel told her that she would conceive, and the child would be great and holy, and that his name should be called Jesus.

Mary's situation paralleled Eve's in the Garden of Eden before her blessing. Mary and Joseph were engaged but not yet married; Adam and Eve were also in an engagement period as they were growing up. An angel brought Eve to the fallen act, but an angel brought Mary to the fulfillment of the heavenly dispensation. Mary was also in a position to deceive her husband and her father. Do you think Mary could discuss with her father or Joseph about how she had conceived her baby? She was risking her life because in those times an adulterous woman was stoned to death.

Mary was the third woman to be picked by God. Through the previous victories of Rebecca and Tamar all satanic conditions had been cleared from Jesus' lineage, and even though Mary conceived Jesus outside of marriage, Satan could not accuse her. Even inside his mother's womb Jesus was already the only begotten son of God, and after his birth everything he did was with the authority of the son of God.

LOGICAL EXPLANATION

The events recorded in the *Bible* have always puzzled the world. For instance, in the genealogy of Jesus the names of four adulterous women are recorded: Tamar, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. Another puzzling question was why the elder son was often in the position to be cursed by God. Without understanding the depths of the *Principle* there are no logical explanations for these things.

Jesus was in the position of Adam without sin in the Garden of Eden. Did God intend for Adam to live his entire life alone in the Garden of Eden? No, and in the same way Jesus was destined to create his own family through restoring his bride. Jesus' family was to become the cornerstone of the Kingdom of God by creating the new lineage of heaven and earth as the center of the universe. (4-18-77)

Father Moon teaches the meaning of Bathsheba: "Actually, the mother of King Solomon was Bathsheba, originally the wife of Uriah before King David stole her. Then how could the child from that union become King Solomon? Bathsheba was in the providential position of Eve in the Garden of Eden, before the fall. David was in the position of Adam, and Uriah was in the position of the archangel. The archangel distracted the spouse of Adam with love and stole her away, making her fall. A reversal course is needed in order to indemnify that; therefore a person in the position of the archangel's wife had to be restored to the position of Eve. Therefore, the child who was born on the foundation of

that reversal could be born as a child of heavenly love, a child of glory. Solomon was such a child of glory.” (10-13-70)

GENEALOGY

Young Oon Kim writes in her book *Unification Theology*: “But what was the chief purpose of including a family tree in the Gospel? Matthew and Luke were interested in legitimizing the messianic claims made for Jesus. Hence, Matthew traces the Messiah’s ancestry back to King David and the patriarch Abraham, while Luke goes even further back to Adam, the first son of God.

“Nevertheless, an equally important purpose behind genealogies is to show how all Hebrew history and even the whole history of mankind since Adam and Eve aimed at the realization of God’s kingdom on earth.

“The two New Testament genealogies reveal how carefully God laid a spiritual foundation for Jesus’ messianic mission.

“Matthew includes the names of four women among Jesus’ ancestors: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. Ordinarily only males are mentioned in a family tree when the society is as rigidly patriarchal as that of ancient Israel. Why then did the evangelist think it useful to mention these particular women? To answer that question one must figure out what they had in common. First of all, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba achieved some notoriety because of their sexual immorality. Tamar pretended to be a prostitute in order to get pregnant (Gen. 38:26). Rahab was a harlot in Jericho who helped the Israelites conquer her city (Josh. 2:1-11). Ruth invited Boaz to lay with her (Ruth 3:6-9) and Bathsheba committed adultery with King David (II Sam. 11:4). Does this not imply that there would also be some sexual irregularity connected with Jesus birth? ...all four were rather extraordinary instruments of God’s providence: Tamar had dared to scorn the social proprieties in order to perpetuate the family line of her deceased husband. Rahab enabled the Israelites to enter the Promised Land. Ruth had taken the initiative in a marital union which ultimately produced King David. And Bathsheba’s adultery led to the birth of Solomon. Consequently in post-biblical Jewish piety these four women were

praised as illustrations of how God can use unexpected and unconventional means in order to carry out His providence.”

In *Blessing and Ideal Family* Sun Myung Moon says:

With whom did Tamar have a relationship? Perez and Zerah, whom she bore by having a relationship with her father-in-law, became the direct lineage blessed by God, the ancestors of Jesus—right? Also, in what circumstances was King Solomon born? Solomon was the child David got by killing his loyal retainer Uriah and taking his wife Bathsheba. Since he had enticed his loyal retainer’s wife, he should have been punished, and his child should have been one who ruined the world. Then how could Solomon, a glorious king, be born from them? How did it come to be like that? In the gospel of Matthew, Rahab appears in Jesus’ lineage. What kind of person was Rahab? She was a prostitute, right? But then whom did she help? She helped a spy. It is realistic for a prostitute to sympathize with an enemy country, but she risked her life to do that. For the sake of heaven’s will, one has to risk one’s life. It means to deny one’s life, environment, and everything that has to do with one’s privileges. History progresses from that point of self-denial.

ADULTERY AND CENTRAL FIGURES

One Unificationist wrote on the Web, “So, there are instances when God has allowed or even commanded someone to have a sexual relationship with someone other than their spouse. Since no marriage born out of the evil world is sanctioned by God, then He can do that. But we are not to break our promise to God and our spouse by committing adultery as it is an abomination under heaven and it breaks the hearts of many people, especially if it results in offspring, or divorce.

“You may notice that each of the women mentioned in Jesus’ lineage in Matthew’s gospel did something against the law in regard to adultery, yet were honored by God. They are Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba and Mary.”

God had worked for 2000 years to prepare the blood lineage of Jesus. Father (Father Moon) explains that God couldn’t send the Messiah at the time of Jacob:

Satan sowed the seed of false love within the womb of Eve, which gave birth to evil life. Therefore, God needed to purify a mother’s womb from which the heavenly Son could be born. That purification period of separation from Satan had to begin at the time of conception and continue to age forty, so even though Jacob was victorious he did not meet that criteria. The great mother who assumed the responsibility to meet this condition was Tamar. (4-16-96)

Therefore, restoration should start again from the origin—the mother’s womb.

God’s third providence started once again from mother’s womb, which was where the fall originated. The first mother Eve fell because she did not believe in God’s words, so Tamar, who was supposed to restore Eve’s position, had to demonstrate absolute faith in God. She had to forget her self-esteem and pride and, furthermore, she had to determine to risk her life. Eve’s faithlessness made her abandon her father, God. Instead, she accepted Satan as her father and put him in God’s position. Therefore, Tamar, on the contrary, had to talk directly with God. Eve was not able to be united with her father, so Tamar had to be united with her father.

The satanic world is formed from the satanic nations expanding from the family level and tribal level to the national level.... God waited for

2000 years until the formation of the one nation of Israel. Because Satan had already formed one nation, God had to wait for 2000 years. (*Tribal Messiah*)

The Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden turned the world upside down. The world went from being in order to being in disorder. Satan caused disunity in God's first family of Adam, Eve, and their sons, Cain and Abel and has worked day and night for many thousands of years to keep families disunited and disorderly. God has worked day and night also. But He works to bring unity and order to the family. Sun Myung Moon has traveled in the spirit world and talked to the central figures of history and to God Himself. Father Moon has given speeches over a span of 50 years explaining what he discovered. To find the truth he paid a terrible price. He was attacked and overcame unbelievable obstacles as he dug deeper and deeper to find the secrets of the universe. In a speech given on December 25, 1994 he said:

Just imagine how desperately serious Father was when he was finding out all of the hidden secrets of Adam's family and all of the historical families and how they failed. Do you think Father took it all for granted? Father had to put his neck on the block in a life and death fight. Satan constantly tried to chase Father out and confuse him, changing the direction. Imagine just how manipulative and evil Satan has been throughout human history, even against God. He played games against God. Then suddenly this innocent Father Moon appeared. Do you imagine that Satan just left him alone? Satan was desperate to block him. From Father's point of view, in order to create the future ideal world, he had to obtain the voluntary surrender from Satan. That was the condition. Father restored the failure of Adam's family through a severe battle. There were so many times that he met with denial and refusal. But Father had to restore it. As Father kept on going with logic and proof, then finally Satan had to admit it. After Father succeeded in revealing all of the hidden secrets

from Adam's family, then Satan tried to block him regarding Noah's family. Father then had to struggle once again in order to discover all of the hidden secrets of failure within Noah's family in order to restore that stage. When Father came up with all of the facts of how Ham failed in Noah's family, Satan denied the truth many times. Again, step-by-step, as Father kept producing the factual proof finally Satan bowed down and surrendered that Father was correct. That is how Father restored the failure of Noah in his family.

After this Satan told Father that even though he had restored Adam's family failure, and Noah's family failure, still history carried on through Abraham's family. This area Satan claimed Father had not touched yet and so the world still belonged to him. Once again Satan tried to block Father's way by telling him not to touch Abraham's family because he had nothing to do with it yet. Father had to fight again. Once more Father began to dig into all of the secrets of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob, the Israelites' 400 years of history all at different stages, including the restoration between Jacob and Esau and the story of Tamar. Finally Satan bowed down once again. Nobody knew how desperately Father had to fight in order to restore again, not just Abraham's family but all the way to Moses' family. He found all the facts and confronted Satan with those facts and the facts of Jesus' family and John the Baptist's failure, and restored them back again. Nobody in history knew what kind of life course Father had to go through in order to achieve that goal. Nobody knew what kind of course Father passed through in the last forty years in order to restore the entire 4000 years of human history back to God.

Satan rules the world and has kept everyone blind like mankind was in the movie *Matrix*. Every person in human history has been a slave to an invisible ruler they have never seen and do not know

even exists. Every person is under the grip of a ruthless slave master and living in deep ignorance. Sun Myung Moon fought Satan and persevered against unbelievable waves of attacks from the forces of darkness. He was victorious.

Father Moon teaches that God's heart is broken to see His children tortured. He has worked without ceasing to save us by trying to get us to prepare for the Messiah and follow him when he comes. The Messiah is stronger than Satan. Unlike Fallen Man the Messiah will not succumb to temptations from Satan. He has nothing to do with Satan. He defeats Satan who wars against mankind. Two thousand years ago the Messiah walked the earth. His name is Jesus.

God worked for 2000 years before Jesus to train the small Jewish nation to be the birthplace of the Second Adam who would restore the failure of the First Adam. Father talked to Jesus in spirit world. He discovered what really happened to Jesus. Satan has been successful in corrupting his story. The real Jesus is very different from the Jesus that Christians have been believing for over a thousand years. Father gave blood, sweat and tears to find these hidden truths that you can read. He discovered God's formula to restore this world. Sadly, those individuals who were called by God to be his champions never acted exactly as they should have. There was always a mixture of success and failure. Central figures were never perfect in accomplishing the mission given them.

Those around Jesus did some things right and some things wrong. They made enough mistakes to cause the death of the person who could have saved this world from evil. Because of their shortcomings Jesus could not live long enough to fulfill his mission to restore the First Adam. This is why a Third and final Adam must come.

Before we look at Jesus' family let's look at Jacob's family. Jacob was working at the family level to make a foundation for the Messiah and Jesus' family was working at the national level. The Third Adam will work at the international level.

We learned earlier that Jacob was the founder of Israel. Because there was disunity between Jacob and his brother Esau and disunity between Leah and Rachel the Messiah could not come to their families. What God had wanted to take place was for Jacob and

Esau's families to live together in a community. Satan hates community. His tactic is to divide and conquer. By dividing people within families and keeping families from living close to other families he is able to keep everyone weak and vulnerable to his attacks. Satan is into individualism. He is into people and families being alone. There is strength in numbers and he has been successful in making sure that many people live alone or live as an isolated family. God wants people to live in exciting communities where people live in happy and secure nests. An analogy would be a lonely wagon traveling through hostile territory as opposed to being in a wagon train.

Even though Jacob and Esau overcame their divided past they did not create a united future. Their families separated. This made them weak to Satan attacks. God had to move on and find a new community that would protect the Messiah when he was born. Eventually the Israelites did enough that God could have the Messiah born. But the Messiah had to be born in a safe and loving home that would protect him and then unite with him when he became a man.

God had originally made Lucifer and other angels the ones who would protect the baby Adam in the Garden of Eden and then follow him when he grew up. God had hoped that Jacob and Esau's families would be responsible but they broke God's heart and prolonged the dispensation. The elder brother Esau was supposed to follow his younger brother but he didn't. Leah should have followed her younger sister Rachel but she didn't. Instead Leah dominated Jacob and had 10 children while Rachel had 2. This led to the division of the 12 tribes of Israel. "In the family of Jacob, the two sisters, Leah and Rachel were never able to unite with one another. There was always disharmony. Eventually their children formed into two separate tribes" (4-19-96).

Jacob was not a good enough husband to create unity between Rachel and Leah. Jacob was not a good enough father and his wives were not good enough mothers to create unity between their sons.

BIRTH OF JESUS

God re-enacted the Fall in Jesus' family so they could be tested to see if they would protect and follow the Messiah. Mary was chosen

to be Jesus' mother. God did His best to guide her and her family to unite in an orderly way and create a safe community for Jesus to grow up in and get married in. At first, things went well. Mary did as God told her to do and got engaged to a man named Joseph. During her engagement she followed God's call to go to be with her sister, Elizabeth, who was married to the high priest, Zachariah. Elizabeth was in the position of Leah which symbolized the position of elder Cain. Mary was in the position of younger Abel.

When Adam and Eve fell they each divided into two parts. Adam was intended to marry Eve but after she fell she was not the same person she had been. God had wanted Adam to marry the first Eve, not the fallen, second Eve. Let's call Eve before the Fall the First Eve or the Elder Eve. When she fell she became the Second Eve or the Younger Eve.

Jacob had two wives—the elder Leah and the younger Rachel. Elizabeth was in the position of the Elder Eve and Mary was in the position of the Younger Eve. Leah hated Rachel. She was jealous of Jacob's attention for Rachel. She sabotaged God's plan for the elder sister to follow the younger and therefore restore fallen Eve. Thankfully, Elizabeth restored Leah's mistake by offering, with a good heart, Mary to Zachariah. Mary stayed in their home for three months and became pregnant with Jesus. Satan was able to intervene. Just like so many people's New Year's resolutions fade away, Zachariah and Elizabeth's understanding and commitment faded away. Zachariah counseled Mary to tell Joseph the Holy Spirit was the father of her child. Then they sent her back home.

Perhaps Elizabeth began to feel like Leah and resent her husband's attention on her younger sister. Perhaps Zachariah and Elizabeth became afraid of what they were doing. They were in great danger because adultery at that time in Israel brought the death penalty. Adultery is the worst thing in God's eyes but in the providence of restoration sometimes extraordinary things have to be done. Eve deceived Adam and to restore that some central figure women had to be successful at deceit. Mary successfully deceived Joseph, Joseph's father and her family when she returned home pregnant.

Joseph was upset like any man would be when he found out Mary was pregnant. He knew if he told anyone that he was not the father, Mary would be stoned to death. God helped Joseph by speaking to

him in a dream. He taught him that this was God's will and he should marry her and that he should be celibate for life. Joseph felt the spirit of God and did not tell the truth. He married Mary but in time his understanding waned until he became distant to Jesus. He had children with Mary and this made it harder for Jesus. God had wanted Zachariah, Elizabeth, Mary, and Joseph to live together and raise Jesus. They all failed to unite.

When Jesus turned 17 he told his mother that she should help him get a wife. It was normal for 17 year olds to marry then. Everybody married young. We know that Jesus never married. Why? Because Mary and Zachariah's family blocked the way. The Messiah must marry and restore Adam and Eve's failure by creating a true marriage and becoming true parents. World salvation hinged on Jesus getting married. Jesus told his mother that God wanted his wife to be the youngest daughter of Zachariah and Elizabeth. This girl was Jesus' half sister. They had the same father. Mary and Zachariah's family thought he was insane and wanted to commit incest. God's commands are often very difficult to fathom and do. But there was method to what seemed Jesus' madness. Father Moon explains why it was principled for Jesus to marry the youngest daughter. Their families were central families that were called to restore the fallen actions in the Garden of Eden.

Zachariah and Elizabeth's son was John the Baptist who was a famous evangelist like Billy Graham was of the 20th century. When Mary had gone to Elizabeth's home as God had commanded, Elizabeth was pregnant with John who was in the position of the younger Abel to Jesus. To restore the Fall and lay a foundation for the Messiah to marry and teach the truth that would save this world from its terrible disunity, John was supposed to do the opposite of Cain. At first, John was moved by a vision at the river when he baptized Jesus but his vision quickly faded and he saw Jesus through fallen man's eyes that cannot see how God is working. Satan works especially hard on central figures and was able to get John to separate from his half-brother just as he was able to get Esau to separate from Jacob.

And when John found out that Jesus said God wanted him to marry John's younger sister he became angry. Everyone around Jesus betrayed him so he had to leave his family and relatives and find followers who would become his new family and community.

The following are some excerpts from speeches where Father reveals his amazing insights. Adam and Eve did not have a book that explained what God's will is. Jacob and Esau's family had no book. Jesus' family did not have a clearly written book that explained what God wanted and why. Today, God has made sure that mankind has written words that clearly and deeply explain how He has been working and what we are suppose to do.

Sun Myung Moon gave the following insights into Jesus' life in a speech given on April 16, 1996 titled "View of the Principle of the Providential History of Salvation":

Mary, when she was engaged to Joseph, received from the Archangel Gabriel the surprising message that the Messiah would be born through her (Luke 1:31). In those days, if an unmarried woman became pregnant, she would be killed. But Mary accepted the will of God with absolute faith, saying, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

Mary consulted with the priest Zachariah, who was her relative and was highly respected. Zachariah's wife, Elizabeth, with the help of God, was pregnant with John the Baptist. She said to Mary, "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-43) With these words she testified to the coming birth of Jesus.

In this way, God let Mary, Zachariah, and Elizabeth know about the birth of the Messiah before anybody else. All of them had the absolutely crucial mission of following the will of God and serving Jesus. Zachariah's family let Mary stay in their house. Jesus was conceived in the house of Zachariah.

Elizabeth and Mary were cousins on their mother's side. But according to God's providence, they were considered sisters, with Elizabeth as the elder (Cain) and Mary as the younger (Abel). Mary received Elizabeth's help in the presence of Zachariah. Through this cooperation, Zachariah's family, on the national level, indemnified the lack of unity between mother and son with Leah and Rachel in Jacob's family (Genesis 29-30). This allowed Jesus to be conceived. For the first time in history, there could be born on earth, free of satanic accusation and through a prepared womb, the seed to the Son of God—the seed of the True Father. In this way, the only begotten Son of God, the owner of the first love of God, was born for the first time in history.

Mary had to achieve something that could not be understood by common sense, nor easily tolerated under the law of those times. Mary, Elizabeth, and Zachariah had been spiritually moved. They followed the revelation that came from God, and unconditionally believed that it was the will and desire of God.

PROTECTIVE FOUNDATION

Although the Son of God could be born on earth, he needed a wall of protection to grow up safely in the satanic world and fulfill the will of God. God had hoped that these three people in the family of Zachariah would establish that protective foundation.

How great must have been his shock at that moment! Mary, his beloved fiancée, without having any relationship with him, had become pregnant after a three-month stay in another place. It was natural for Joseph to question Mary about who the baby in her womb belonged to. What would have happened if at that time Mary

had explained everything candidly? If she exposed everything, it could have been the end of a clan. So, Mary simply responded that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

Tragically, Joseph became “distant in heart” and “family problems frequently arose. Jesus was viewed as an illegitimate son, and lacking protection of Zachariah’s family and the love of Joseph, he grew up with an indescribable loneliness in his heart.” Joseph never hugged Jesus.

The story gets worse. Jesus knew that Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, and Zachariah’s disunity created a “serious obstacle ... to fulfilling the will of God. The Messiah is the True Parent. And to fulfill that mission he needed to receive his substantial bride. Jesus had to reverse, at the very root, the false love by which the Archangel had caused the fall of Eve, who was growing up as the sister of Adam. Consequently, Jesus, in the place of Adam as the Son of God, should have received as his bride the younger sister of someone in an archangelic position. That bride was to have been none other than Zachariah’s daughter, the younger sister of John the Baptist. To fulfill this in a world where Satan plays the role of owner and lord, Jesus needed a foundation of protection formed by absolute faith. Tragically, the entire foundation ended up collapsing around him.”

“This would not have happened if Zachariah and Elizabeth, who had received the revelation and spiritual support from God, had maintained absolute faith. If they had fulfilled their responsibility, Mary would have been in contact with them continually. God chose Zachariah’s family as the foremost representatives of the entire world, so that even after the birth of Jesus they would protect, serve, and witness to him as the Messiah. They not only should have served Jesus as the Son of God and Messiah with utter devotion, but they should have learned the will of God through Jesus and followed him absolutely. Also, John the Baptist was born to serve Jesus and should have fulfilled his responsibility to guide everyone he led to repentance to believe in Jesus and receive salvation.” (4-16-96)

But, Father reveals, they did not: “But unfortunately, although Zachariah, Elizabeth, and John the Baptist testified at first to Jesus

as the Son of God, there is no evidence that they served him as such. The respected priest Zachariah was simply a spectator. John the Baptist stood separate from Jesus. These circumstances blocked the people from following Jesus and made his path very difficult. And once this family lost faith in Jesus, looking at him through human eyes, there was no room for them to help him receive his bride.”

MARY PREVENTS JESUS FROM MARRYING

The story keeps getting worse. Mary was not supposed to have sexual relations. She had children with Joseph. All of Jesus’ brothers and sisters were against him. And Mary failed to help him marry so he could fulfill his mission of creating the first true family. Sun Myung Moon says:

Mary did not help Jesus with the wedding he desired. She even opposed it. This was the direct reason that Jesus could not receive his bride, and could not become the True Parent; and this forced him to go the way of the cross.

Jesus’ words to Mary during the wedding at Cana, “Oh woman, what have you to do with me?” (John 2:4), reveal a reproachful heart to a mother who helped in the weddings of others but neglected to help Jesus receive his bride, the most important requirement of the providence. With this perspective, now we can understand why Jesus asked, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” (Matt. 12:48). (4-16-96)

Zachariah’s family should have restored Jacob’s family; they had exactly the same course. Elizabeth should have restored Leah’s position and then introduced Mary to Zachariah. The result of the relationship between Zachariah and Mary was the birth of Jesus Christ. With Mary and Jesus united as plus and minus, a greater plus and minus would have been created by the unity between the two wives and two sons. If this process of unity had taken place, all of history would have been completely restored.

Everything would have been completely restored. Everything would have been solved if Jesus Christ had been safely married.

Why could Jesus Christ not get married even by the age of 33? Jesus Christ is the true Adam, isn't he? As the completed Adam, he was connected to the true love of God. If one such man and woman are united in marriage, they would have the position of royalty on the national level. If this marriage had been completed, everything would have been accomplished.

Why couldn't Jesus get married even by the age of 33? Restoration is accomplished through indemnity. The Fall involved a relationship between the archangel, Eve and Adam, culminating in the birth of Cain and Abel. Lucifer's betrayal involved taking away Adam's sister, Eve. Jesus' position was Adam's position, and John the Baptist's position was the archangelic position. All these historical events led up to John the Baptist's younger sister being in the position to become Jesus' wife. With Jesus destined to be in the elder son's position, John the Baptist's younger sister would have become Jesus' wife and all of history would have been restored.

When Jesus Christ was seventeen years old, he told Mary whom he should marry. Jesus Christ spoke strongly about the necessity for this marriage, no matter what sacrifices might need be made, but Mary could not accept it. Mary went through such a severe course after her relationship with Zachariah. She experienced much persecution from the environment. If this union had been publicized, people would have stoned her to death. If Joseph had not declared that her baby was his son, Jesus and Mary would have been stoned to death. Joseph was the savior of Mary and Jesus Christ. If Mary had confessed who her child's father was, there would have

been a problem. Thus Jesus and John the Baptist's sister had the same father, but different mothers. They were half-brother and sister. John the Baptist knew very well that Jesus Christ was an illegitimate child. When John the Baptist received the revelation that Jesus was God's beloved son, he could not accept that an illegitimate person was the Messiah. Under these circumstances, for Jesus to marry John the Baptist's younger sister was unacceptable. Although they had different mothers, they were both children of Zachariah. How could people accept such an incestuous relationship? (2-7-95)

Faced with the opposition of Mary, Zachariah, Elizabeth, and finally John the Baptist, Jesus gave up hope for their protection as he sought to fulfill his mission. Therefore, Jesus left his home in search of a new spiritual foundation to restart the Providence of Salvation. (4-16-96)

Should Jesus have gotten married within his own family or to a family from a foreign country? As we know, Zachariah's family and Jesus' family were very close. John and Jesus were cousins. Following the historical pattern, these two families were apt to fight. This happened through Zachariah's wife and Jesus' mother. They should have united and become one. These two tribes, Zachariah's tribe and Joseph's tribe, should have gotten together and found a good bride for Jesus. That is what they should have done. In order to do that they had to unite. John the Baptist, in the archangel's position, was outwardly accomplished. It is likely that Jesus' bride must come from Zachariah's family, John the Baptist's sister. This is rightfully so. So how would John the Baptist's family be part of this would-be wedding? [Father draws on board.] Here is John the Baptist, his mother, her daughter and on this side Joseph, his wife and Jesus. God brought them so close. All they had to do was reach out. If they knew what was in store for them, Jesus would have had no problem

gaining a foundation. Jesus was truly handicapped and frustrated when this did not come about. We hear that in the Bible over and over again. John the Baptist made a foundation, after that he should have offered it to Jesus. Everything would have been accomplished through Jesus. Then, with all probability Jesus would have been married to a bride, would he not? From here, the daughter, or Eve's position, would actively search for Adam, who was Jesus. They would have met. Eve would have come from the archangel's family, which was John the Baptist's family. She would have been restored to Adam's family. (9-20-92)

In a speech given on April 19, 1996 Sun Myung Moon says:

Yesterday was the 36th anniversary of True Parents Holy Wedding. From this point on we are now entering into the era of kingship. The message that Father delivered in Washington, DC three days ago was the turning point upon which Father can stand upon the entire Christian foundation of the world as a new beginning.

Actually, during Easter week of this year, the three major weekly magazines in the United States, *Time*, *Newsweek* and *US News and World Report* all carried the portrait of Jesus on the front cover. The articles they ran posed the question as who Jesus truly was. During that week the American population was focusing upon the birth and life of Jesus. The articles raised such questions as whether or not Jesus had a physical wife. Is it truly possible for a virgin to conceive a child? If Jesus was resurrected would he truly come down on the clouds? All manner of questions arose in these articles.

Then on the historical day of April 16, 1996 in Washington, DC, Father gave all the answers to

those questions. Imagine how many answers True Father provided through his speech. How Mary was conceived, who Jesus' father was, how the Lord of the Second Advent would come again. All these answers were provided there.

At the time of Jesus, the law was such that if any unmarried woman were to become pregnant she was supposed to be stoned to death. In such a strict society, how could Jesus even think about demanding a younger sister to become his own bride? Let us imagine ourselves in that time when the younger sister Mary actually took away Elizabeth's husband and became pregnant. Then she gave birth to Jesus. As Jesus grew up he was requesting to marry the younger sister from Elizabeth's family. Can you imagine that? It was virtually impossible, because if it had become known to the general public then the families of Zachariah and Jesus would have been destroyed.

When Jesus was desirous of such a marriage, Zachariah, Elizabeth and John the Baptist all knew who Jesus was and whom he wanted for his wife. In the mind of John the Baptist Jesus was his half-brother, born from his father's concubine. Therefore, for John it was unthinkable that his younger sister would marry Jesus, so John the Baptist refused and denied Jesus. Because Zachariah and Elizabeth had denied him, even Mary herself, because of the surrounding environment, refused Jesus' request. At the age of seventeen, Jesus had desperately tried to convince each of these people to give one of the younger sisters to him in marriage. But they would not listen to him. At the age of twenty-seven, exactly ten years later, Jesus tried again to convince them with all of his effort. But once again they refused to listen to him. He waited for another three years, and at the age of thirty, in a final attempt, he again challenged each one of them.

Within the Western tradition nobody wants to deal with the number thirteen. This is because Jesus waited for ten years, from seventeen until twenty-seven, and then another three years until the age of thirty. These years make up the number thirteen which was the number of failure. At the age of thirty the number thirteen was finally lost due to the opposition of Jesus' relatives. Had that thirteenth year become successful in Jesus' life, the world would have been changed right away. That is why the number thirteen is considered the worst of numbers.

At the age of seventeen when Jesus, for the first time asked his mother Mary to find his bride from the younger sisters of John the Baptist, don't you think that Mary discussed this issue with Zachariah and Elizabeth? She certainly did. Don't you think that John the Baptist found out about it? John the Baptist then came down so hard on Jesus, referring to him as a bastard who wanted John's younger sister when John himself was not even married. He accused Jesus of destroying his family. In the eyes of John the Baptist his half-brother requesting John's sister for a wife meant incest.

This was the miserable position that Jesus found himself in. That is why Jesus wept, saying, "the foxes have their holes, and the birds have their nests, however, the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." That was his desperate cry. Wasn't it true? (Yes.) In that miserable situation he lost his mother, his father, and he became like an orphan in the wilderness. That is why, out of desperation, Jesus began to gather fishermen and other humble people as his disciples. He expected them to become true disciples who would understand him and form his new family. But none of them were able to do so. They were always in disharmony with one another. Finally,

he decided to go to the cross and sacrifice his life in order to form the spiritual family which became Christianity in the spiritual sense.

If Jesus had married the younger sister of John the Baptist that would have been incest from a horizontal viewpoint. But due to the failure of those around him this did not occur.

This talk about incest is difficult but wasn't the Fall in the Garden of Eden a kind of incestuous relationship between Lucifer and Eve? He was her adult guardian. He was like a father to her. There is a precedent in the Bible for this. Abraham, a founding patriarch honored in Christianity, Judaism and Islam, was married to his half-sister, Sarah.

The following is from a speech titled "The Time of Liberation for the Family of World Peace" (9-8-96):

The mission of the True Parents, who reveal this truth, is to wipe out the evil parents. Because of the Fall of Man, before God there existed fallen mother and children and restored mother and children relationships. But in this world where Satan dominates is this fallen mother lineage, this fallen lineage here [indicating to the diagram on the board]. In order to restore this lineage back to God it is not possible to do so horizontally. This lineage has to go down vertically and restore it back again. In order to accomplish this restoration process, God comes in the position of concubine and eventually He has to restore His position as the original spouse. There cannot be two lineages in the Kingdom of God. There can be only one line, not two. That is the reason the second mother and the younger son are in the position to play the central role to lead to the Kingdom of God. This is what we see so clearly throughout the history of God's providence. If this relationship continues in the way in which Satan has set up, it means the original wife's path is towards Hell.

However, when this is turned around 180 degrees, then the first wife becomes the concubine and the second wife becomes the original wife. By the same token, the first son from the first wife takes the position of the second son and the second son from the concubine takes the first son's position. In that relationship, the first son should offer absolute obedience to the second son. The first wife's lineage is the satanic father's lineage. However, even though this second wife took the first wife's position this lineage is a good lineage from God. This particular phenomena took place in Jacob's family. [Father draws on the board to illustrate] Originally, Rachel should have become the first wife of Jacob. Leah was supposed to be the concubine. But as you recall, Leah somehow took the first wife's position. In the Old Testament era, the rule was "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." When it comes to restoration between the first and second wife, it followed that same rule.

As in the Garden of Eden, in the family of Jacob, Rachel who was originally supposed to become the first wife of Jacob, became the second wife instead. Leah was not supposed to be in the position of the first wife but she took that position. Just as Eve took the first wife's position by the Fall. This was not the original wife's position. But with two mothers and two children's lineages they cannot enter the Kingdom of God. That is why the restoration has to take place within this family. In order to return to God, not just directly from Leah to Rachel, but through their children, it has to go around and eventually return to God. When Jacob was in Haran, Laban tried to destroy Jacob by giving his daughters to Jacob and claim all the wealth of Jacob. However, on the contrary, Jacob was wise enough to take both wealth and daughters from Laban and return to his family.

So remember, Laban who tried to prevent Jacob from taking away his wealth and possessions, eventually offered his servants and three servant's maids to Jacob. Through them ten sons were born, and from Rachel there were two sons. This became the twelve tribes. From this point the struggle between the northern ten tribes and southern two tribes began. [Father again draws on the board to illustrate] This is tribal level [indicating to the board]. However, on the family level at the time of Jesus, centering upon Zachariah and Elizabeth, his wife, and his son John the Baptist and Mary and her son Jesus, this same phenomena took place. Elizabeth was in the position of the first wife and Mary was in the position of the second wife to Zachariah. Just like Jacob's wives, Leah and Rachel. But unlike the time of Jacob where Leah took the first wife's position, at the time of Jesus, Elizabeth actually introduced Mary to her husband Zachariah. This was completely opposite to Leah who desired to occupy Jacob and his family whereas Elizabeth's desire was how to save God's providential foundation within their family. Because of God's revelation she invited her younger sister Mary to take the position of wife to her husband.

John the Baptist was in the position to offer his absolute obedience to Jesus. God's providence of restoration took place at the time of Jesus in this relationship [indicating to the board]. Originally, Zachariah's lineage was going in this way [indicating to the diagram] but this was cut off and Mary and Jesus took the position of the first wife and first son. By doing so, Jesus took the position of the elder sonship and Mary took the position of the elder wife. That is how this satanic lineage was restored back to God. By doing so vertically, from one parent, same parents, one mother line, one lineage was established. The main reason that John the

Baptist could not follow Jesus with his whole heart and soul, was because John the Baptist knew that Jesus was his half-brother.

In the Garden of Eden the Archangel took Eve who was in the position of the younger sister. Therefore Jesus was supposed to take the younger sister of John the Baptist as his bride.

Jesus' position was the completion level Adam. In the Garden of Eden the Archangel, in the Cain position, took Eve the younger sister of Adam. At the national level, Jesus in the position of Adam was to take the sister of Cain (John the Baptist). This is how restoration was supposed to have taken place. In the mind of John the Baptist do you think it was tolerable that Jesus, his half-brother, should marry his own sister? No. It is unimaginable even that Mary literally took Elizabeth's husband and assumed the first wife's position. Then Jesus, the half-brother of John the Baptist, wants to marry his own half-sister, the younger sister of John the Baptist. Can you imagine such a thing? At that time they could be stoned to death for such action. The entire tribe could have been stoned to death. That is why Jesus was unable to receive his bride. Then he had to leave his home in order to establish his spiritual foundation in the wilderness. When that failed he had to take the road to the cross.

This same phenomena will appear again in the Last Days because we have to indemnify this particular relationship in the Last Days. We have to expect the Lord of the Second Advent, but at the same time we see all manner of evil taking place and the families being destroyed. In order to indemnify what happened at the time of Jesus then in the Last Days all of the families should be turned around to the right direction, with all manner of things taking place. (What we are talking about here is incest.) Had Elizabeth

protected her younger sister Mary, and had John the Baptist followed Jesus then they would have become one family. Christianity stands in the position of the bride. Since Christianity is the bride religion, in order to indemnify this particular relationship of Jesus' time, in the Last Days the same thing will happen. Since World War II, the rulers of the world are like the evil ones, like step-sons who are not really directly connected to God's lineage. This is the time when women will feel confused in their lives. That is why women have the tendency to dislike their legal husband. They are supposed to look for the true husband. In that position the Lord of the Second Advent comes like a concubine position. All women are supposed to seek such a husband. Therefore, women are in a position to dislike the existing relationship with their husband and are otherwise compelled to seek their True Love ideal.

From "Restoration of True Sonship — True Parents' Birthday Main Ceremony" (2-13-97):

We need to clearly understand the relationship between mother Mary and Zachariah's family. If Jacob's family was the starting point at the tribal level, then Mary and Zachariah's family were the starting point of the national level providence. In the family of Jacob, Rachel should have become the first wife, not Leah. However, Leah became the first wife. In this regard, that particular providence failed. The mother was supposed to assist her daughters so that order could be established in the correct way. However, this was reversed. If Rachel's mother had been totally united with Rachel and had pushed Leah away, then at the tribal level Rachel could have become the first wife of Jacob. The same mistake took place at the time of Jacob because of these two wives. At the time of Adam and Eve, Eve was supposed to become the first wife of Adam, but

only after she had made a relationship with Satan did she become Adam's wife. This meant the order was reversed. Same situation.

At the time of Jesus, on the national level, in the family of Zachariah this order had to be straightened out. The position of the original wife was taken by Elizabeth, Zachariah's wife. Elizabeth's son was John the Baptist. However, through them alone there was no way to complete the restoration. There had to exist the younger sister's position in order to establish the heavenly lineage. Because of the Fall of Man, restoration always has to come about through the second wife, the concubine line. That has been the history of restoration.

In Jacob's family, Leah hated her younger sister Rachel and she completely dominated Jacob and produced ten children, whereas Rachel had only two children. However, Elizabeth, the wife of Zachariah actually volunteered to introduce Mary to Zachariah because of her revelation from God. She allowed Mary to stay in her family for three months. A woman doesn't become pregnant through staying overnight. If you really research into the Bible you will see this. Therefore, after three months of staying in Zachariah's household Mary became pregnant. Mary had the responsibility to indemnify the failure of Eve as well as the failure of Rachel and Leah. Therefore while she was pregnant she had to deceive her husband figure (Joseph) as well as her father figure.

Because of Mary's success in reversing the course which had failed at the time of Eve, Rebecca and Tamar, now the son she had in her womb at the national level was sanctified. That is why she was able to give birth to the Holy Son of God, Jesus. Jesus was born completely free of

Satanic accusation. God controlled everything concerning his conception and birth.

From “True Parents’ Day Address — True Parents’ Day is my True Son’s Day” (April 18, 1996):

Elder Son Position

Adam is God’s elder son. By the same meaning, at the time of their engagement, Joseph was in the position of elder son. Joseph’s father approved of his son’s matching to Mary. He hoped to make a new family and peace centering on the father and son. But Mary conceived Jesus before the marriage took place. Once this happened Joseph’s father didn’t want Joseph and Mary to marry. Even though Joseph did nothing. Actually Mary took the opposite direction to Eve in God’s providence. She deceived both her father and the elder son.

Without Joseph’s protection Mary and her conceived child would die. How to protect them? God came to Joseph in a dream and told him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. This protected Mary and the child within her womb. Mary was in the position of the handmaiden of the Lord. She obeyed God’s direction absolutely. [Father draws on the board] In Zachariah’s family we have elder sister and younger sister and Cain and Abel. How to turn around to the original position? Also within Jacob’s family there was the same phenomena at a different level. Leah and Rachel were unable to unite with each other. Without creating the foundation of unity the Messiah could not come.

We have to clearly understand the divided family system of two mothers and two children and how to unite them into one from the historical restoration viewpoint. Without such a united

family appearing on the earth, history cannot be cleansed. It is a serious matter. Do you understand? (Yes) Zachariah represented God's position. The result of the cleansing of the blood lineage in the mother's womb. Mary deceived Joseph and Joseph's father as well as her own parents. This was to restore the deception of Eve. Younger sister becomes the elder sister, and the elder sister becomes the younger sister. Younger sister stands in the mother's position and the older sister stands in the position of the daughter.

Mary stood in the position of the second wife to Zachariah.

Two thousand years ago, John the Baptist testified to Jesus. He understood who Jesus' father was. They shared the same father. At the fall there came about two directions, two roots. In the time of restoration one root has to be established again. The only way is for the elder brother to welcome and serve the younger brother. Zachariah, Mary, Jesus. What should Mary have done centering upon Jesus? She should have been concerned to assist him in bringing about his marriage.

John the Baptist did testify to Jesus at the Jordan River. Heaven opened and he received the revelation from God and he saw the dove descend upon Jesus' head. When he felt the spirit of God he testified to Jesus. However, afterwards he was blocked by allowing himself to think from his own viewpoint. Elizabeth was Mary's elder sister. God claimed back the elder sister's husband through Mary. Mary then stood in a position to be stoned to death through this action. That is the kind of atmosphere that surrounded Elizabeth and Mary. Within three months Mary conceived Jesus. This is an historical concept, not Father's concept. Jesus' father was Zachariah. Mary was in the position of the

second wife, or concubine. John the Baptist understood that Jesus was the son of his father's concubine. The original wife, John the Baptist's mother, suffered so much agony through this.

From a human viewpoint, John the Baptist felt unable to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Also Jesus spoke of having to marry within one family. In Eden Satan took Adam's younger sister. In the course of restoration, the true Adam, Jesus, had to take back that younger sister. Same situation only 180 degrees different. John the Baptist was in the position of Cain and his younger sister was to be Jesus' bride. She stood in the position of Eve, younger sister. Whilst Jesus stood in the position of Adam, elder brother. John stood in the position of the Cain side elder brother. Jesus was the first true father to appear on the earth. Jesus' wife would have been true mother. Once the true father and true mother embrace as one then the true tradition would have been established.

Had Jesus' family established such a foundation then automatically it would have expanded to the tribe, nation, world and cosmos. Adam's position is that of the king. Through the true Adam God would have dominion over the whole universe. Centering upon God such a foundation could have easily over turned the Roman Empire. Satan divided the world at every level. However, God is the absolute settlement pillar of the one true love world.

Which side did Jesus' mother Mary stand on? Was she in the position of Jesus' mother or his daughter? Mother's position? (No) Only one mother is Eve and only one father is Adam. On the national basis there is only one husband and one wife. From that viewpoint which side is Mary standing on? (Daughter) What kind of daughter? Mary, Zachariah, Elizabeth and John

the Baptist were all obstacles to Jesus and caused him to travel the road of indemnity. All of them, as a family, were supposed to automatically follow behind Jesus. Mary was supposed to help him in his marriage. This was her mission. Seven times Jesus explained his marriage situation to Mary. He urged her to assist him.

Originally Mary risked her own life in order to conceive Jesus according to God's directive. She could have been stoned to death and so Mary declared that she conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary explained that way. Who guided her to explain that way? Zachariah. Mary did not want that kind of concept. Mary was engaged to Joseph, she traveled to visit with the family of Zachariah for three months. When she returned she was pregnant. Automatically Joseph asked whose baby was she carrying. It is natural that he would. God intervened by giving Joseph a revelation in a dream not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. Therefore Mary and Jesus were protected.

Because Joseph took this kind of action the Bible refers to him as a righteous man. It was God's desire that Zachariah, Elizabeth and John the Baptist surround and protect the Messiah no matter how difficult their family situation might be. None of them wanted to protect Jesus. Zachariah, Elizabeth and John the Baptist all knew how Jesus was conceived. They all were opposed to Jesus marrying their younger daughter.

From "True God's Day — Midnight Address" (January 1, 1996):

Within Jacob's family there were two sisters, Rachel and Leah, and there was always conflict between them. At the time of Jesus Christ, the relationship between Elizabeth and Mary was reversed. There were two sets of mother and son

relationships. Between Elizabeth and John the Baptist, and Mary and Jesus. Who was in the position of concubine? Mary. Who was in the position of original wedded wife? Elizabeth. This was supposed to be reversed. Two separate lines cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. They should be united into one line.

The original wife's children, that is, the elder sister's children, should stand behind the children of the concubine. That is the order. If we remain with this satanic blood lineage, there is no way to accomplish restoration. It has to come out like a branch with a new start. That is how the history of restoration continues. At the time of Jacob there was fighting between the two sisters, Rachel and Leah. At the time of Jesus there was harmony between these two sisters. Elizabeth and Mary were cousins from their mother's side. This is the historical formula so they could not avoid this. This is why there is the concept of restoration of elder sistership position and restoration of elder sonship.

Who was Jesus Christ supposed to marry? The sister of John the Baptist. John the Baptist was in the position of Cain and Jesus in the position of Abel. In the Garden of Eden, Adam's younger sister was taken by Satan. At the time of Jesus Christ, this younger sister, Mary, was supposed to be taken by Adam, Jesus Christ. Who was that? The younger sister of John the Baptist. That is the way that restoration could have taken place. That is why Jesus quietly requested to Mary three times for that marriage. But it never happened. Who was in the position of younger brother of John the Baptist? Jesus. John the Baptist's sister, who was to marry Jesus, was his step-sister. However, they had to marry. Imagine, Jesus' mother actually took her elder sister's husband. Then at the level of Jesus, the younger brother was to take away the elder

brother's younger sister. This is an unimaginable thing. But this was supposed to have happened.

From "Total Calculation or Accounting of God's Historical Providence" (December 25, 1994):

In the Garden of Eden, Adam was in the position of Abel and the Archangel was in the position of Cain. The meaning of the Fall is that the Archangel took away Adam's younger sister, Eve. In order to restore that relationship, Jesus was supposed to take Cain's younger sister, who was John the Baptist's younger sister and make her his own bride. Who was the younger sister? It would have been Jesus' stepsister. According to the law of Israel at that time it was not permitted to marry a close blood relative. After Joseph saved Mary's life and they became officially married, don't you think that Joseph kept on asking Mary whose son Jesus really was? Yet Mary could not reveal the secret, because once she would then the entire family, including Zachariah and Elizabeth would be condemned by the society of Israel at that time. Therefore she could not do that. The entire family might have been stoned to death. Suppose Jesus had married John the Baptist's younger sister, restoring the phenomena in the Garden of Eden. Even John the Baptist knew that Jesus was his stepbrother. Even though Jesus wanted to marry his own stepsister, Mary could not allow that because she knew what the consequences would be. Even if Mary had agreed Elizabeth would not allow that. If Elizabeth agreed then Zachariah would refuse. It would create so much trouble with all of the family. It was a doubly difficult situation at that time. Do you understand this clearly? You have to understand this hidden secret clearly. This is the truth Father is proclaiming to you.

If everything could have happened according to God's will, Jesus could have married his stepsister with the agreement of Mary, Elizabeth and Zachariah, and then the family and tribe would have been established. This would have been the beginning of the Kingdom of God on earth.

When Sun Myung Moon first came to America he gave public speeches in every state. In one of them titled "God's Hope for America" he said this about Jesus:

I am sure there are many devout Christians among you who have various opinions on the life of Jesus. How would you visualize Jesus' appearance? What was Jesus doing for the 30 years before his public ministry? Was he in a college studying? The Bible doesn't say he even went to elementary school. He was a laborer, an assistant to a carpenter. There is so much to know, so many hidden truths within the Bible which are not written explicitly. If I revealed some of those secrets I am sure you would be amazed. Even though I know these things, I could not tell you those stories lightly. For you would then ask, "How do you know such things?" I learned them from Jesus. Yes, and I learned from God. Remember, at the time of Noah nobody could believe Noah. At the time of Abraham, nobody could believe Abraham. By the same token, even though I will honestly tell you what actually happened at the time of Jesus, no one will easily believe me.

From the point of view of the society of those days, Jesus was a fatherless child, an illegitimate child. In the sight of God he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, but there was no way to prove it to people! So set your thoughts in a realistic vein and just evaluate that I am going to say.

Mary conceived Jesus before marriage. Under the Jewish law, such a woman was to be condemned to death by stoning. Joseph suffered indignation because of Mary's situation, and quietly waited until the right time to divorce her. Then an angel appeared to Joseph and said to him, "You are to take Mary as your wife. Do not condemn her, for she has a special mission from God." If Joseph had not been a righteous man, Mary would have been automatically condemned to death by stoning.

Joseph's Lonely Decision

Now, do you think Joseph could have discussed this matter with his parents by saying, "Mother and Father, my wife-to-be, my betrothed, has conceived a child, but an angel said that this is the will of God, so I must take her as my wife and care for her"? What would Joseph's parents have said? There are many older couples in our audience. Put yourselves in the position of the parents of Joseph. You would not have believed Joseph if he spoke such things. Again, Joseph had to make a lonely decision. Without discussing the matter with anybody, he took his fiancée off to some secret hiding place.

I am sure Joseph went through a most difficult period in which he was full of suspicion about Mary. Joseph must have asked his wife-to-be, "Mary, we are close and have no secrets from one another. Now tell me what really happened to you. Who is the true father of the baby in your womb?" I am sure any husband would be very curious about this matter. If I had been in the position of Joseph I would have asked Mary this question. But Mary was telling the truth when she said, "I really do not know who is the father of this child. It was conceived by God." How many of us could believe this statement? It is easier to believe now, because we know who

Jesus is, but this was not the case during the lifetime of Jesus.

Therefore, Joseph had certain suspicions and injured feelings in his heart. He thought, "My wife is not truly honest with me." Because of these circumstances there was emotional turmoil and upheaval in Jesus' family even after he was born. One instance in particular witnesses to this fact. One day Jesus met his mother at a wedding feast in Galilee, and Mary informed Jesus that they had run out of wine. He called out to his mother, saying, "O Woman, what have you to do with me?..." (John 2:4) The point is, he did not say, "Mother" but instead called out, "Woman." Later on a disciple of Jesus came to him saying, "Your mother and your brothers would like to see you." And Jesus replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers? . . . Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Mark 3:33-35). This indicated that in the eyes of Jesus the members of his family were not doing the will of God.

Jesus' Life of Sorrow

Jesus suffered great anguish within his own family. There are many hidden stories not yet revealed. Many of the facts about his suffering are unknown. The Bible leaves a scanty record of the 30 years before Jesus' public ministry. If this were a glorious record, we can be sure that God and Jesus' disciples would have revealed it. But Jesus lived in sorrow and grief; he was an obscure figure for 30 years. People were therefore shocked one day when they heard him say, "I am the fulfillment of the law" and "Moses wrote of me." He proclaimed, "I am the Son of God" and "The Father in heaven has sent me." "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me." How many of us could

have accepted such extraordinary statements if we had lived in those days? Jesus just bewildered people, he sounded so outrageous. Even John the Baptist had difficulty seeing Jesus as the Son of God, and John was supposed to come to prepare the people and make straight the way of the Lord.

Today it is very easy to accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God because for 2,000 years Christianity has been glorifying him as God. But in those days, the elders did not accept him. And the priests did not accept him either. They were no less intelligent than we are today. In fact, we would probably have compounded their mistakes if we had lived in the days of Jesus of Nazareth. They saw only an outcast, a blasphemer, and an outrageous heretic. They simply could not see the Son of God.

Jesus had been long awaited. The Messiah was expected for 2,000 years. But when he finally appeared, there was no reception for him. The faith of the Jews at that time was no less powerful, no less devout than the faith of Christians today. Yet we know that the people Jesus associated with were not on a par with the rest of society, that he mixed with harlots, tax collectors, and fishermen. We know the story that one day a young woman poured precious ointment over Jesus' body, then washed his feet with her hair. If we had seen these things, how many of us can say in a pious manner that we would have accepted Jesus as the Son of God?

The three years of Jesus' public ministry were a far cry from the anticipated messiahship. No one understood Christ's true mission. The people judged the Son of God with sinful eyes, according to their own earthly standards. And they treated him as they pleased. This sinful world can never be hospitable to the purity of

Christ. He came to his own people but the people received him not.

God Seeks World Salvation

As I mentioned, all the saints and prophets and righteous men of history had first to deny themselves totally and give themselves up to God. When He summoned them, they gave up their homes, their fortunes, their families and their nations. God wants His champion on the individual level, on the family level, tribal level, national level and worldwide level. He has summoned His champions on each level. And the qualification for God's champion on any level always remains the same. He needs the absolute and untiring faith required to follow His command wherever it may lead. God needs total obedience to His will.

We must examine then, what is the will of God? Why does He give His people such a hard time? Individual salvation is certainly important in the sight of God. God does not neglect that. However, that is not the ultimate purpose of God's work. God's will is the salvation of the world! God needs an individual to be His champion for the ultimate goal of world salvation. God summoned one family to be an instrument for the salvation of the world. God summoned His people to achieve the salvation of the world. God wants to have a nation as His champion, for the ultimate fulfillment of world salvation.

People in the time of Jesus were anxiously awaiting the Messiah. But they were thinking only of their own national glory as Israel, the chosen people of God. They did not understand the universal mission of Jesus Christ. It was the purpose of God to send the Messiah to the chosen people of Israel so that the Messiah

would unite with the chosen people. Then they could become soldiers of faith, to fight for and achieve the salvation of the world.

The foundation for the Messiah was laid through Jacob, the champion of the family, and through Moses, the champion of his people. Finally the Messiah came to the nation of Israel. He was to be the champion of the nation and the champion of the entire world. The purpose of God is not the salvation of one church or one nation alone. It is the will of God that He sacrificed the lesser for the greater. Therefore He will sacrifice the church or the nation for the world. If Christians today think only of their own salvation, their own heaven and their own well-being, then they are not living in accordance with the purpose of God. If we are only concerned with the salvation of our own families, we are not worthy of God's blessing. If people focus on benefiting their own people alone, or their nation alone, then they are absolutely going against the will of God.

God will give you your own salvation. When you become God's champion for world salvation, your own salvation is guaranteed. Now, the Christian population is probably one seventh of the total world population. But among these, very few are devout Christians. And among devout Christians, how many of us really strive for the salvation of mankind? We must all devote ourselves to the salvation of the world!

God cannot be pleased with man if we live in a self-centered way. I met Jesus personally, and I received a revelation through which I learned that God's grief is great. His heart is broken. Today God is working ceaselessly for the ultimate salvation of all mankind. He needs His champion to succeed in this work. The purpose of God's church is to save the entire world. The church is the instrument of God, and it was this

very fact that the chosen people of Israel forgot at the time of Jesus.

Jesus received his mission to be the Second Adam from God when he was a boy. He spent years secretly communicating with God and saints in the spirit world. He became one with God's heart and learned the truth that could save mankind. When he was thirty years old he left his home to begin his public ministry.

As a boy Jesus lived in a miserable, unhappy home. Joseph and Mary created an atmosphere of bitterness, emotional turmoil and upheaval. Jesus seldom spoke to his disciples of his life as a boy because it was so painful. Sun Myung Moon reveals in some of his speeches what it was like for Jesus to grow up. Here are some excerpts from a few speeches:

Nobody knew who Jesus' father was. Since they had no evidence one way or the other, people just talked behind Jesus' back. Joseph asked Mary who Jesus' father was. Don't you think he asked her? He asked many times. Of course Mary couldn't say, she just answered, "The Holy Spirit." Do you think Joseph really believed that? Therefore, Mary was always in a defensive position. She really did not have a secure position. It is another reason why she didn't worry so much about Jesus. The Bible does not disclose this, but it is so easy to trace it back. Mary and Joseph were disharmonious, fighting and quarrelling all the time. They quarreled so much that young Jesus' mother even forsook him and left him. Three days later she came and found him with the priests. Jesus was very angry saying, "Where else would I be but in my Father's house?" which was the temple. Today both Christians and Catholics say that Jesus is such a great person so he stayed in his father's house. How can you go to heaven with that kind of interpretation? He was there because he was forsaken by his mother and father! The fact that Jesus could not get married was directly due to

the failure of responsibility on Mary's part. How can Mary be a great woman? (9-20-92)

More children were born to Mary and Joseph, and they all knew that somehow Jesus was different. The *Bible* does not speak directly about this, but the fact is that when Jesus was a boy there was a great deal of tension, and even Mary was distant with him at times because she was a victim of the everyday situation. Jesus was lonely as a child and often left the house to be alone. Once his parents even left him behind in Jerusalem for three days, only coming back to look for him later. How could parents leave a young boy behind that way? There were not many happy days in that family.

I'm sure many of you have grown up with a step parent, and even in an open society like America's today there is tension between a step parent and step children, so imagine how much more difficult it was 2,000 years ago. In this sense Americans are in a position to be sympathetic with Jesus' position; more young people are experiencing the same kind of suffering Jesus went through. (10-3-79)

So at Jesus' time, everyone in the family knew he was an illegitimate child. At that time, no one believed he was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Jesus was in a miserable situation. He was a target of despise. Even the children mocked him. All his relatives despised him. Everyone gets married, but Jesus could not even though he was 33. No one wanted to willingly give a bride to an illegitimate child. The whole world knew, but no one wanted to give him a bride. This was Jesus' position. (1-17-93)

You have read the biblical record that Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover when he was 12 years old. Joseph and Mary took the child to Jerusalem. After the festival the parents returned home, but only after 3 days did they know that the child was lost, and went back to look for him.

It is a simple record, but behind it there is a sad story. We read that Jesus was such a wise and clever child as he discussed biblical passages with priests. But still he was 12 years old. If it were you, would you not have looked for the child to bring him back? There can be no such parents. Also Joseph and Mary knew that the child was lost, but Joseph had a hurt heart. He did not mind and did not talk about it. Mary, even though she was so deeply wounded in her heart, could not utter a single word about getting the missing child. So, in silence, she came back and spent three unhappy days. But after the three days, Joseph might have thought that it was too much for him. What would the neighbors think? I can enumerate many more such examples. With those things hidden in his heart, the child grew up to the age of adulthood.

His brothers could sense that there was some untold, entangled story centered on Jesus. That's why even his brothers could not trust or believe in what Jesus was doing.

There he was, working as an assistant to his carpenter father, while inwardly preparing for his mission. He knew he was going to do a great mission under God's guidance. Sometimes Jesus felt like asking his mother, "Why, why am I treated like this? Who is my father? What is your problem and how does it fit in?" Mary could never answer Jesus. Then there was a sort of emotional distance between Mary and the child. As time went by, Jesus came to know what to do and what direction he was headed. He must have been told on some occasions, but he himself knew that he was different from other boys. More than that, he was told by God about his mission. In carrying out his mission, he had to pass through a period of preparation; and he had to prepare a good environment to help him. He could not expect people to receive him without that foundation. Jesus always wished that his own parents, brothers, and relatives could help

him in the mission. If his parents had not been able to help him, then who else would help? Jesus was the central figure, the personage of divine mission whom God sent after a preparation of 4,000 years. There were people prepared to receive him. In order for him to be able to establish the Kingdom of God on earth he must have been able to establish the Kingdom right in his own family first. He knew the heavenly law of the divine family, so his own family had to be placed under that law. According to that divine law, Joseph should have loved and ministered to Jesus, not to speak of his mother Mary. Jesus had even to educate his own parents and brothers and sisters; they had to love him more than anyone else, ministering to him and helping him in his mission.

But we find that Jesus had told his mother about his mission several times. We can imagine that he has done that, his mother being somewhat closer to him. The boy knew his mission and looked for a helper who could cooperate with him. Would he not have told her? But the people around him looked at things from a different angle, so he could not openly talk about his mission. How could he have explained it? He could not help feeling that his mother, at least, would be obedient and cooperative with him. He had told his mother that she should love him more than Joseph and more than any of his brothers according to the divine will. Jesus thought that his mother had to love him more than anyone else and that she was responsible for making her husband love him with that ardor, and influencing his brothers and sisters to love him. Jesus came as the master of love, the prince of love, and the center of love. He should have received more love than anyone else in the world: from his parents, from his brothers and sisters, from his relatives and neighbors. But we cannot say that he had received such love from anyone. On Jesus' part, he could not love his

parents as a single example of parenthood, he could not love his brothers and sisters more than anyone else. Now God, seeing all those things take place, must have grieved. How grievous must have been Jesus' heart! The Kingdom of God was supposed to be the Kingdom of love. Jesus, who came as the center of love, should have established that kind of family first of all. But it seemed hopeless to him, so he had to flee from his home. He was then 30 years old. (12-25-71)

PRACTICAL RELIGION

In *Blessing and Ideal Family* Sun Myung Moon says, "Christians say, 'Reverend Moon is teaching that Jesus had to marry. Reverend Moon is a heretic.' If Jesus was a man he would have had the feelings of a man, wouldn't he? To deny the physiological Jesus is to say that Jesus is the same as the invisible God, and is not a realistic Jesus. Believing this, Christianity is a false religion and it will regress, while the Unification Church will develop because it is a practical religion.

"If a Christian minister is here, he must be surprised to hear this. I myself also once believed in the Presbyterian Church and its view of Jesus. However, when I solved the questions of the *Bible*, I realized these facts. I was persecuted because I told these stories. However, they are facts, so I cannot deny them.

"God created Jesus as a man; therefore, Jesus desired to marry through the Blessing of God. Jesus also wished to have a family and desired to be called a husband and a father.

"You must remember that Jesus stood before Mary and pleaded in tears three times. Jesus' mother, Mary, did not listen, so Jesus had to leave his home when he turned thirty, starting his public life course.

"Mary was to pick a bride for Jesus and prepare a holy wedding for him. However, this dissipated as if it had been a dream. Mary was

tied up too much with her living concerns and her own problems with her husband.”

Sun Myung Moon says: “As I said before, the life of Jesus was miserable. He had a mother but no father. Even though he had a mother, he could not talk with her. Jesus came to make a family, but there was no foundation to be able to discuss the Blessing.

“Since Eve fell at the age of 16, Jesus talked to mother Mary about his marriage at the age of 17. When Jesus was 17 years old, he talked about his marriage for the first time, and again after ten years, at the age of 27. After three years, he talked about it a third time. However, since his request was not accepted, he had to leave his house.” (1-2-97)

Mrs. Sun Myung Moon (Hak Ja Han Moon) said in a speech titled “True Parents and True Family Co-Founder’s Address” (1996 Speaking Tour):

We should also consider the influence that Joseph and Mary’s relationship had on Jesus. Mary had to restore the position of Eve and Tamar through indemnity, so she should have remained as only the fiancée of Joseph. Providentially, they could not be husband and wife. It was God’s desire that they not have sexual relations either before or after Jesus’ birth. Joseph still loved Mary after Jesus was born, but Mary should have wanted to separate from Joseph to raise Jesus as the Son of God.

But the real circumstances did not make this easy to do. Even though Mary’s original mind told her that she should not do so, she had sexual relations with Joseph. They had children, which was a repetition of Eve’s mistake. With this condition, Satan invaded them. With the exception of Jesus, everyone who should have protected Jesus came under the dominion of Satan: his father, his mother, his Abel-type brothers (John the Baptist and his brothers) and his Cain-type brothers (the children of Joseph).

Now without a family and household, Jesus lamented, “foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head” (Matthew 8:20). With his family level foundation lost, Jesus sought to replace it. That was his three-year course.

In the end, as people disbelieved and the disciples lost faith, Jesus took Satan’s attack. And as his foundation crumbled he went the way of the cross. Originally, Jesus came to the earth as the Messiah to give blessings to his disciples and all humankind. He was to build the sinless Kingdom of Heaven. But because of the lack of faith in him, he could not receive his bride, he could not become the True Parent, and he could not accomplish his mission. This is why he promised to return.

According to the *Bible*, “Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Today, therefore, I clearly reveal this truth about Jesus and Mary in order to liberate them despite opposition from established churches such as the Catholic Church and Protestant churches.

ROMANTIC VIEW OF JESUS’ BIRTH

Christianity does not have a realistic view of Jesus’ birth. For thousands of years they have romanticized his birth as a sanitized nativity scene instead of the horrible reality of a filthy, stinking barn. The truth was that it was harsh and sad that the Messiah had to come to this world with so little love. The Wise Men who came to him should have taken care of him, but like everyone in Jesus’ life they deserted him. The story of Jesus is the saddest story of human history, next to Adam and Eve.

RELIGIOUS FANATIC

Jesus’ mother Mary was successful in her mission of bearing the Second Adam. Unfortunately, she was not successful in understanding and supporting him. When Jesus left his home and

started his ministry Mary and his brothers thought he had lost his mind in becoming a religious fanatic upsetting people by being an outrageous heretic who led a crazy, nonconformist lifestyle.

We read, “As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, “Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.” He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it” (Luke 11:27-28). He said, “Blessed rather” instead of “Blessed also.”

Jesus was kind to prostitutes but he was harsh with his mother because she, unlike the prostitutes, did not believe in him. Once at a wedding feast in Galilee, Mary told Jesus they were out of wine. He called to her saying, “O Woman, what have you to do with me? ...” (John 2:4). He did not say “Mother,” but instead “Woman.”

Chang Shik Yang says:

When Jesus came to this earth as the Second Adam, he should have celebrated the Holy Blessing of Marriage. The families of Joseph and Zachariah should have united together to help Jesus fulfill this. To this day, nobody has understood Jesus’ mind and heart at the wedding in Cana when he reproved his mother Mary for asking him to make wine. He reproved her for being concerned about a neighbor’s wedding while she had not prepared a wedding for him, the Son of God, as she should have done.

— *(The Opening of the Gate to the Cheon-Il-Guk through the Holy Marriage Blessing Ceremony of the Parents of Heaven and Earth and The Providential Background of the Coronation of the King of the Blessed Families for the Peace and Unity of the Heavenly Parent and the Parents of Heaven and Earth)*

Sun Myung Moon says:

Some may ask the question, did Mary fulfill her due responsibility? Unification Church members jump up and have things to say. If you ask the

same questions of Christianity, Catholics will really jump up high and say, "Don't even talk about that! That is blasphemous!" You can see for yourself.

In the Bible there is an episode when there was a wedding ceremony in Galilee. Mary went there to serve people and Jesus went there, too. Jesus' mother said something like, "We don't have wine" and Jesus became very indignant, saying, "Woman, what do you have to do with me?" She was not worried about Jesus' wedding, which was her responsibility to arrange. She was more worried about a wedding that didn't have any meaning.

Jesus knew this and he felt so indignant, saying, "Your son, the center of God's whole dispensation should go this path, getting married to restore all mankind, and you don't even think about that. You are worried about another person's wedding. What are you anyway?" That is what Jesus said to his own mother.

Now we know that clearly. What is your guess? Do you think that was Jesus' heart at that time? (Yes.) Jesus was thirty-three years old, and the relative who happened to be getting married that day was not even twenty at that time. And Mary had to get Jesus involved, worrying that there was no wine? What kind of mother is she, Jesus wondered. (9-20-92)

MARY THE DEPROGRAMMER

Mary and his brothers became so ashamed and concerned for him they went to take him home and restrain him there. In today's world this is called conservatorship where family members get custody of their relative because he or she is mentally incompetent. In other cases families have kidnapped their loved one who they believe have become a religious nut case. This is called

“deprogramming” by those who resort to force. The true name would be faith breakers. This is how Jesus’ family felt. When they arrived at the house Jesus was staying in they told a messenger to go inside and tell Jesus they were there to take him home. When Jesus heard this he told the messenger to go outside and tell her he wouldn’t see her. She had a mission to support Jesus as the Messiah and she utterly failed.

We read in the Bible:

Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.” “Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.” (Mark 3:31-35)

He refused to see them because they had no faith in him and refused to do God’s will. His family’s disbelief and disunity tragically made Jesus’ mission more difficult.

His brothers were so angry with him for acting like a cult leader they tried to have him killed. We read:

After this, Jesus went around in Galilee, purposely staying away from Judea because the Jews there were waiting to take his life. But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near, Jesus’ brothers said to him, “You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.” For even his own brothers did not believe in him. (John 7:1-5)

Jesus is staying away from Judea because his life is in danger and his brothers are trying to get him there so he will be killed. They acted like the brothers of Jacob's son, Joseph, who threw him into a pit to die. Disagreement over religion has broken up many families.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

When Jesus left home to start his public ministry, he immediately went to see John the Baptist. John was the greatest evangelist of the day. He traveled the countryside barefoot, wearing a camel skin, living on locusts and wild honey and begging for food. He spoke with such authority that many people came from miles around to hear him and be baptized by him. He attracted large crowds and gained many disciples. He preached, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'..." (John 1:23). When John saw Jesus, John had a spiritual experience. A dove descended on Jesus, and God said, "This is my Son with whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17). Tragically, after this spiritual experience, John began to doubt that Jesus was the Messiah. So he took his disciples and went down the river, continuing to baptize. Only two of John's disciples followed Jesus. John should have gone with Jesus too. He should have been Jesus' disciple and been the forerunner who introduced Jesus to Israel. Just as Jesus was the mediator between God and mankind, John was to be the mediator between Jesus and the Israelites, the chosen people. It is proper for a speaker to be introduced. John should have been the one to introduce Jesus. On his authority, few would have rejected Jesus and the many who accepted would have begun the Messianic movement that would have ushered in the Kingdom of God.

Because of John's failure Jesus now had to witness for himself. He had to find people who would accept him and go out and prepare the people for him. He found 12 disciples to follow him and we read in the *Bible* that they traveled from town to town. The disciples witnessed for Jesus. They asked people to come hear him preach of the ideal world on earth. Matt. 9:35 states, "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages ... preaching the gospel of the kingdom." Jesus was intoxicated with God and his mission to proclaim God's will that we must fulfill the great blessings of

being fruitful, multiplying and having dominion over creation by restoring the Garden of Eden on earth.

ELIJAH WAS SUPPOSED TO RETURN

A basic belief of the Jewish people at that time was that not only would the Messiah come to them but that Elijah would return before the Messiah and introduce him. The Jewish *Bible* ended with the book of Malachi and the very last lines prophesy that Elijah will come again. Elijah was a prophet who lived 900 years before Jesus, and the *Bible* tells the amazing story of how Elijah had ascended up into the sky. Many Israelites felt that Elijah would return from the sky.

The Israelites did not know that God had given Elijah's mission to John the Baptist. While God was working with Jesus, quietly and alone, Elijah and spirit world were working with John to guide him to prepare his people for the Messiah—the Anointed One. The angel had told John's father, Zachariah, the great mission John would have: "And he will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (Luke 1:16-17)

When Jesus' disciples went witnessing the people asked, "How can Jesus be the Messiah? Elijah is supposed to come out of the sky and introduce the Messiah." The disciples didn't know what the people were talking about. The disciples were not educated and had not led a devout life like John the Baptist and the religious leaders of Israel. Just because the Messiah was born in a humble manner in a humble country that was poor and unknown to the empires of the world, this doesn't mean that God wanted the Messiah to always live like this.

God had worked to prepare Israel to immediately accept Jesus. God especially had worked with the religious leaders and most of all John the Baptist. They were rich in spirit, knowledge and position. It was extremely difficult for Jesus to have to work with his ignorant and crude disciples.

JOHN THE BAPTIST IN POSITION OF ELIJAH

So when the people asked about Elijah they went to Jesus and asked him, “Who is Elijah?” Jesus said, “For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.” (Matt. 11:13-14)

This was difficult for the Jewish people to believe. So they went to John and asked him, “Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not” (John 1:21). The people had to decide. Jesus said John was Elijah; John said he wasn’t. Who do you think the people believed?

Who would you believe? What if Billy Graham, the Pope, Jerry Falwell and every minister in every town did not follow a man who had only a few lowly and uneducated followers and who said he was the Messiah? How easy would it be for you to follow him? In the eyes of the Israelites Jesus was lying, so they continued to wait for Elijah and therefore rejected the Messiah.

In a speech given at Madison Square Garden titled “The New Future of Christianity” (September 18, 1974) Sun Myung Moon said the following:

Was John the Baptist Elijah? Yes, Jesus said so. But the people were never convinced. They said, “Outrageous!”

Let us imagine we can transpose these events to our time. John the Baptist of 2,000 years ago was a person of tremendous influence, enjoying great prestige all over Israel as a great man of God—just like Billy Graham of today, a great Christian leader.

Let us say some unknown young man suddenly appeared and began proclaiming himself to the world as the Son of God. As a student of the scriptures, you would ask him, “If you are the Son of God, where is the promised Elijah?” If this man said, “Do you not know that Billy Graham is Elijah?” what would be your reaction? You would undoubtedly say, “Impossible! How

could Billy Graham be Elijah? He did not come out of the blue sky. We all know he came from North Carolina!”

You could not accept that, could you? Precisely this same kind of unbelief confronted our Lord Jesus Christ. People could not accept John the Baptist as Elijah, simply because he did not come from the sky. The people of 2,000 years ago were stubborn in their belief that the prophecy of Elijah’s return must be fulfilled literally, that he must come from the sky. They were the victims of the letter of the Old Testament.

John the Baptist represented the consummation of the Old Testament, the law and the prophets. He was the prince of the old age. Jesus Christ came as the prince of the new age. Had he been supported by John the Baptist, he could have stood upon the firm foundation of the Old Testament Age. Then the new age could have blossomed in the fertile soil of the accomplishments of the old age. The Son of God could have established his glorious kingdom at once. And John the Baptist would have been the cornerstone of that kingdom.

Had John the Baptist followed Jesus, the distinguished leaders of that society would have been the first to accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Then who would have crucified the Lord of glory?

When God sent His only Son to this world to establish His kingdom on earth, don’t you think He wanted to be followed by the most able people of his age? Do you think that God wanted only the outcasts of society to follow Jesus? Not at all! The simple failure of John the Baptist broke the link between the Son of God and the people. And as a result, only fishermen, tax collectors, harlots and lepers followed Jesus Christ. This brought great grief to the heart of God.

If the Lord is returning to the world today, is it not most logical that all the leadership of Christianity—the bishops, the cardinals, the pope, and all the evangelists and great ministers of the world—should become the first group to welcome the Christ? If they followed the Lord and became his first disciples, the establishment of his kingdom would be infinitely easier.

You may say, “Reverend Moon, by what authority are you speaking? What makes you so sure?” I do have the authority to say these things. God showed me the truth. I met Jesus. Jesus himself showed me these truths. And I met John the Baptist, too, in the spirit world. He himself bore witness to the truth of this testimony. After these extraordinary spiritual experiences, when I returned to the reality of this world, the same *Bible* I had been reading took on a whole new meaning.

Even if you cannot accept these things as the truth now, you must at least suspend judgment. One day we will all know the truth. Eventually we are all going to die. Every one of us will end up in the spiritual world, where truth is like the sunlight. No one can escape it there. On that day we shall all see the whole truth.

However, blessed is he who can be humble enough to accept the truth while he has the opportunity here on earth. Your knowledge of the truth and of God here on earth will determine your eternal life.

JOHN THE BAPTIST FAILED

John couldn’t see Jesus as the Messiah because he was ignorant of God’s providence. He interpreted the teachings of the Old Testament as did everyone else. Malachi said Elijah was coming out of the sky. Therefore, how could he be Elijah? What John didn’t know was that God had no intention of sending Elijah out of the blue sky.

What Jesus meant was that the mission of Elijah would return. John the Baptist was to continue the mission of Elijah. John didn't know that Elijah was working with him from the spirit world urging him on to prepare the people.

Also, John couldn't accept Jesus because he felt that the Messiah would come in a dramatic way—out of the clouds or as a great military conqueror. It was too difficult to believe that this ordinary carpenter could be the savior of the world. So he didn't support Jesus and continued a separate course.

The prevailing expectation was for the Messiah to come in an apocalyptic manner. They were expecting the Messiah to act dramatically to save them. Some thought he would make a supernatural appearance as Daniel had prophesied: "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations and language should serve him." (Dan. 7:13-14)

Some thought of the Messiah as a great military conqueror like King David who would drive the Romans into the sea and glorify Israel. There were a few who correctly saw that a man would come and lead the people to build Jerusalem into a light for the whole world to come to and see God working and inspire the world to build the kingdom of God on earth. Very few held this correct view of the Messiah. It was extremely difficult for the Israelites to see a mere carpenter from the village of Nazareth as the Messiah. And when John kept witnessing separate from Jesus the people became even more confused.

The people once said to John, "Rabbi, he (Jesus) who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you bore witness, here he is, baptizing, and all are going to him" (John 3:26). Then John answered, "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)

John's response has always been interpreted as John being humble. But this is not an expression of humility. John should have joined Jesus and shared his destiny. If Jesus increased so would John and so would anyone who follows the Messiah. If he really believed in

Jesus as the Messiah he could never decrease as Jesus increases. John was confused and separated himself from the Messiah. John was imprisoned and later killed because of some insignificant problem of King Herod. He should have lived and died for the Messiah.

While he was in prison John wondered about Jesus and sent a messenger to Jesus to ask him, “Are you he who is come, or shall we wait for another?” (Matt. 11:3). Jesus didn’t answer him directly or straightforwardly that he was the Messiah. He answered in a roundabout way, saying: “Go and tell John ... the poor have good news preached to them” (Matt. 11:4-5). This statement is an expression of the sorrowful heart of Jesus. The “poor” does not mean people who are economically poor. Jesus is saying that the only people who are listening to his message are people who have not led a spiritual life. Rich people, to Jesus, were John the Baptist, priests, scribes and the leaders of the Jewish people who were devout and trying to lead a religious life. Jesus wanted these people to first hear his message of truth—his revelations—but when they rejected him Jesus had to wander about the seacoast of Galilee and through the region of Samaria to find ordinary people or those of the lower class who would listen to him such as ignorant fishermen and tax-collectors. God wanted the religious leaders to be Jesus’ disciples. It was a secondary course for Jesus to have to go to those who were not so able and well prepared: “‘The wedding is ready, but those invited are not worthy. Go therefore, into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad.” (Matt. 22:8-10)

Jesus went to the religious people first and it was tragic that they rejected him and persecuted him. He was forced to witness on the streets to common people. And then when he did gain a few followers, how impressive did Jesus look with these people? Try to imagine yourself living at the time of Jesus. You see Jesus, an ordinary looking man, who has followers that are ordinary looking—even less than average. He says the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand, and that everyone must follow him and then the *Bible* will be fulfilled!

It was a terrible blow to Jesus that John the Baptist was not beside him. After John continued his ministry separate from him, Jesus

said of John, “Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the Kingdom is greater than he” (Matt. 11:11). Everyone is born of a woman and out of every human being John was the greatest because he was chosen to stand as Jesus’ main disciple.

If John, as Jesus says, is the greatest person ever born, why would he say he is the least instead of the greatest person in the Kingdom of Heaven? All the prophets in the past testified to the Messiah who would come in the future. John the Baptist had the mission to personally testify to the Messiah. Therefore his mission was the greatest. He was to have the honor of personally standing next to Jesus and bridge the gap between the people and the Messiah. God raised John to be that person. But when he did not follow and serve Jesus as the Messiah he became the least one.

It was an enormous task to start a messianic movement in first century Palestine and without John consistently testifying to Jesus’ status it was vastly more difficult. If John had become one of his chief disciples it would have opened the way easily for Jesus. John could have brought unity between the chosen people of Israel and Jesus. John himself had disciples and if they too would have joined it would have been a tremendous boost for Jesus. God’s dispensation is to have the Messiah come and be protected. God has repeatedly tried to create a safe place for the Messiah to come to but those chosen people who God has prepared keep failing to fulfill their responsibility.

Jesus eagerly searched for followers. He sent seventy of his disciples “in pairs to every town he intended to go. He said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few’” (Luke 10:1-2). John was a pathetic failure. It broke Jesus’ heart. Soon afterwards, John was beheaded by King Herod. The Cain and Abel foundation for the Kingdom of God was not accomplished.

Because of John’s failure to unite with the Messiah, Jesus had to restore this Cain/Abel failure and so went to fast for 40 days which laid a preparation for him to start the new and more difficult mission of being both the Messiah and John the Baptist. He now had to start at the bottom all alone and find enough people to protect and help him.

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN ON EARTH

Jesus took his 12 disciples and traveled from town to town preaching. He was a powerful speaker with a booming voice. God's spirit was in him, and he spoke with passion. The people were compelled to listen to him.

Jesus was asked how we should pray and he gave an example of a prayer which today is called the Lord's Prayer. In it he says, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10). Jesus gave every ounce of his energy to proclaim, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17). Jesus was filled with God's desire and heart to save this world and restore it to the Garden of Eden. The essence of all his teaching was the building of the kingdom—the ideal world on earth.

Jesus was questioned by a skeptical lawyer who asked him what are the laws, and Jesus said we are to honor the laws of the past such as the Ten Commandments, but he said love was higher than laws: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets" (Matt. 22:37-40).

Jesus had come for the whole world. Jesus wanted to tell God's testimony to everyone. He had so much to say, to teach. He barely was able to say anything before he was cut down. He was a clear channel for God to speak. God doesn't drop a book out of the sky; He speaks through the Messiah.

God had raised the Jewish people and the rest of the world to a level He hoped where they could simply understand the truth. He had used before Jesus animal offerings and many laws and commandments. But by the time of Jesus, God wanted love, not laws, to guide the people. Jesus honored the Ten Commandments, but he came with a higher law than all the hundreds of laws that the Jewish elders and society abided by. God doesn't want a world of millions of laws. He wants better people—not better laws. God is internal. He seeks to make better people. If the world were filled

with perfect people we wouldn't need thousands of laws because everyone would automatically treat each other correctly.

PARABLES FOR SIMPLE PEOPLE

Jesus quickly discovered that the people were so primitive and simple that he could only introduce deep concepts of God and his will by telling parables. But even his own disciples had to ask him sometimes what he meant. It was frustrating for Jesus.

He tried to explain the concept that God works through a central point from which the ideal world would come: "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches" (Matt. 13:31-32). If Adam and Eve had been successful then billions of people who followed them would have lived in the ideal world. Likewise if the Israelites could see that Jesus is the seed, the humble small beginning of God's attempt to build the kingdom of heaven then billions of people in the future would live peacefully in the ideal world on earth and in spirit world.

In the parable of the lost sheep Jesus tries to explain that God loves every human being and will not rest until each and every person is found and restored to him: "If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost" (Matt. 18:12-14).

In the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus tried to explain that God is our loving parent who suffers to see his children—all mankind—living a terrible life away from him. And God rejoices when we return home. God cannot force us to return to him anymore than the father can force his son to return in the story. Each of us is a prodigal son or daughter who must return voluntarily to God.

JESUS KNOWS GOD'S SUFFERING HEART

Jesus was the first person in history to fully know God's grieving and anxious heart. Jesus felt the same feelings that God has for everyone. Jesus was in a hurry and desperate to save this world. He reflected God's heart and truth and was the first true man on earth.

God and Jesus have unconditional love for every person. But God is also a God of principle. Mankind left God and became a mixture of good and evil. God must abide by the *Principle* and allow each person to separate himself from all that is evil and come back to God. God must judge evil. God's love is also conditional in that a relationship with him can only be in the boundaries of goodness. When Adam and Eve fell Satan became the ruler of this world. Jesus wanted to explain this to the Jewish people. Satan rules by lies. Jesus spoke only the truth. Jesus had to not only speak of God's love, but he had to criticize all the false beliefs that people lived by. Jesus said, "The truth will set you free." Mankind is in bondage under Satan. Jesus' words of truth show us how to be free. Because each person has an original mind of goodness, when the truth is spoken ultimately it penetrates the mind and everyone sooner or later will unite with it.

The whole world will be united as one family when every person accepts the truth. Eventually the truth will be heard by every person. As the truth is spoken some accept it immediately and begin to change their life while others reject it. This doesn't mean they will never accept it. It just takes some people longer to understand. Eventually all mankind will hear and accept the truth. The kingdom of heaven on earth is inevitable. Truth cannot be suppressed forever. It is like grass growing underneath cement. In time it destroys the cement. The world will be restored. Because human history has always been tragic it is easy to be cynical and reject the idea of a perfect world. Jesus' disciples were excited to hear him speak of God's love and the dream of an ideal world about to become a reality. They tried to understand his words of love and his absolute hatred of evil. Unfortunately, they were often confused. And the Jewish people became more and more confused too as Jesus tried to explain the difficult task of changing our lives and restoring this world.

JESUS SEEN AS HERETIC

He angered the religious leaders when he said things that to them was outright heresy. To them he was a blasphemer of God. Jesus said their understanding of God was wrong. The religious leaders who studied and revered the *Bible*, the Old Testament, now heard this young man, a carpenter, tell them he had a New Testament and it was his teachings which were from God, and he was the living truth. The truth was more than books, and God's ultimate truth manifested in a perfect man—the Messiah.

Jesus told everyone they had to become perfect: "You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matt. 5:48). He didn't say a few people had to be perfect. He said clearly every single human being in the world "must" be perfect. Jesus did not say outright that he was the Messiah. That was the job of those in the John the Baptist position—in this case, his disciples. Jesus spoke of himself in figurative language explaining his role as the first parent on earth. He had to be followed. To follow him is to follow God. Jesus told the religious leaders that they had to give up their *Bible* which does not have all the truth about God. Rather than clinging to the *Bible*, Jesus said he was the living truth. The *Bible* only gave partial truth. This is why he said to them: "You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life" (John 5:39-40). And he said sorrowfully, "I have come in my father's name, and you do not accept me.... If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote of me" (John 5:43-46). Even though this truth seemed ridiculous and dangerous to the people, Jesus kept proclaiming the truth. And the truth hurt.

Mankind was to originally get life from Adam and Eve. We lost our spiritual life when Adam and Eve fell. We became sons and daughters of Satan in a pseudo-four-position foundation centered on Satan. Jesus said, "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers!'" (Matt. 3:7).

Jesus said his father was God and everyone else's god was Satan: "They said to him, 'Who are you?' Jesus said to them, 'Even what I have told you from the beginning. I have much to say about you and much to judge; but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from Him.' They did not understand that he spoke to them of the Father. So Jesus said, 'When you have

lifted up the Son of man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but I speak these things as the Father taught me. And he who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him.”

“Then Jesus said to the Jews, ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’ They answered him, ‘We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to any one. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?’”

“Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I say to you, every one who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. I speak of what I have seen in the Father’s presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father.’”

“They answered him, ‘Abraham is our father.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are indeed doing what your father does.’ They said to him, ‘We were not born of fornication; we have one father, God himself.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot accept my word. You are of your father the devil, and you choose to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is from God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not from God’” (John 8:25-47).

JESUS SEEN AS BLASPHEMER

When the leaders of the Jewish people treated Jesus unkindly he chastised them by saying, “Truly I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of heaven before you” (Matt. 21:31). The people began to hate Jesus for what he said. He seemed a blasphemer of God. He said he could forgive sins on earth. He seemed a heretic, a destroyer of the Mosaic laws, when he told people: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill them” (Matt. 5:17). He said he was greater than the holy temple which the Jewish people esteemed as the most holy: “But I say unto you, that in this place is something greater than the temple” (Matt. 12:6).

Jesus called himself the lord of the Sabbath. He did whatever he wanted to on the Sabbath, which violated Mosaic laws. This angered the religious leaders, who accused him: “... Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath...” (Matt. 12:2).

There was even tension between Jesus’ and John’s disciples over a dispute over fasting: “Then the disciples of John came to him saying, ‘Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them?’”

Jesus couldn’t teach all that he wanted. We read, “We speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen; but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?” (John 3:11-12)

It was frustrating for Jesus that he couldn’t even explain the simplest concepts to the people—let alone deep ones. Ultimately Jesus was able to give only a tiny fraction of the truth he knew. Let’s look at some examples of how the Jewish people had a difficult time understanding Jesus.

There was a group of people living in Israel in the region of Samaria, called Samaritans. Some of the Samaritans were descended from Jews who had been from the northern kingdom of Israel. When the Assyrians had conquered them, they married foreign people and came back to their land after the Assyrian

conquest. Because they were not of pure Israelite blood they were considered to be non-Jews or Gentiles, as they were called. The Jews despised the Samaritans. Some Jews would not even travel though the district where the Samaritans lived. Jesus, of course, went there and even won some followers.

JESUS AGAINST RACISM

When Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan it was very offensive to many Jews. Jesus tried to elevate the Jewish people to love all mankind. He didn't come to just give the Jewish people glory but the Jews were to love the entire world. He praised the Good Samaritan who helped a person in need. Jesus was trying to elevate Judaism to its mission of reaching the world with God's message that he loves everyone in his boundless love and wants everyone to be his son and daughter regardless of their race, nationality or culture. Jesus was totally unprejudiced. Jesus came to end bigotry and racism. He came to unite all races.

Jesus lived in a society with a severe rigid social caste system. To openly eat with outcasts was horrible to the average Israelite and the leaders. Jesus was sociable. He had a well-rounded personality. He spent time with every level of person. Many Jews were upset to see him associating with those of society that most Jews would never associate with. Jesus was accused of being not a spiritual person but a materialist who enjoys food and drink: "The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'" (Matt. 11:19)

Jesus related to different classes of people. Jesus astonished people by fellowship with social outcasts like tax collectors, prostitutes, Roman soldiers and Samaritans. He associated with women and children.

JESUS JUDGED AS BEING IMMORAL

Jesus also appeared to everyone as a destroyer of morality. Jesus was a bachelor and this was unheard of (there are no words in Jesus' native language for being single because everyone married young). Jesus was around 30 years old. Many people thought he was destroying the family system. The Jewish family was

extremely close and strong. He seemed to be breaking up the family unit when he said, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26). Jesus was not saying that he wanted to destroy families and have people hate one another. He wanted them to hate the evil that is in all of us.

Sometimes Jesus spoke in a military, warlike manner. Jesus was fighting evil. He is fighting Satan. Jesus is not a warmonger, but he is calling everyone to fight for God. This is why he said, "Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's foes will be those of his own household. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. He who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matt. 10:34-39). To the Israelites with their close families these were fighting words. Did Jesus carry a sword? No. He doesn't want peace? No. He wants families to hate each other? No. He wants people to die? No. "Jesus proclaimed the greatest revolution. There have been many revolutions in the last 2,000 years, but he brought a revolution of life and love. Jesus made statements that made it almost certain he would be crucified. He said that anyone who loved his family more than Jesus was not worthy of Jesus, and that meant denying everyone. So everyone opposed him for encouraging division of families. People said Jesus was destroying the family bond and social ties.

"Today the Unification Church is receiving the same criticism, but actually we are in an entirely different situation. In Jesus' time the family system was much stronger; today American families are breaking down anyway, yet still they are blaming me for disrupting families making me the scapegoat!" (3-18-79)

When Jesus said that, "a man's foes will be those of his own household" he was speaking from experience. His own mother and his brothers thought Jesus was crazy. Jesus is teaching that when anyone dramatically changes from being a secular person to being

a religious person or when someone changes their religion that person's family will likely be against it. Both St. Francis and Thomas Aquinas were locked away by their families. Their parents used force against them because they objected to their son's choice of religious faith. Aquinas was a teenager who was witnessed to at college by a new branch of Catholicism. His mother thought it was a cult. She was ashamed and sent her sons to kidnap their younger brother. They locked him away for a year before he was able to escape. He was very bitter about this experience and wrote of it later in his life advising parents to not do such a terrible thing.

If we have to choose between Christ and our family—we must choose Christ. Even Jesus had to give up his family. Jesus embraced everyone, just as God does. God loves everyone equally. In this world that is unthinkable. We live in a world of barriers and hate. The Jewish people hated their enemy the Romans who were ruling them. Can you imagine the reaction Jesus got when he told his disciples that a Roman centurion he met—a person who was not of the chosen people but who believed in him was the most faithful person he had ever seen. He said, “Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” (Matt. 8:10)

JESUS CONFUSED THE PEOPLE

Everything Jesus did was confusing to the people. It was not proper in Israel for men to associate with women as freely as Jesus did. Once he stopped a crowd of men who were about to stone to death a woman caught in the act of adultery. Jesus, like God, does not discriminate on the basis of sex. Women have equal value to men in Jesus' eyes. God is equally male and female. Women were not inferior, and Jesus spoke to and respected women as much as men. Jesus' view of women was revolutionary. We read in the *Bible* that women honored Jesus more than his own disciples.

For example we read: “Now when Jesus was at Bethany ... a woman came up to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head, as he sat at the table, but when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, ‘Why this waste? For this ointment might have been sold for a large sum, and given to poor.’ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, ‘Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. For

you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me.” (Matt. 26:6-11)

The disciples failed to understand two things here. First, they were upset that Jesus talked to a woman. The disciples “marveled that he was talking with a woman” (John 4:27). Jesus was a bachelor and not only was it not proper to talk to women the behavior of the woman towards Jesus would seem strange and unacceptable in today’s society, let alone in Jewish society. We would say this person is mentally unstable. Jewish society had strict ethics—so strict that adulterous women could be stoned to death. Nevertheless, Jesus accepted her and reproached his disciples who had rebuked the woman. He praised her. Jesus was above everyone. The Messiah tries to pull us up to a higher level of thinking and feeling.

The second thing they did not understand is how to serve the Messiah. They understood from Jesus that he taught a sacrificial life. They mistakenly thought that Jesus was to always live in poverty because he and they would give everything away to others. Jesus tried to explain to them that literally poor people would be with them in their lifetime. The ideal world would not be built immediately. It would take time. In the transition the Messiah should be honored and served with material things. When he said the poor would always be with them he did not mean forever—just in their lifetimes.

The story of Jesus has been called the greatest story ever told, but it is really the saddest story ever told. Not only was Jesus misunderstood by the people of Israel, but tragically he was misunderstood by his very own disciples who lived with him.

JESUS SHOULD HAVE HAD WEALTH

Jesus came to save the world. He was the most precious person who ever lived. And while he wanted desperately to save mankind from poverty, physically and spiritually, he also should have been honored and served. It was proper that the woman honored Jesus. Jesus said, “... the Son of man came not to be served but to serve...” (Matt. 20:28). Jesus couldn’t ask for wealth. It was the responsibility of his disciples to work hard and get enough money

so Jesus could live in splendor, wealth and beauty. He should have had all the luxuries the world could give. He should have had all the fancy foods, the villas, and fine clothes the rich Romans had. Jesus was the first person in history to have earned the right to wealth. The Messiah is totally pure and loving. Only he knows the value of creation and the things of the world. Mankind misuses things. The Messiah cannot misuse anything or misspend any money given him. He is mankind's teacher and shows us how to use things and how to spend money. Absolute power and money could never corrupt him as it does fallen man.

The woman could have poured a ton of expensive ointment on Jesus, and it wouldn't have been enough. She knew the value of Jesus better than his disciples.

HIS DISCIPLES COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HIM

Even though Jesus praised his disciples and tried to make them feel pride in being his disciples they were constantly confused. Once a man walked up to Jesus and his disciples and asked Jesus for advice on how to live properly: "Jesus said to him, 'If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.'" (Matt. 19:21-22)

The disciples were depressed to hear this. It seemed that Jesus was irrational and asking too much of people by asking everyone to become perfect and that they had to do this by sacrificing. After the wealthy young man walked away we read, "When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, 'Who then can be saved?' But Jesus looked at them and said to them, 'With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"

But we read that the disciples keep asking him to explain. Peter speaks for all of them by saying that he and the other disciples have given up everything they had and what would they get for their hard work in witnessing and being persecuted.

FIRST WILL BE LAST

Jesus said that anyone who gave up their families and wealth to follow him would be rewarded a hundred times over. And he ended by saying that the “first will be last, and the last will be first” (Matt. 19:30). In other words he says that although they appear to be the last in society they will eventually be the first; and the first in society such as John the Baptist and all the leaders of Israel would end up last.

HOLLYWOOD MOVIES WRONG ABOUT JESUS

In movies about Jesus Hollywood usually shows him as a dreamy and quiet person. He is often called “the gentle Nazarene.” Jesus did have a gentle, soft and motherly side. But the *Bible* also uses the symbol of a rock to describe the Messiah. Jesus also had a tough and commanding personality. He was not soft-spoken when he preached to the crowds. He was a powerful and passionate speaker with a booming voice.

The Messiah comes to revolutionize people from being self-centered to being altruistic. Jesus was righteous. He used severe language with violent imagery to express his abhorrence of evil. He said, “... if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; ... And if your eye causes you to sin; it is better to pluck it out and throw it away” (Matt. 18:8-9). He was speaking symbolically, not literally. He was trying to make a point of the seriousness which we should view sin and evil.

JESUS LIKE A DOCTOR

Jesus was like a surgeon who is ruthless in cutting out a diseased part. The surgeon doesn't try to kill the patient, just the evil. And it may seem harsh for him to ask the patient to submit to surgery but it is better for the patient because if he keeps on without having his disease cut out it will kill him. If he submits to the surgeon and goes through the pain of surgery he will live longer and better. The surgeon could say nice things to him. He could say that he is all right and can continue his ways. Or he could say that surgery is necessary but there is no hurry in having it done. But this is not what the patient should hear. Jesus spoke like a doctor. He came to fix this sick world. But the people didn't want to accept Jesus as their doctor. They didn't think they were so sick. In fact they

thought that Jesus himself was a disease, and he should be destroyed. They were not impressed with his message of an ideal world and that to build it required that they listen to him and follow him. They wanted their own salvation and revenge on their enemies. They didn't want to hear that they must love their enemies at the risk of their life. They didn't want to hear that as the chosen people they were to be God's instruments for the building of the kingdom of heaven on earth. God was speaking through Jesus saying they must carry a cross, not live a spiritually lazy life. The Messiah comes to cut out our evil, selfish nature. This is far more difficult to do than cutting out our tonsils. We cannot cure our fallen nature by ourselves any more than we can cut out our tonsils by ourselves. We must submit to the doctor. We have to give the Messiah our bodies and our hearts and our minds and even some of our money just as we pay the doctor with some of our money. Jesus was the Second Adam. He was the first person to become a Tree of Life.

The *Bible* says every person is a wild olive shoot that must be grafted into Jesus, the true olive tree, in order that we may become true branches (Rom. 11:17). To graft a plant means we have to cut the plant. It hurts the plant. And it hurts us to give up our arrogance—to give up thinking that we are the center of the universe and to humble ourselves in prayer to God. People have been centering their lives on themselves, and look how tragic this world is.

When anyone enters an emergency room in a state of near death they need to follow a doctor. Likewise, the world is every second of the day, one big emergency room and there is only one doctor—the Messiah. If it is very difficult for a foreigner to become a citizen of another country, how difficult is it for us to become citizens of the kingdom of heaven? It is not only possible; it is our destiny. The Messiah must be first in every person's life. This will unite mankind. Nothing else will. We can do nothing without the Messiah.

Jesus pleaded with the people to believe in him. People asked him what they must do: “‘What must we do to be doing work of God?’” Jesus answered them, ‘this is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent’” (John 6:28-29). But the people wouldn't believe in his words. His teachings were too advanced for them.

They looked at Jesus with fallen, physical eyes—not true, spiritual eyes. They listened to Jesus with sinful, earthly ears—not pure, heavenly ears.

JESUS JUDGED AS BEING UNEDUCATED

Jesus tried to teach them that words, ideology, and truth would set mankind free. The people would not listen to him because he looked so humble. They knew he had limited formal education. We read heartbreaking passages in the *Bible* in which Jesus was judged as being a simple, uneducated man who had no right to speak so boldly. They even took offense at him for not having more education. In John 7:15 we read, “How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?” In Matthew we read that when Jesus taught, the crowds were always “astonished” at Jesus and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? ... Where then did the man get all this? And they took offense at him.” (Matt. 13:54-57)

The ideal world cannot come from any fallen man or group of men in this imperfect world. Only the wisdom of God spoken through the Messiah—the original parent can be the truth that will set us free. But mankind is arrogant like Satan, and we place our knowledge before God.

The prevailing view of mankind is that there can never be an ideal world. We have limited thinking. But with God, Jesus taught, all things are possible. So the Messiah does not get his learning from a school or seminary. It is they who must study him.

THE TRUTH HURTS

As a final attempt to gain their attention, Jesus performed miracles. He should never have had to do that. Adam was barred from the Tree of Life, i.e., perfection, by a flaming sword. That flaming sword was God’s truth. Jesus brought that flaming sword; he brought the truth that could save Israel and the world. Jesus said, “I have not come to bring peace, but a sword” (Matt. 10:34). Jesus did not carry a literal sword and chop people up. He came with the truth, and the truth is not peaceful. It unnerves us. It shakes us up.

It scares us and challenges us. It criticizes us. It hurts to hear the truth from God.

Jesus came not only to give God's love but God's judgment of evil. God is at war with Satan and therefore each of us should see that too and hate evil in ourselves and everywhere else. Jesus doesn't come to just talk of the positive. He confronts evil and judges it. The sword Jesus spoke of is symbolic for truth. This is the meaning of the sword that guards the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. Jesus was the first Tree of Life—the first perfect man—the first true Adam. The truth sets us free, not swords. And the truth is that we are at war with Satan and must fight.

JESUS IS NOT A PACIFIST

The ultimate war against Satan is the war of words. But there are also times when evil must be fought with force. God and Jesus are not pacifists. For example, it was God's will that America defend itself and fight for freedom in World War II. It was God's will that America fight communism in the Korean War.

In the *Sermon on the Mount* Jesus said, "To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also" (Luke 6:29). Some Christians have mistakenly interpreted Jesus' statement about turning the cheek to mean we should be pacifists. Pacifism is defined as: "Opposition to war or violence as a means of resolving disputes. Such opposition demonstrated by refusal to participate in military action." Jesus was not a pacifist. The concept of "just war" is correct. There are times when those on the side of good should use force against those on the side of evil.

Dennis Prager writes this about the liberal bumper sticker, "War is not the answer":

Aside from the idiocy of this claim—war has solved slavery, ended the Holocaust, destroyed Japanese Fascism, preserved half the Korean peninsula from near-genocide, and saved Israel from extinction, among other noble achievements—the claim offers no support to those who do engage in war.

I know of no comparable conservative bumper sticker that is so demonstrably false and morally ignorant. Almost every great evil has been solved by war—from slavery in America to the Holocaust in Europe. Auschwitz was liberated by soldiers making war, not by pacifists who would have allowed the Nazis to murder every Jew in Europe.

Sun Myung Moon explains what Jesus means. Here is a little of what he says:

Why did Jesus teach his people to love their enemies? At that time no foundation had been laid and no one had the ability to stand up to unrighteous enemies, but once the necessary foundation is laid you can exercise full power and give them love. Jesus did not mean to tolerate sin and not get involved. To love your enemy means to try to save him by bringing him to the truth, by force if necessary. That is loving him, and that was the true meaning of Jesus' words.

People often have their own wild ideas about the meaning of Jesus' teachings. When Jesus said to turn the other cheek did he really mean for you to offer your other cheek to be slapped by your younger brother? No, you should really shake him up and say he has to listen to you. Will God not be able to help smiling at that scene, or will He call you a cruel man for forcing your younger brother to hear the truth? Would God say your smiling tolerance showed that you were living up to His teaching? God will get angry if you let your brothers and sisters beat you when you are the one who knows the righteous way.

Would a parent allow his child to slap one cheek and then turn the other for him? Would God say those were good parents? We must deeply know the principle of endurance. Jesus meant that you

need to endure until you have a strong foundation; he never meant for you just to be slapped around by people. (8-27-78)

SECOND ADAM

First Corinthians 15:45 says, "Thus it is written, 'the first man Adam became a living being: the last Adam became a life giving spirit.'" The first Adam was the Adam in the Garden of Eden who hoped to attain the Tree of Life. And Jesus came as a second Adam. Jesus is described as a tree in John 15:5: "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

Jesus was the Tree of Life. He focused on teachings, on words of truth, not baptism or even faith healings. But they wouldn't listen. In desperation he turned to faith healings. But the Jewish people were so uneducated and primitive that Jesus went down to their level and performed magic tricks. He said, "Even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father." (John 10:38)

But they couldn't believe the works either. They even thought Jesus was the devil himself for exorcising people and performing other works. They said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of Demons, that this man casts out demons." (Matt. 12:24)

When Jesus went to the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth and proclaimed who he was, the people pushed him out of the temple and towards a cliff at the edge of the city in an attempt to kill him. But before he was thrown off the cliff he spiritually parted the mob and walked through them. We read, "And he came to Nazareth where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read" (Luke 4:16). He read a passage and we read, "And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, 'Today the scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing'" (Luke 4:20-21). When he saw they did not believe

him, he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.” (Luke 4:24)

“When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up and drove him out of the city, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, so that they might throw him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.”

JESUS HEARTBROKEN

It broke Jesus’ heart that the chosen people would not listen to him. There are passages that tell of his agony and pain when Israel rejected him: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken and desolate.” (Matt. 23:37-38)

COMPASSION

Jesus is reflecting God’s feminine and motherly heart towards His children. The essence of Jesus is true love. He feels deeply and passionately for each person. When the word compassion is used in the *Bible* it means much more feeling than the English word gives. Two of the most famous parables of Jesus have the word “compassion.” In the Parable of the Prodigal Son we read that when he returned home his father “saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him” (Luke 15:20). In the Parable of the Good Samaritan we read that “when he saw him, he had compassion on him” (Luke 10:33). When God and Jesus use the word compassion the translation into English does not give the exact meaning. In the original Greek the word used to express his feelings is connected to what we would say is guts or entrails or intestines to show the depth of Jesus’ love and pain that came from deep inside.

Jesus became desperate. He ached and wept because the people would not listen to him tell of the revelations of God he had

received. After three years of preaching Jesus found himself alone. God's heart was broken again. God could see that Satan had turned the people against Jesus so much that it was now inevitable that Jesus would be killed by his own people. Some didn't like his message; some were critical of his lifestyle; some disagreed with his political attitude; some were angered by what to them seemed arrogant authority. Jesus had to tell his disciples: "Then he strictly ordered the disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah" (Matt. 16:20). Jesus said those who follow him will be "hated" as he is hated now.

God told him on the Mount of Transfiguration that his mission must change, and he must now go to the cross and give only partial salvation to mankind in the spirit world. Moses and Elijah appeared to him. Peter was excited to see this but Jesus surprised them by changing his approach. Jesus asked his disciples, "... who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, 'you are the Christ.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone." (Mark 8:29-30)

The disciples had barely known him. They were simple, uneducated and not so religious. When Jesus told Peter he would betray him, Peter denied it and swore he would never betray him. Peter said, "'Though they all fall away because of you, I will never desert you' and so said all the disciples" (Matt. 26:33). But Jesus is a keen observer of human beings, and he sees our spiritual level just as a teacher can see the level of his students.

JESUS SEEN AS A CRIMINAL

Jesus was finally considered a national criminal who threatened the security of the state by trying to be King of Israel and was chosen over the robber Barabbas to be crucified: "Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the people to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas'. Pilate said to them, 'Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified'" (Matt. 27:20-22).

If Jesus had loyal followers he would have been able to continue his mission, but because he was totally alone and denied by

everyone Satan had a field day. He was there looking on and able to fire up everyone against Jesus. If even one person or a few would have believed in him and followed him totally he could have built a movement on those few.

MESSIAH BETRAYED

All his disciples deserted him. They literally fell asleep when he prayed at Gethsemane. Peter denied him three times. Why? After living with Jesus day and night for three years they had not grown enough and Jesus had not been able to explain enough. Jesus said to one person to let the dead bury the dead. We do not like to hear anyone criticize our family. The truth hurts. We can't see our situation. We only know the kingdom of hell, not absolute love and goodness. Satan was effective in possessing the people, and he personally entered Judas. He clouded the minds of the other eleven disciples at the moment Jesus needed them.

Satan could attack. Jesus found no faith and was not protected. God had worked 2,000 years to educate and raise the people to a level he felt they would protect the Messiah and the chosen people along with everyone else did not protect the Second Adam. Jesus explained how alone he was in a parable. He said he was a bridegroom and there was no wedding guests so he couldn't have a marriage. (Mark 2:19)

Jesus could not flee to another country. Israel was the only nation he could work with. Because Israel was like Cain who killed his brother, God had to move on to a new Adam and a new nation for him to be born in. Jesus couldn't go on because even though he was a successful Abel he needed Cain to unite. When Israel failed then God had to find another Abel. And not only Israel but everyone did not unite with Jesus. The whole world rejected him. The Jewish people were the chosen people and lost their status. The Romans represented the rest of the world and crucified him—a Roman torture and death—not a Jewish means of death. And the disciples represented the future Christianity. Because of these failures the Jews, Christians and the rest of the world would suffer for the death of Jesus. He was murdered by everyone and for 2000 years mankind has paid for that crime.

Jesus then began to speak of a Second Coming of Christ. He did not mention this at the beginning of his ministry. He started talking of a Second Coming only after it became apparent that he would not be accepted by the people. Jesus at the end of his ministry said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19). He was preparing the world for the second Messiah. The chosen people would be those who followed him and the foundation would be worldwide. True followers of Christ are those who have a burning desire to witness the Good News —to proselytize —to convert.

God saw that everyone was not going to accept Jesus as their savior. Jesus' primary mission of building the kingdom of heaven on earth would have to be accomplished in the future by a Third Adam. At the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus took three disciples, Peter, John and James to pray. During his prayer Moses and Elijah appeared to him: "And behold, two men talked with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem." (Luke 9:30-31)

CROSS WAS SECONDARY COURSE

The cross was not God's primary will; it was a secondary course that gives man a spiritual sanctuary for those who die believing in Christ.

Just before the crucifixion, Jesus wept and prayed three times in the garden of Gethsemane. He pleaded with God that he not be crucified. He asked God three times to live. We read of Jesus' grief and anguish: "And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them 'My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' And going a little farther he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.'" (Matt: 26:37-39)

Many Christians have interpreted this incident as an example of Jesus being like an ordinary human being who would not want to

die. But Jesus did not pray from fear, timidity or selfishness. There have been many imperfect men and women who have willingly died for a cause they believed in. The first Christian martyrs and many martyrs from Christ who followed were not afraid to die. The early Christians sang songs as they held hands with their children as the lions came at them. Yet they did not die praying, "Let this cup pass from me." In American history, many men have given their lives for their country. One such man was Nathan Hale, a young officer in the Revolutionary War. He was captured by the British army and sentenced to be hanged. His last words were, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." He did not say, "Let this cup pass from me." Jesus is far greater than Nathan Hale. Jesus was not afraid to die. He prayed asking if there was any chance to continue and complete his mission as the second Adam. Jesus was in anguish because he knew the consequences of his being murdered.

Sun Myung Moon says, "When Jesus was crucified, did Jesus loathe God and loathe the world? No. He could not do that. This is why Jesus said, 'If you let this cup pass from me, please do so.' It means that he could not bear to stand God's aching heart. It was not a weak prayer." (2-17-91)

Jesus was the first person in history to know God's sorrowful heart. Jesus wanted to comfort God—to relieve His grief. By being crucified God's divine will would be frustrated again. Jesus knew God's heart would be broken to have to see not only his son murdered, but He would have to endure watching mankind continue to be tortured in Satan's prison on earth with even greater terror and pain because they killed their savior.

MANKIND PUNISHED FOR KILLING OF JESUS

Those who commit crimes bring punishment upon themselves. He knew that for the crime of killing him there would be terrible punishment for mankind. He knew that his countrymen, the Jewish people, would be punished for thousands of years. Israel had suffered for 2,000 years in preparation for the Messiah and now all that would have been in vain and they would suffer even more in the future generations to come. History has shown the terrible suffering of the Jewish people for the last 2,000 years. Jesus deeply

loved his people, and it was agonizing for him to know the bleak destiny facing them.

While he was carrying his cross, some women followed him crying in anguish to see him suffering, but Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children” (Luke 23:28). He said, “... your enemies will ... dash you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave one stone upon another in you; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation” (Luke 19:44). We all know the tragic history of the Jewish people and the terrible persecution of Christians especially the early church in Rome in which they tried to hide in the catacombs but were hunted down and slaughtered. Jesus also knew that his followers would suffer. He was walking the path of the cross and their fate would be the same. Around 40 years after Jesus was murdered on 70 A.D. the Jewish temple was destroyed and the Jews lost their nation. God had given them the name of Israel that means “victor” and after a 40-year period they were the loser. Israel lost its nation because it rejected the Messiah. Serious consequences happen to a people who reject God’s truth and cling to what is false.

And finally Jesus knew that the whole world would continue to be ruled by Satan. For thousands of years billions of people would have to continue to live in this hell on earth.

But God saw how hopeless Jesus’ situation was. Even Jesus’ disciples slept when he prayed in Gethsemane. Jesus was alone. When the Roman guards came and took him away, he knew it was hopeless, too.

Because Israel didn’t give their lives to help build the Ideal World, Jesus gave his life on the cross. Because of this full sacrifice for God, Satan couldn’t claim Jesus. And based on this condition of giving, God could try again and have Christ return.

Jesus prayed at Gethsemane, asking God if it were possible to stay on earth and bring complete salvation, both physical and spiritual, but he could not do this. His mission changed.

If Jesus had not gone to the cross mankind would not have received spiritual salvation—a spiritual sanctuary. Jesus had to lay a foundation for the Third Adam to come by loving God and mankind. He showed total absolute love on the cross.

This change in Jesus' mission happened so fast that Jesus didn't have time to explain it to his disciples. They were shocked. Jesus' chief disciple, Peter, was so upset he exclaimed, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you!" (Matt. 16:22). It is obvious he was so upset because what Jesus was saying was in complete opposition to everything he had been teaching up till then. Jesus was firm with Peter and said to him when he tried to stop Jesus from going to the cross, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things" (Matt. 16:23). This was confusing to Peter. He didn't know that the Kingdom of Heaven on earth was now *not* at hand. He didn't know that world salvation would have to be postponed.

Jesus said, "He who rejects me and does not receive my sayings has a judge; the word that I have spoken will be his judge on the last day" (John 12:48). We judge people in society by our court system. The judge pronounces judgment according to the law. In the universe, God is the judge. Jesus was the attorney defending mankind. Satan was the prosecutor. The earthly court and the heavenly court are the same in that they judge by words, not fire.

Jesus came to judge Satan's lies and false teachings. Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life" (John 5:24). Jesus said the truth will set you free.

JESUS LOVED HIS ENEMIES

Two thousand years ago the first perfect man walked the earth. He was born unknown, and he died unknown. He was accused of being a criminal. Pontius Pilate could find nothing wrong with him, but the Jewish people shouted, "Crucify him. Crucify him!" Jesus loved his enemies. As he was dying on the cross he looked at

the crowd below and said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34).

BEATING AND CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

Jesus was beaten when he was interrogated by the Jewish leaders. He answered a question and we read, “When he said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, ‘Is this how you answer the high priest?’ Jesus answered, ‘If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?’” (John 18:22-23)

Medical doctors have written about the horrible torture Jesus went through. The following was written on the Web:

BEATEN

“Some began to spit on Him, to blindfold him, and to beat him with their fists, saying to him, ‘Prophecy!’ The guards also took him over and beat him.” (Mark 14:65).

Jesus was blindfolded and struck in the face repeatedly. Being blindfolded meant he couldn’t “roll with the punches” and the blows would have been that much more destructive.

FLOGGED

Next, Jesus was stripped of his clothing and then flogged. Flogging is a severe beating with a whip. In flogging, a soldier used a whip consisting of leather straps embedded with metal and glass fragments with small metal balls sewn into the end of each thong. This whip was brought down with full force and when struck against the back of Jesus, was pulled thus tearing the skin off, exposing muscle, and maybe even exposing his very bones. Undoubtedly, his back was reduced to an oozing mass of mutilated flesh. Flogging stops when it is determined that the victim is near death or 39 lashes was reached. By this time, Jesus was in great pain, suffering severe blood loss, and was becoming very weak

and thirsty. After this he was taken to be crucified.

...the accused stood naked, and the flogging covered the area from the shoulders down to the upper legs. The whip consisted of several strips of leather. In the middle of the strips were metal balls that hit the skin, causing deep bruising. In addition, sheep bone was attached to the tips of each strip.

When the bone makes contact with Jesus' skin, it digs into His muscles, tearing out chunks of flesh and exposing the bone beneath. The flogging leaves the skin on Jesus' back in long ribbons. By this point, he has lost a great volume of blood which causes his blood pressure to fall and puts him into shock. The human body attempts to remedy imbalances such as decreased blood volume, so Jesus' thirst is his body's natural response to his suffering (John 19:28).

CROWN OF THORNS

"They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spat on him, and struck him on the head" (Matt. 27:28-29).

The robe would stick to the congealing blood on his back and when they ripped it from him later, it would have been very painful and would have helped to continue the bleeding even more.

They put a crown of thorns on his head. These thorns were shoved between his scalp and skull as well as ripping and tearing at the skin. Severe bleeding would ensue along with great pain. ...there is copious bleeding, the scalp being one of the most vascular areas of the body.

The thorns also cause damage to the nerve that supplies the face, causing intense pain down his face and neck.

After mocking him and striking him across the face, the soldiers take the stick from his hand and strike him across the head, driving the thorns deeper into his scalp. Finally, they tire of their sadistic sport and the robe is torn from his back. Already having adhered to the clots of blood and serum in the wounds, its removal causes excruciating pain just as in the careless removal of a surgical bandage, and almost as though he were again being whipped the wounds once more begin to bleed.

EXCRUCIATING

Crucifixion is quite possibly the most painful death ever invented by humankind. The English language derives the word “excruciating” from crucifixion, acknowledging it as a form of slow, painful suffering. Its punishment was reserved for slaves, foreigners, revolutionaries, and the vilest of criminals.

Once suspended, the force of gravity brings the weight of the body down and the shoulders and elbows dislocate by popping out of joint, ripping ligaments.

Because of the outstretched position of the arms, the chest cavity is in a perpetually expanded state and it is very difficult to breathe. With the severe loss of blood from the lashes and crucifixion, Jesus would have become dehydrated and his body would have less blood to carry oxygen. Therefore, his heart would beat faster as it attempted to compensate and his need for oxygen would increase greatly. In order to breathe, Jesus had to push up on the nails in his feet to allow his chest enough flexibility to inhale. Pushing up on the nails is not only excruciating, but this meant that he had to scrap his raw, beaten back against the rough wooden stake. This whole

process of breathing and exhaling by pushing up on the nails only, increases in intensity as time passes. Soon, the body gets to the point of no return and the heart either ruptures or the person dies from asphyxiation. But, before that happened the blood loss results in extreme thirst as the body craves water to restore the lost blood. Jesus said, "I thirst", whereupon a soldier offered Him some sour wine, but Jesus refused it.

As it is lifted, Jesus' full weight pulls down on his nailed wrists and his shoulders and elbows dislocate. Jesus must push up on his nailed feet (causing more pain) to exhale.

In order to speak, air must pass over the vocal cords during exhalation. The Gospels note that Jesus spoke seven times from the cross. It is amazing that despite his pain, he pushes up to say "Forgive them." (Luke 23:34)

The crucifixion was a "means of punishing criminals slowly and inexorably ... it was as slow as it was painful ... the Romans reduced it to an exact science."

In the book *The Day Christ Died* by Jim Bishop we read what the author imagined what happened:

Four soldiers moved in closely around the prisoners and began to strip them of their clothes. A murmurous sound came up from the people below. The crucifixion had begun.

When the prisoners were naked, a cloth was wound around their loins and between the thighs with the loose end tucked in at the back. Their clothes and sandals were set in a loose pile before each of the three.

The time was a few minutes after noon. The sun was high and warm. Below the big bald rock, the leaves of the olive trees and the wild flowers shimmered in a soft breeze. Coveys of little swifts darted across the rock and down into the

garden below, there to peck for food and to keep a wary eye on man. At the first murmur from the crowd, they took flight.

The executioner laid the crossbeam behind Jesus and brought him to the ground quickly by grasping his arm and pulling him backward. As soon as Jesus fell, the beam was fitted under the back of his neck and, on each side soldiers quickly knelt on the inside of the elbows. Jesus gave no resistance and said nothing, but he groaned as he fell back on his head and the thorns pressed into his torn scalp.

Once begun, the matter was done quickly and efficiently. The executioner wore an apron with pockets. He placed two five-inch nails between his teeth and, hammer in hand knelt beside the right arm. The soldier whose knee rested on the inside of the elbow held the forearm flat to the board. With his right hand, the executioner probed the wrist of Jesus to find the hollow spot. When he found it, he took on the square-cut nails from his teeth and held it against the spot, directly behind where the so-called life line ends. Then he raised the hammer over the nail and brought it down with force.

The executioner jumped across the body to the other wrist....

As soon as he was satisfied that the condemned man could not, in struggling, pull himself loose and perhaps fall forward off the cross, he brought both of his arms upward rapidly. This was the signal to lift the crossbeam.

Two soldiers grabbed each side of the crossbeam and lifted. As they pulled up, they dragged Jesus by the wrists. With every breath, he groaned. When the soldiers reached the upright, the four of them began to lift the crossbeam higher until the feet of Jesus were off the ground. The body must have writhed with pain.

The four men pushed upward until the mortise hole was over the upright. The two thieves, who had been watching, looked away. When the crossbeam was set firmly, the executioner reached up and set the board which listed the name of the prisoner and the crime. Then he knelt before the cross. Two soldiers hurried to help, and each took hold of a leg at the calf. The ritual was to nail the right foot over the left, and this was probably the most difficult part of the work. If the feet were pulled downward, and nailed close to the foot of the cross, the prisoner always died quickly. Over the years, the Romans learned to push the feet upward on the cross, so the condemned man could lean on the nails and stretch himself upward.

Jesus was crucified. He faced the Holy City for the last time.

The workman moved to the others, and went through the same ritual with each one.

To the watching crowd in front, death appeared to come slowly astride the shoulders of fatigue. The four wounds, in themselves, were not fatal. But the constant pain forced the dying men to move in agony.

The spectators observed Jesus closely because the high priests had passed the word that this was a mock Messiah, and that part of his crime was saying that if the great temple were destroyed he could raise it in three days. To the strangers, Jesus looked like any other pain-racked criminal they had ever seen. To the casual viewer there was nothing different about him, or unusual.

Like the others', his head at time was lowered, with chin touching chest. Again, moved by spasms, his head tossed from one shoulder to the other and his eyes looked up into the sun as his lips moved. When his body sagged, in fatigue, its weight hung on the nails in his wrists and his knees bent forward.

His arms were now in a V position, and Jesus became conscious of two unendurable circumstances: the first was that the pain in his wrists was beyond bearing, and that muscle cramps knotted his forearms and upper arms and the pads of his shoulders; the second was that his pectoral muscles at the sides of his chest were momentarily paralyzed. This induced in him an involuntary panic; for he found that while he could draw air into his lungs, he was powerless to exhale.

At once, Jesus raised himself on his bleeding feet. As the weight of his body came down on the insteps, the single nail pressed hard against the top of the wound. Slowly, steadily, Jesus was forced to raise himself higher until, for the moment, his head hid the sign which told of his crime. When his shoulders were on a level with his hands, breathing was rapid and easier. Like the other two, he fought the pain in his feet in order to breathe rapidly for a few moments. Then, unable to bear the pain below, which cramped legs and thighs and wrung moans from the strongest, he let his torso sag lower and lower, and his knees projected a little at a time until, with a deep sigh, he felt himself hanging by the wrists. And this process must have been repeated again and again.

TRUTH FROM UNEXPECTED SOURCES

If we can learn anything from history, especially from what happened to Jesus, it is that truth often comes from totally unlikely people. And we can learn from history that those who do bring new truth and act as God's champions are often hated. Sun Myung Moon teaches:

The tragic history of Christianity is reflected in one simple fact: the relationship between the Israelite nation and Jesus Christ. The Israelites were looking forward to the Messiah coming to

their nation. They should have had a palace ready in which to welcome their Messiah. But instead, the Messiah was born in a stable. Later the Christian church developed a proud tradition centered around that tragic, shameful fact. They erect manger scenes every year reenacting that sad and shameful time when the Messiah was born in a dirty stable.

The most incredible shame of traditional Christianity is their insistence and proclamation that Jesus came in the first place to die on the cross. Instead, Judaism was supposed to accept the King of Kings. If they had, how could they have killed him? They should have been united with the commander-in-chief of spirit world and moved together to Rome with the living Jesus in the center. If they had been united, then the entire world would have been united around them. Jesus did not come primarily and solely as the "Lord." Rather, Jesus came as the Father of all mankind, the true ancestor for human beings. He came as the personification of True Love, the center point of True Love. That was the purpose of the coming of Jesus Christ. Thus Jesus would have become the True Parent, as well as the King of Kings of the Jewish world.

NO ANTI-SEMITISM

This kind of statement is not made in order to attack the Jewish people, or from even the slightest bit of anti-Semitism, although that is what some Jewish people have thought. I am not against the Jewish people or the Jewish religion. All I am speaking is the truth. Because of the crucifixion, those people, that nation, have been paying the most incredible, terrible price, including all their tragic bloodshed throughout history, including the loss of the Jewish nation.

If Judaism had united with the Israel nation and together had accepted the Messiah, what would have happened? They would have become the center of the rest of the world to bring salvation

to the world. By making unity with the living Jesus, they truly would have become the central nation and group in the world. But the tragedy is that they never realized this fact. That is why that nation eventually was totally demolished.

John the Baptist was to take the position of minus to Jesus, who was the big plus. John should have served Jesus. But because he failed to take that minus position and unite with Jesus, his entire mission failed. This is another point upon which today's Christianity is totally wrong. They do not understand the failure of John. (4-25-93)

LEARN FROM HISTORY

We must learn from history and be careful not to make the same tragic mistakes as our ancestors have done. God is on a crusade. The Messiah is on a crusade. God and Jesus are watching us. Let's be open to hearing their words. Jesus' death was devastating to his disciples. They soon got back together and from them the Christian Church was born. God had to begin all over again and build a new chosen people. The disciples were fired up to go out and preach.

JESUS SEEN AS MYSTICAL

It was such a big stumbling block for them to go witnessing for their Lord who had been crucified. To counter any thoughts that Jesus had failed as the Messiah and to make his death not look like a scandal Christians began to see Jesus more and more in mystical terms. Eventually they began to mistakenly think that it was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, and they also began to see Jesus in a superstitious way. Eventually they began to see Jesus as God himself.

The earliest parts of the New Testament do not portray Jesus as God. When Jesus is described as God this indicated the tendency of the later writers in the first-century Roman world which gave divinity to exceptional men. Emperors such as Augustus were

called “lord and God” or “divine savior.” It was easy 2000 years ago to turn Jesus into a god to be worshiped. The idea that Jesus was God had become widespread by the middle of the second century.

Jewish theologians, though, had never believed or written that the Messiah would be incarnate God. The Jews expected the Messiah to be a human being—probably a descendent of King David, or a priest, or a military hero who would drive the Romans into the sea. Some believed in a supernatural figure as Daniel prophesied coming out of the clouds, but even then they believed this savior would not be God himself.

JESUS — A MAN, NOT GOD

Christianity has incorrectly interpreted some passages from the Book of John as showing that Jesus is God himself. John 1:1 says, “In the beginning was the word, and the Word was God.” And John 1:10 says, “He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not.”

The “He” in John 1:10 means the first perfect man. God had intended Adam to be that person. Before God created the universe He had a plan, a blueprint: “In the beginning was the blueprint or idea.” God built the universe before He could create Adam and Eve. They had to have a home to live in.

Man was the model of the universe. John 1:10 says, “The world was made through him and the world knew him not.” This means that Adam was the model of creation, but since he fell and lost that position, Jesus became the model because he was the first perfect person. Jesus was the first person to be the incarnation of the word. This is what he meant when he said, “I am in the Father and the Father is in me” (John 14:10). Jesus visibly manifested our invisible God. Jesus was one in heart with God. Therefore, to see Jesus is to see the human expression of God. It is like saying a husband and wife are one, but they are separate people. Jesus did not preexist before Adam. Jesus was a man. It is mythology to think Jesus is God himself who dressed up like a man and came as an alien visiting planet earth.

Jesus looked no different from other men. His own brothers saw nothing unusual about him. It was not until after the crucifixion that one of his brothers, James, joined the young sect of Christianity. The disciples of Jesus did not see him as God who had predestined Himself to go to the cross, but as their brother, a sinless man who knew God. Jesus said we are to be perfect like him. Paul said we are God's temple and God's spirit dwells in us.

Jesus is not God but is always trying to take us to God: "I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I" (John 14:28). Logic and common sense says that Jesus is not God. It is ludicrous to think that Jesus talked to himself when he cried out on the cross: "My God why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46). How could he forsake himself? God forsook Jesus because He couldn't bear to see His son killed. Could you watch your child receive capital punishment? Wouldn't you turn your eyes?

Jesus' mission was to bridge the gap between God and mankind. The *Bible* says, "For there is one God and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (I Tim. 2:5). If Jesus were God then he would have a more intimate relationship than we could. We can't really identify with this. To see Jesus as a man does not lower his divinity but makes him a real savior because he is truly one of us. Another incorrect view of Jesus is the traditional Christian belief that Jesus was predestined to die on the cross.

PREDESTINATION

Christians believe that Jesus' death was predestined because of the prophecy in Isaiah 53: "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed" (Is. 53:4-5). This has been interpreted as a prophecy of a Lord of Suffering. But the Jewish people did not think the Messiah would suffer, have to die and then return later as a Lord of Glory. The cross was not predestined anymore than Adam's fall was predestined.

If the crucifixion was predestined, why didn't the disciples understand this and be happy? If the crucifixion was the only way Jesus could save mankind, why were the disciples angry and say it was a mistake? Peter said, "You rejected the Holy and Righteous one, and killed the author of life" (Acts 3:14-15). Stephen told a crowd of religious leaders, "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered." (Act 7:51-53)

Later, St. Paul said, "None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (I Cor. 2:8). Jesus' disciples understood Jesus far better than the Christians of today. They knew Jesus wanted to build the Kingdom of heaven on earth in their lifetimes. They knew he didn't come to die.

And if the crucifixion is the predestined will of God then Judas would be helping God. But this is preposterous. Judas himself realized his terrible mistake and committed suicide. We don't honor Judas today. People who commit serious crimes are often led by an evil angel or an evil spirit man. After the crime takes place the spirit often leaves the person who then can only say he was out of control. Satan personally worked with Judas: "Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot ... he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them" (Luke 22:3-4). Judas later threw the 30 pieces of silver back and hung himself. He was possessed. Satan is powerful. Judas' crime was so great that Jesus said of him: "the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for that man if he had not been born." (Matt. 26:24)

If God had wanted Jesus to be killed, why would he have prepared the Jewish people to accept the Messiah? God had spent 2000 years trying to raise Israel to accept Jesus as the Messiah, not kill him. God laboriously and painstakingly had the Israelites center their faith on the Ark of the Covenant, then the temple. He sent prophets to keep the people on course. He tried to teach them to be like sheep and to be humble so that when the shepherd or Messiah

came they would unite and support him. If God had wanted Jesus to be killed, He could have sent Jesus to a land of barbarians, and they would have killed him sooner.

Sun Myung Moon explains:

The Christian churches say, "God sent Jesus Christ to die on the cross. The crucifixion was the predestined will of God from the beginning."

Then let me ask those Christians, "What will you do when Jesus Christ returns to you today?" All Christians undoubtedly will answer, "We will receive him! Welcome him! Unite with him! Follow him!" Let me further ask, "Will you crucify Christ when he appears?" Your answer must be, "No!"

If that is so, then what about the people of 2,000 years ago? If they had accepted Jesus—as you would today—would they still have had to crucify him? No! It was a mistake! It was in ignorance that we crucified Jesus Christ.

Not Logical

It was God's will that His people accept the Messiah. But we crucified him instead. And then Christians "passed the buck" by saying that was the will of God. Ridiculous! This is not acceptable to our logic. Something must have gone terribly wrong.

If they had only known who he was, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. It was a mistake. It was ignorance and blindness that killed Jesus Christ!

Christians of the world have not realized the truth about what actually happened in Jesus' time. If God's only purpose in sending His Son was to have him nailed on the cross, then why would God spend the time to prepare the people in the first place? It would have been much easier for God to send His son among the

disbelievers, or even among savages. They would have killed him more quickly, and salvation would have come faster.

These historical truths have remained hidden from the Christian world. Today, for the first time, all these circumstances of Jesus' ministry are being brought to light.

Yes, our Lord Jesus Christ came to fulfill the mission of bringing God's kingdom to earth. But we did not understand him. We committed the great tragedy. Then later we claimed that was the will of God. How ironic!

The conviction that Jesus came to die on the cross has become the very foundation of Christianity. But this mistaken belief has been piercing the heart of God again and again for the last 2,000 years. God's heart was broken when Adam rebelled against Him, and again when His Son was nailed to the cross on the Mount of Calvary. We have sadly misunderstood both God and Christ.

Why, then, has this truth been revealed at this particular time? Because the time of the Second Coming of Christ is near. And God does not want Christians to commit the same mistake made at Jesus' time.

Only with the revelation of the clear truth from the Heavenly Father can all the Christian churches become one. Yes, truth makes us one. If we know the truth, that truth will liberate us from our mistaken beliefs and disunity. And the plain truth of God has now been revealed. ("The New Future of Christianity" September 18, 1974).

Finally, Jesus himself said that he did not have to be crucified to save mankind. In the parable of the vineyard Jesus tells the story of a "householder" who is symbolic of God who planted a vineyard which is symbolic of Israel and "let it out to tenants" who symbolize the Israelites. The tenants kill the householder's

servants and then his son. The owner expected them to “respect” his son and was sorrowful when they killed him. Jesus is explaining that God wanted the chosen people of Israel to respect Jesus—not kill him.

Once a disciple asked Jesus, “What must we do to be doing the works of God?” Jesus did not say “Crucify me on a cross so I can give you salvation.” Instead, Jesus said, “It is the work of God that you believe in him whom he has sent.” (John 6:29)

For sin to be forgiven, the people simply had to believe in him. Jesus said that, “The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” (Matt. 9:6). He didn’t say he had to die to forgive sin. He could forgive sin on earth.

If the chosen people of Israel had accepted Jesus they would have been saved. Jesus pleaded with the Israelites to believe in him: “And when he drew near and saw the city he wept over it saying, ‘Would that even today you knew the things that make for peace. But now they are hid from your eyes because you did not know the time of your visitation’” (Luke 19:41-44). Jesus wept. Can you picture Jesus crying? Jesus cried more than any person who has ever lived, and he didn’t cry for himself. He cried because he knew he could end all suffering, but his fellow countrymen would not listen to him. Jesus said, “The truth will set you free” (John 8:32). But the people wouldn’t hear him. He never said the crucifixion would set anybody free. Mankind is still living a hell on earth. Obviously the crucifixion has not stopped Satan from being the ruler of this world.

The cross was a victory for Satan, but the resurrection was a victory for God. Because Jesus was killed before he could establish the kingdom of heaven on earth there is no kingdom of heaven in the spirit world. Through Jesus’ victory of his perfect life and death he was able to open up spirit world to a higher level that he called Paradise. The first person to go there was a thief. On the cross Jesus turned to him and said, “Today, you will be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43). Complete salvation would have to be postponed until the Second Advent. Another man must be born as Jesus was and gain total victory by showing us the way to totally liquidate evil from the earth and establish the kingdom of God.

Jesus died too soon. He didn't have enough time to teach us how to do this. He did not fail; everyone else failed.

We are the master of our fate. God emphasizes that man's effort can bring results. We read in Matt. 7:7, "ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be open to you." If everything were predestined, of what use would be man's efforts to change his life or the world?

Calvin was wrong when he thought that everyone was either predestined to go to heaven or to hell. In general God does not know what anyone is going to do anymore than you know what someone is going to do. The *Divine Principle* shows us that partial predestination is true. God's will, his dream of an ideal world will become a reality some day. Satan's reign of terror is only temporary. The reason Satan has continued as long as he has is because of the constant failure of God's chosen people to fulfill their portion of responsibility. The Israelites failure slowed God's Providence of Restoration. God's goal of an ideal world is predestined. The formula to reach that ideal is predestined, but the process of history to reach that goal is not.

Sun Myung Moon speaks out strongly teaching Christians that they have deeply misunderstood Jesus' mission. He says, "Christianity today has maintained the traditional view that Jesus came simply to die on the cross. This is how Christians have rationalized the murder of the Son of God!"

"God worked unspeakably hard to bring this one son of His to the world, guiding a course of incredible history. After all His effort, do you think His Messiah came only to die on a cross at the age of 33? Was that God's will?"

TRUTH IS LOGICAL

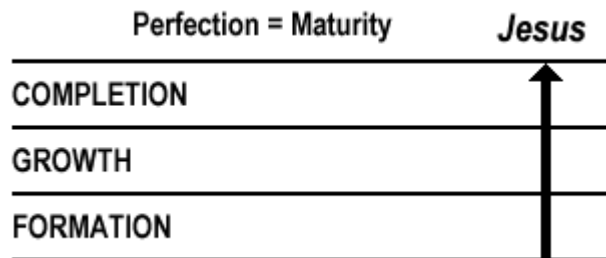
He explains that Christians must understand that God's way is logical: "Today, people cannot believe anything unless it is logical. God is truth, and truth is logical. There can be no perfection in ignorance."

“Christian prayer alone could not lift Neil Armstrong to the moon. Scientific truth was necessary. I myself was once a student of science, and I know that God is also the God of science. God’s message has to be scientific, logical, and convincing to men of the 20th century.” (9-18-74)

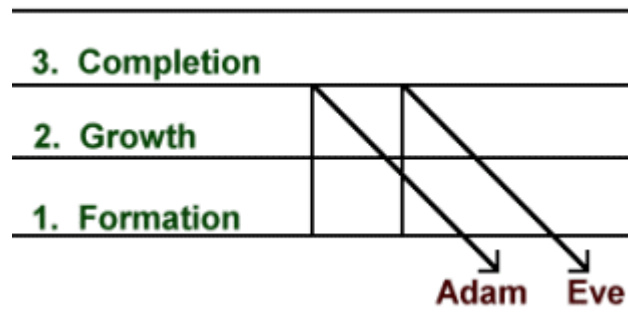
TRINITY

Christianity has also misunderstood the meaning of the trinity. Christianity says that God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit created the world. When the *Bible* says, “Let us make man in our image” orthodox Christians interpret this to mean that these three beings are talking to each other. The truth is that God is talking to the angels here. In reality God is only one being—not three.

At the Fall mankind lost parents. We are born into a sinful world and raised by sinful parents. To restore this we have to be reborn. Jesus had the unique mission to be the first true parent. All mankind were to be “reborn” through him. Every person will eventually accept him as the first man who grew to perfection. Jesus was unequivocal in saying that we too must reach the goal of perfection: “You therefore must be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect” (Matt. 5:48). The book of Matthew is written in Greek. The word “perfect” (Greek: tellios) means “end” or “goal”. The goal of every person is to grow up to absolute maturity.

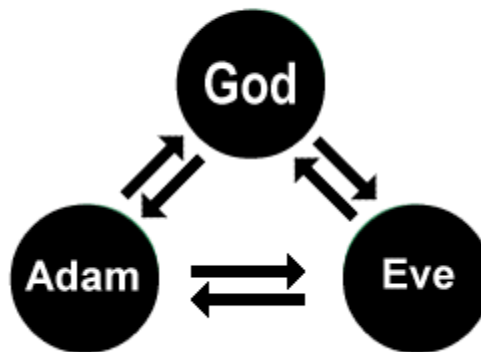


Adam and Eve were unable to do this. They fell at the top of the growth stage.

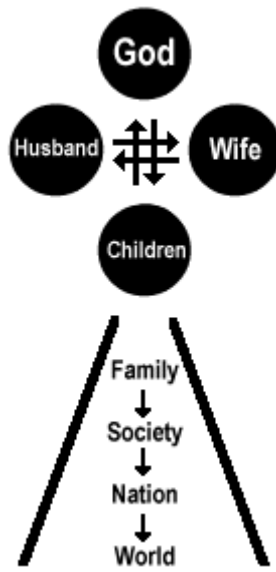


If they had not fallen and reached perfection, they would have formed the first trinity of God, Adam and Eve.

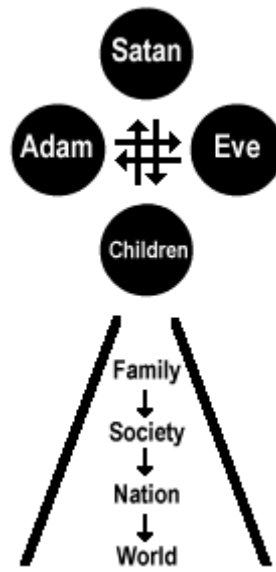
Original Trinity



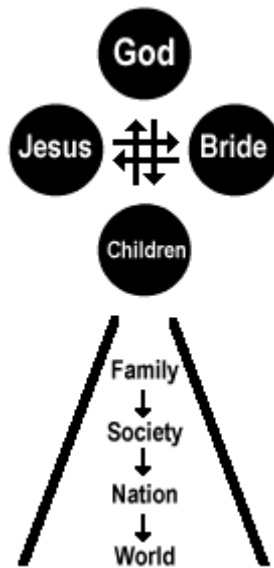
With their children they would have become the first true family. From their family would have come societies, nations and world.



The world would have been one huge family. Tragically, Satan usurped God's position. He stole Adam and Eve from God and has become our Father.



God sent Jesus as the second Adam, and God had prepared a second Eve. If they had married they would have had sinless children and from them would have come the ideal world.



Jesus could teach people spiritually. He wanted to make every family completely centered on God. Adam and Eve failed to accomplish the First Blessing of uniting with God and growing to perfection. For this reason their marriage and their family was a failure. To correct this Jesus came to help everyone fulfill the First Blessing and reach perfection. The First Blessing, to be fruitful, means we are to center our mind and body on God. Jesus represented God. Therefore, everyone was supposed to center their life on Jesus as their true parent. This is why he said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Jesus was a mediator to restore our relationship to God.

Adam and Eve fell because they "loved" each other more than God. To restore their failure, Jesus said we must love God more than each other, even more than our own family. This was very difficult for the Jewish people because they had very strong families. Nevertheless, Jesus came to make them stronger. He said, "He who loves father and mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me" (Matt. 10:37). "If anyone comes to me and does not hate

his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26).

The word “hate” is an unfortunate translation. Jesus meant that we are not to hate our family, but that we are to hate the fallen or satanic part that exists in our family. He wants us to hate evil, not people. Jesus teaches love for people, not hatred.

Every person, he taught, must be “born anew” (John 3:3). Adam and Eve and all parents since are false parents. We need true parents to give us true life not the false life we have in this sinful world. Jesus was a true father.

Jesus was trying to say something like this, “Temporarily, I want you to love me more than anyone else on earth. I will teach you about God. I want you to become like children so you can be reborn and enter the kingdom of heaven. Your parents love you, but they aren’t perfect. They don’t know God. They cannot help but be failures as parents. After I teach you how to become perfect like me, then you will be equal to me. I am simply an older brother sent by God, our parents, to help you as a prodigal son and daughter to come home. When you are perfect your marriage will be eternal and your family will be eternal. Then the whole world will live as one huge family.”

Jesus’ disciples deserted him. Peter, the closest, denied him three times. They had lived with him day and night for three years. It was difficult. We are all immature, bad children. All we know is hell. We don’t know heaven or perfection. We are lost and arrogant like Satan. The Messiah comes out of nowhere and says he’s more important than anything. He asks us to join him on a crusade to spread the good news. He says he is first. He is the world’s leader. He even says everyone is dead.

One man wanted to follow Jesus but said he first had to help his relative bury his deceased father. Jesus not only told him not to go but that his other relatives were as dead as his father: “Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:60).

Jesus is trying to say there's a war going on and our primary mission is to witness the good news that the Messiah brings. Jesus was strict. He said that his followers must never go back but stay with him for the rest of their lives: "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62).

When the people heard this they did not follow him, and they killed him. This is Satan's world, and God will be the reverse of this world. The Messiah is in a hurry. He has an incredible sense of urgency. Jesus had only a few years to accomplish his task. He wanted a mass movement in his lifetime. He wanted the entire nation of Israel behind him, and then he wanted to go to the world. "Jesus Christ came as the Messiah. He was the model of perfection upon every level: The individual, family, tribal, national, and worldwide levels. He came to establish a perfect world in his lifetime, not over a period of centuries." (10-20-73)

If everyone had united, Jesus and his wife could have restored every family to be as God-centered as his family. Then Satan would lose his power over man, repent, pay for his crimes and be restored to Lucifer.

But Jesus was murdered before he could marry. He went into the spirit world and became the spiritual True Father. God created the Holy Spirit after Jesus was murdered. It is a feminine essence of God that took the place of the second Eve and became the spiritual True Mother.

From the spirit world, Jesus and the Holy Spirit have been working as spiritual true parents for the last 2000 years. Christians have been reborn through them spiritually.

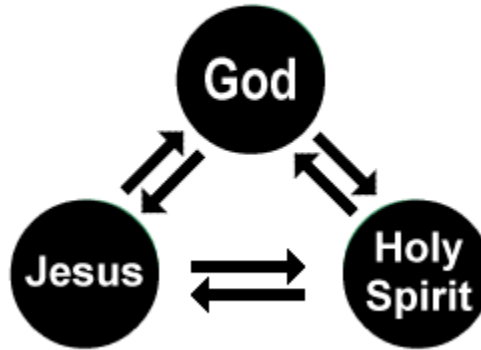
HOLY SPIRIT

Soon after Jesus died a Pentecost occurred in which people were filled with the spirit and had spiritual experiences such as speaking in tongues. The Holy Spirit was given then. This is a feminine spirit to complement Jesus. To be reborn spiritually and enter a spiritual sanctuary called Paradise after we die we have to believe in Jesus. "At this time only an intermediate place in the spirit world is open. That is called Paradise. Jesus and his disciples dwell

in Paradise, and even they cannot actually enter the Kingdom of Heaven until it is established on earth. One reason for this is because the Kingdom of Heaven is prepared not for individuals, but for the family of God for the father, the mother, and God's true children." (10-28-73)

To have Jesus as a parent God gave the Holy Spirit, a special feminine essence, as the position of bride to Jesus. Originally the trinity was to be Jesus and a real woman on earth as his bride united with God.

Spiritual Trinity



But that trinity was changed to a secondary one of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Mankind has been allowed to be partially reborn. The Third Adam will come and give full salvation to every person on earth and in spirit world.

The belief that the "trinity" is God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit as three Gods who existed before Adam and Eve and all three created the world is not correct. The Trinitarian creed was first used by Christians almost 200 years after Jesus died. The traditional belief of making Jesus God himself comes from people who did not know Jesus personally. God is not the three-in-one as taught. Jesus was a man and the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost.

The Hebrew word for spirit (ruach) is feminine; the Greek word (pneuma) is neuter. In John's Gospel, the Holy Spirit is said to be a comforting spirit which can be seen as feminine. While some early Christians believed the Holy Spirit was a female spirit, most Christians thought of it as a masculine being. "Also, the Jewish tradition was on the whole extremely masculine-oriented and hostile to all feminine definitions of the Godhead. Consequently, at Nicea and Chalcedon the ecumenical councils affirmed that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit were distinct yet equal, consubstantial and all of the same sex" (*Unification Theology*, Young Oon Kim). The Holy Spirit is not a being. In Genesis the Spirit is God's breath, and the Fourth Gospel describes the Spirit as a "wind." God's essence is the polarity of masculine and feminine; and the Holy Spirit is a mother spirit—the counterpart to Jesus' masculinity and serves the maternal function of comforting, nurturing and nourishing Christians.

The Trinitarian creed that is widely used in Catholic and many Protestant worship services is not biblical. The word "trinity" (trias) never occurs in the New Testament. Jesus' disciples and the very early Christians did not believe in a trinity. The first theologian to write of the trinity was Theophilus of Antioch (circa 180 A.D.). Christian theology always refers to Matt. 28:19 as showing proof of the Trinitarian formula but this statement is only the theology of its author. Jesus never taught the concept of trinity. The oldest tradition in the New Testament clearly asserts Jesus as a purely human savior.

In *God's Warning to the World* Sun Myung Moon says:

Jesus Christ is the one man who lived God's ideal in its fullest realization. He was the first man of perfection ever to walk the earth, and he came to restore the true relationship between God and human beings. But after Jesus' crucifixion, Christianity made him into only God. This is why the gap between God and ourselves has never been bridged. Jesus is a man in whom God is incarnate. But he is not God Himself, the Father. It is written in I Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ

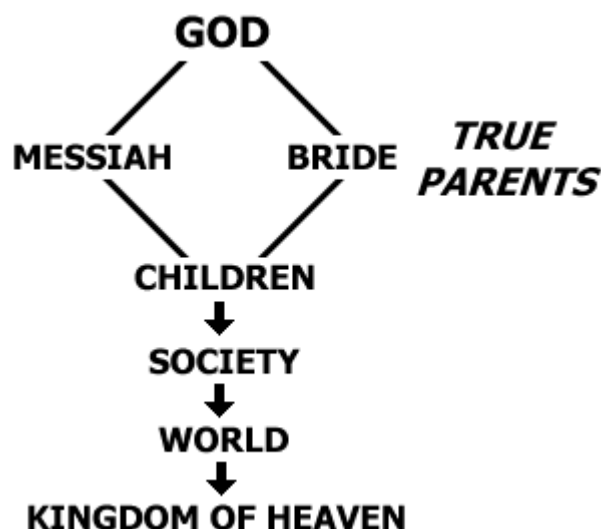
Jesus...” The dwelling of God within Jesus was a total reality. He said, “Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me?” (John 14:10). Jesus is, indeed, the only begotten son of God, but God does not want only Jesus as His son. All mankind is created to be able to say, “I am in the Father and the Father in me.”

The entire purpose of Jesus’ coming can be summarized in one sentence: Jesus came to bring the resurrection needed so that human love can be perfected to the point where we can come into the direct dominion of God’s love. This is the fully attainable goal of everyone.

One argument by traditional Christians is that when Jesus went from being God to a human being he denied his divine mind while he walked as a man on the earth. So when Jesus said “the Father is greater than I” (John 14:28) he was not lying because he really had no memory of being a god who had created the world. This and all other arguments for a trinity of three beings who made the universe make no sense. Orthodox Christian theology is science fiction.

Because Jesus’ primary mission of marrying and building the first perfect family on earth was not completed, another man must come to fulfill that mission—the Second Messiah, the Third Adam. For the kingdom of Heaven on earth to come a true family must pioneer the way for others to follow.

The last book in the *Bible*, Revelation, speaks of the divine marriage of the third Adam as the Marriage of the Lamb, i.e. the marriage of the first true Adam and true Eve, mankind’s ultimate hope for salvation.



To be saved we ultimately need two people—a man and a woman who will establish the first true family. Jesus wanted so badly to marry and with his wife lead the world into perfection. “Jesus was the second Adam. It was God’s will for him to be blessed in heavenly matrimony with the second Eve, his restored bride. God intended him to bring forth upon this earth his own sinless children. Then Jesus and his bride would have become the True Parents for humankind, and all humankind would have found life by grafting onto them. In Revelation, at the end of the Bible, it shows us clearly that the end of God’s ideal is this perfect man and perfect woman; when they rejoice, embracing in holy matrimony, this cannot be exchanged for the entire universe. Once God has achieved this high ideal as a standard, then there will be more such individuals and families coming into existence; this is what God has been working for. So this is the highest ideal of God and highest ideal of humanity. This is the deepest desire of God and also the deepest desire of humanity. Only around this one center can all people and God eternally be happy and one.” (10-20-73)

Jesus spoke to the people in parables, but to his close disciples he revealed more. Jesus told them: “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables” (Luke 8:10).

Jesus could only reveal so much truth at one time. It is like teaching mathematics to a child. You do not start with calculus. There is a growth period and as the people grew in understanding then Jesus could reveal more. The disciples knew him better so he could reveal more to them. But he had to hold back so many things even from them. Jesus knew the Fall, for example, but his disciples were not ready to hear it. Jesus did not have time to raise them higher.

The disciples did know that Jesus' mission was to build a one-world family. They saw Jesus' mind and body were one—that his words and deeds were one. But when they heard that he had an alternative course of the path of the cross they just couldn't understand. Traditional Christian thought says that Jesus was predestined to die on the cross is incorrect. It was a secondary mission.

Jesus' mission was to restore the failure of Adam in the Garden of Eden. Adam had a physical body and failed to marry after he was perfect. The mission of Adam was transferred to Jesus, but because Jesus was killed before he could start a perfect family, then his mission was transferred to another man who must come as a third Adam and like Adam and Jesus be born on earth. Sin came into the world on earth and sin must be erased first on earth. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus said, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10). He also said, "...whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Matt. 16:19). When sin is erased from earth then sin will be erased from everyone in the spirit world, too.

RESURRECTION

Christian theology is also incorrect in its teachings on resurrection. Some Christians believe they will rise with their physical bodies raptured up into heaven at the Second Coming. Christianity teaches that those who have died are asleep and will have their physical bodies miraculously put together again and float to heaven when the Second Coming happens. We learn in the *Divine Principle* that everyone who has died is not asleep but is living in spirit world. We read in the *Bible* that Moses and Elijah talked to Jesus.

First Thessalonians 4:17 says, "Then we who are alive ... will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air." Some Christians believe they are going "up" into the sky. They interpret this passage literally. But it is symbolic. The key word is "up". When we say someone has advanced in life we say, "he has gone up in the world." When we say someone has gone up the ladder of success we are using figurative language. The same is true in this quotation. When we unite our minds and bodies with the Messiah and live God's way of life then our value has increased.

Also, heaven is not a physical place in the universe. After our physical body dies, we live forever in the spirit world. The Messiah doesn't come to end physical death. The Messiah himself physically dies.

Many Christians incorrectly believe that there is no sex and there are no marriages in the afterlife. They believe this because of Matthew 22:30 that says, "At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven." The term "until death do us part" is not true because every person will eventually live with their mate eternally in heaven. Some will be with their mate they had on earth and some will find their mate in spirit world.

First Thessalonians 4:17 says "caught up". This is a translation from a Greek word meaning to snatch away. Other synonyms would be: grab, seize, pluck, steal, kidnap. In effect there is often an abrupt change when people turn to God. Jesus' physical body did not go up into the sky. He did not have a corporeal resurrection or resuscitation. His spiritual body went into the spirit world, and Jesus cannot return with his physical body.

Man's spirit body goes into heaven imperfect. We are not living in an ideal world on earth and our ancestors are not living an ideal life in the spirit world.

We learned earlier that for our spirit man to grow, it must receive vitality elements from our physical body. People in the spirit world can never have their physical body again and cannot grow to perfection by themselves. Spirit men in the spirit world cannot

perfect themselves unless they cooperate with people on earth. They can be resurrected or elevated and ascend the thousands of different levels of spirit world by cooperating with earthly people.

To grow they must come to earth and help men and women. In this way they can receive vitality elements for their spirit man. By doing this they can be resurrected. For example, Elijah grew spiritually because he helped John the Baptist by giving him spiritual guidance. In fact, though you cannot see them, people are working with you now from the spirit world.

The truth sets people free. And if you receive the truth you grow spiritually. And if you are growing, the people in spirit world can benefit as well in their spiritual advancement. God continually has brought higher truth to mankind throughout history. He has given truth in stages. God gave laws and asked for animal sacrifices from the early Israelites in the Old Testament. When Jesus came, God gave a higher truth of love and asked for faith in the New Testament. Jesus died before he could reveal the full truth. Today we have the complete truth in the *Divine Principle*, the Completed Testament, which can guide us to spiritually grow by living God's way of life.

Resurrection means to be raised from the dead. This doesn't mean that our physical bodies will rise into the air but that we will pass from spiritual death to spiritual life. God told Adam and Eve they would die if they ate the fruit in the Garden of Eden. They ate the fruit and lived many years afterwards. Obviously, God was not talking about physical death when he spoke to Adam and Eve. He told them they would die spiritually and they did. They lost their five spiritual senses and communication with God. This is true death. Sadly, we are born separated from God.

Everyone must be restored spiritually. When we accept Jesus we can begin the process of coming back to God. Nothing in our life is more important than that. Jesus came with the ability to restore our relationship with God. All mankind needs to be reborn. If we accept Jesus we begin to be reborn and restored. But mankind will become completely reborn when the third and final Adam comes.

Many Christians put exclusive emphasis upon being saved by the blood of Jesus. They do not know that Jesus forgave sin before he was crucified. The *Bible* tells the story of a prostitute who was about to be stoned to death. Jesus said to the people, "Whoever is without sin, let him cast the first stone." Everyone dropped their stones and drifted away in shame. Jesus then said to the woman, "Has no one condemned you? Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more." Jesus offered forgiveness. No one had to wait for Jesus to die. Jesus wanted to forgive sin at that time. He did not give a rain check saying, "I will forgive you and save you, but wait until I am crucified on the cross." Jesus did not have to die to save us. God's original plan of salvation was for Jesus not to die. The crucifixion was a secondary course that gave only spiritual salvation.

Sun Myung Moon teaches:

If we examine Jesus' Providence of the cross, we see that Jesus, the thief on the right, the thief on the left, and Barabbas sowed the seeds of history. The principle is that what is sown will be reaped. So the first to appear were the right wing world and the left wing world, that is, the democratic and the Communist realms, reflecting the "right thief type" and the "left thief type." Centering on Jesus' cross, Islam, the "Barabbas type," appeared next. Reflecting Barabbas, who received good fortune because of Jesus, Islam originated as a force resisting Christianity.

If the democratic world is internal, then the Communist world is external. If the right wing is internal, then the left wing is external. For this reason, the Messiah who is to come has no choice but to appear upon the internal foundation of the democratic world, which respects God. He must carry out a movement that absorbs the external environment and unifies the various cultural spheres centering on the mainstream Christian cultural sphere. Such a movement is carried out at the end of history. Such a thing cannot be looked at as circumstantial. The nature of the original cause leads to such a result.

The Merit of the Thief on the Right

When Jesus was crucified, he died along with the man on his right, who was not only a thief but also a murderer. If that thief had not been there, Jesus would have lost his relationship with the Earth and humankind. Even though he himself was near death, the thief on the right defended Jesus. In human history, who took Jesus' side? It was not Peter; it was not Jesus' father or mother; it was not the nation of Israel and it was not Judaism. It was only one person: the thief on the right. One individual alone maintained this relationship. While facing death, he transcended death and placed all his hopes on Jesus. That was none other than the thief on the right. You need to know that were it not for the thief on the right, Jesus would not have been able to resurrect and resume his providence on Earth.

As Jesus was bringing to a conclusion four thousand years of history and the more than thirty years of his own life, there was only one person who connected with Jesus and attended Jesus as the one who embodied his most fervent hopes, even as he accompanied Jesus on the path of death. That was the thief on the right. The fact that the thief on the right has this position means that he surpassed the disciples. He was superior to Peter.

This is so because although he did not know Jesus' teachings, his nature directed and empowered him to attend Jesus at the moment of death, until he breathed his last. Peter, John and the others of the twelve disciples, by contrast, knew Jesus' teachings and even pledged to become new persons, but ultimately were not able to achieve it. You have to know that, for this reason, the thief on the right became a central character in human history, a man who represented the Earth and salvaged the future.

Only a Spiritual Foundation

Until now, Christianity has not been able to pursue the Kingdom of Heaven both on Earth and in the spirit. Christianity has had no choice but to yield the physical world, attending Jesus as the spiritual Messiah and setting spiritual salvation and a spiritual Kingdom as its goals. The people of Israel had a nation and possessed national authority as the chosen people, but worldwide Christianity today is in the position of the second Israel only as a spiritual nation; it has no national authority. Christians have no country. We stand in the realm of the second Israel with only a spiritual foundation, not a physical foundation. Because Christianity was not able to accomplish the original Will of God, who must bring about a Kingdom on Earth that is of both spirit and flesh, there is no other way except for the Lord to come again.

I want to make one declaration to you here today. The crucifixion was not God's victory. Instead, it was Satan's victory. You will remember that Jesus said to those who arrested him in the Garden of Gethsemane, "... this is your hour—when darkness reigns." (Luke 22:53) You need to know that the cross was the place where the nation that God had prepared for four thousand years was lost, the place where the religious faith of Israel was lost, and the place where the followers of John the Baptist, the twelve disciples, the thief on the left, and everything else was lost.

You need to know that Christianity was not there on the cross. When did Christianity begin? Jesus resurrected after three days and spent forty days meeting the disciples he had lost, who had turned against him. The Holy Spirit descended on the disciples, and you need to know that it was only then that Christianity began. Christians for the past two thousand years have believed in Christianity without knowing that it came into existence not by the principle of the cross, but by the principle of the resurrection. If you realize

this fact, then you must repent. Because Christianity began on the foundation of Jesus' resurrection, Christianity has been strictly spiritual.

What would have happened if Jesus had not died on the cross? In that case, the nation of Israel would have followed Jesus' teachings, stabilized and endured. Judaism also would have remained as it was. Jesus knew that if he were to die on the cross, multitudes of people in future ages would have to follow him on the way of the cross, and that they would not be able to do so without shedding blood. Many Christians would have to suffer, and even when the Lord came again he would have to go the way of suffering. You need to know that this is the reason that Jesus had to pray as he did in the Garden of Gethsemane. Christians today say that Jesus prayed for deliverance because he had a physical body and feared the pain of death. But was Jesus such a trivial Messiah? Certainly not.

Meaning of "It is Finished"

What, then, did Jesus mean by saying, "It is finished," when he committed his spirit on the cross? Jesus had come with the mission to save both spirit and flesh, but he realized that he could not completely fulfill God's Will in a world in which there was no foundation. So, he offered himself completely in order to establish a condition for spiritual salvation and allow that providence to begin. Having completed that, in the end he said, "It is finished."

You probably have never featured this even in your imagination. Christianity and Judaism should realize even now that the Lord, who tried to demolish Satan's nation and do away with Satan's kingship, and to accomplish God's will and restore humanity, died a tragic death. When they realize this, they should repent and become one. They should become one and prepare to receive the Lord on his return.

Truth Conforms to Reason

Truth must conform to reason. The time has come for all Christians to throw off the age of blind faith and move ahead into a new age united as one, to sort out this world and bring it to salvation. You need to know that the time has come in which the term “unification” is essential.

Jesus’ Three-Day Suffering Course

What does it mean that Jesus suffered pain during the three days following his death? Heaven, Earth and Hell all remained in the realm of death. For Jesus to gain authority over Heaven and Earth, he needed to encompass the depths and heights of this realm of death. For this reason, in order to pursue the connection of life and go the path that could comfort God, Jesus needed to prevail, even if it meant descending into the lowest environment such as Hell and suffering pain. Because Jesus passed through Hell, he prepared a path by which it was possible to make a new beginning toward Heaven. Though he was cast out and isolated on Earth, and finally forced to go the way of death, he was able to leave a path of hope for future generations. That is the reason Jesus had to go on his three-day course.

Jesus did not go to Hell for three days just to look around. He already knew about Hell. He needed to go there, pass judgment and pave the way to go from the world of death to the world of life. In this way, he laid a foundation of victory on Earth, which is the world of death and Hell, and established a starting point from which it is possible to reach Heaven.

Jesus Rejected

In the eyes of the religious establishment, Jesus was a heretic, and in the eyes of the nation, he was a destroyer of the religious law. His own clan rejected him and chased him out of his home. The group surrounding John the Baptist

rejected him. So he went into the wilderness, but there Satan pursued him. That was not all. Eventually, the entire country mobilized to force him to go the way of death on the cross, the path of Golgotha.

Jesus, though, shed tears for the nation that was rejecting him as a traitor. The Jewish establishment treated Jesus as a heretic, but he shed more blood and tears for them than did any priest. Not a single person of that age would stand on his side, but Jesus was a friend of that age. He was rejected as a traitor, but he was the greatest patriot. He was rejected as a heretic, but he was the most faithful believer.

Jesus walked a wretched path, the path of the cross, where people ripped his clothing, drove him on, and forced him to the ground. That was not all. Evil men whipped and beat him. In this situation, if Jesus had been like Elijah, he might have said to the people, "I am the only one of the Lord's prophets left." (1 Kings 18:22) But when Jesus left his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane and went to pray, he said, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Luke 22:42) This was his greatness. He understood that his body was a sacrificial offering for the nation, a sacrificial offering for humanity and a sacrificial offering for Heaven's Providence.

Because he understood this, Jesus, while not denying his own sorrow, was more concerned about how great a sorrow God must have felt. Jesus had appeared for the sake of the nation and he was concerned how great God's sorrow was to see him rejected as a traitor. Jesus was the prince of Heaven, the central personage of the entire universe, and the Messiah. If he chose, he could have fallen prey to self-pity and asked why he should go the miserable way of the cross. He could have set the entire universe in motion to

breathe a deep sigh of despair with him. But he understood that his position was not to sigh in despair. Instead, he even went so far as to feel apologetic toward Heaven for having been rejected.

Jesus bore the responsibility to rally the religious establishment, rally the nation, build the Kingdom of Heaven and return the world to the Father's bosom. Yet when he was forced to abandon that mission and walk the way of the cross, he did not feel enmity toward anyone. He did not pray, "Let this cup pass from me," out of a fear of death. Rather, he prayed this because he knew that his death would add to the grief of the nation and to God's grief.

Jesus knew that if he died on the cross, there would be an even heavier cross remaining for the future generations of humanity. It would mean that the sorrowful history would not end. He knew that the path of Golgotha would not end with him. He knew that the path of death would not end. And he knew that if he went the way of Golgotha, those who followed him would also have to go the same way. Jesus knew that an even more difficult course lay beyond the cross.

As he was made to wear a crown of thorns, and the nails were hammered into his hands and feet, and his side was stabbed with a spear, Jesus knew that these events would have impact far beyond his own death. When he turned to Heaven and said, "It is finished," he did not mean that the path of the cross for the world was finished. He meant that Heaven had received his heart's tearful plea of concern over the cross. We need to know that Jesus comforted Heaven by taking upon himself all the mistakes committed by the prophets and patriots and offering himself as a living sacrifice.

And even beyond that, as he neared death Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34) God had a

mind to pass judgment immediately, judgment that was even greater than that of Noah's time. But Jesus died clinging to the nation, clinging to the religious establishment and clinging to the cross. For this reason, God could not abandon humanity but held on to us. Because this bond of heart existed between Jesus, the future generations of humanity and the remaining people of Israel, God has been unable to abandon the religious organizations and people of succeeding generations who have turned against Him. Instead, He has clung to them.

Meaning of the Bread and Wine

I am sure you are well aware that God, who had been carrying out His Providence of restoration for four thousand years, could not complete His Will in Heaven and on Earth simply by the Providence of having Jesus resurrect. So He established a new testament in His word, and through it He has worked His providence to bring together His will in Heaven with that on Earth and establish the promised original Garden.

If we look in the *Bible*, we see that Jesus said the wine and bread that he gave us were the promise and new covenant. After Jesus was on Earth, we received his flesh and blood, and these represented the life of the perfected whole that must be accomplished. At the same time, they represented the providence in its entirety.

What does the fact that we received Jesus' blood and flesh symbolize? This is not just the flesh and blood of Jesus as one individual. In a larger sense, these signify Heaven and Earth and, in a smaller sense, they signify the core and the individual body. Also, the flesh symbolizes the truth and blood of the Holy Spirit. Jesus gave us all this without condition.

What has been blocked between God and human beings? Heaven's Will should be manifested on

Earth and everything on Earth ultimately should be connected to Heaven's Will. In this way, Heaven and Earth will move toward a single goal. This is what is blocked. Jesus established a new promise before he departed. So, after his death the necessity of human beings, that is, the disciples who followed Jesus, connecting the spiritual and physical worlds remained as a condition. Had Jesus not died, Heaven and Earth would have been connected through him. Because he died, Jesus came to represent the conditions in Heaven and the Holy Spirit came to represent the conditions on Earth.

Respected guests, the time now has come. Heaven's time, for which God has been waiting six thousand years and Christians have been waiting two thousand years, has come. It is the time to build the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth and in Heaven on an inter-religious, international and inter-organizational footing. Heaven's fortune has finally arrived. Jesus, Peter, John and the other disciples, plus thousands and even tens of thousands of religious leaders in the spirit world are now of one mind and one body and they are descending freely to the physical world to attend True Parents. Without a doubt, the Unified Cosmic Nation of Heaven's Will and the Kingdom of Heaven in which Heaven and Earth can be as one in eternal peace will settle on the Earth.

Now is the time for America, the Christian country representing the Second Israel, to stand in the forefront. I declare to the world that America has the responsibility to guide all the world's people. But it must not do so with weapons; it must do this in truth and love by living for the sake of others upon the foundation of true love, true life, and true lineage.

Thank you for your kind attention. May God bless you and God bless America. — ("The Life of Jesus as Seen from God's Will, and God's

Warning to the Present Age, the Period of the Last Days—20th Anniversary of the *Washington Times* Banquet” May 21, 2002)

Who is the person God has been able to love the most in history? It is Jesus. Jesus presented a new direction for this conflict-ridden world. High walls are created between oppressor nations and oppressed nations, such as between Rome and Israel, by them viewing each other as enemies. Jesus’ philosophy is that these walls need to be demolished. Jesus thought: You in Rome want to conquer me by force, but I will conquer you in the opposite way—with love. That is why he even sought blessing for his enemies when he was hanging on the cross.

Jesus Was Model Man

We need to recognize that when Jesus said of the Roman soldiers, “Forgive them for they know not what they do”, he was expressing this kind of amazing philosophy. Because Jesus made this plea he became a model and archetype for all nations of the world to transcend the way they see each other as enemies, and also a model for transcending the borders between any two nations. (“The Course of Life for the Princes and Princesses of Go” March 12, 2000)

Chang Shik Yang says:

Take Down the Cross!

Today, with the arrival of the True Parents on the earth, the time has come to resolve all the grievances that remain in Jesus’ heart. Two thousand years ago Jesus had to go the way of the cross due to disbelief and persecution from his own people. He employed the cross as a sacred implement upon which to sacrifice his body in order to save humankind. However, in God’s eyes, Jesus’ death on the cross was too appalling even to watch. After making 4,000 years of preparations to send the Messiah, God had sent Jesus, His only-begotten Son. Instead of being welcomed, Jesus was tried, convicted and sentenced to death. The cross was the dreadful instrument of his

execution. The Bible describes three hours of darkness that suddenly fell when Jesus was crucified. God could not bear witnessing the scene of Jesus' death and turned His face away.

As Jesus prophesied that "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down" (Mark 13:2), the Jews were scattered to wander all over the world. God had to watch in tears as awful historical consequences played out, even the massacre of six million Jews by Hitler. Today, in order for Judaism and Israel to be resurrected, they should clearly understand the tragedy of Jesus' death.

...the cross that Christians revere was not God's primary will, but rather was Jesus' second choice necessitated by the impossible circumstances. Jesus took that path with a painful heart, in order to open at least the way to spiritual salvation for humankind. Yet when Jesus looks upon the cross, his heart is flooded with painful memories. His heartbreak and sorrow will finally be resolved only when the cross is taken down from every Christian church. (*The Opening of the Gate to the Cheon-Il-Guk through the Holy Marriage Blessing Ceremony of the Parents of Heaven and Earth and The Providential Background of the Coronation of the King of the Blessed Families for the Peace and Unity of the Heavenly Parent and the Parents of Heaven and Earth*)

The symbol of the cross brings so much pain to God and Jesus that Christian ministers should take down their crosses and bury them.

Won Pil Kim said in a speech titled "Father's Course and our Life of Faith", "It is believed that the crucifixion of Jesus was God's plan. For this reason the miserable image of crucified Jesus on the cross is carved and put in the middle of the altar in the churches so that everybody can see.

"There is no religious group that worships such a miserable statue as Christianity. Don't you feel bad when you see a dead body? Whether the dead person was good or bad, any dead body never gives us a good feeling. But they don't feel bad even to see Jesus, who died an unnatural death, because they think his death was reasonable or, rather, that it was an expression of God's love to forgive the original sin of human beings.

“Even though Jesus died because of Heavenly reasons, it is wrong to feel good looking at his dead body. No person wants to be stripped: do you like to be naked in public?”

The *Divine Principle* shows that God loves every person, and that He won’t rest until everyone is home with him. God won’t rest until everyone is in heaven. God promised Adam and Eve they would have the Three Blessings of being fruitful, multiplying and having dominion, and God will never stop working until all of us, His children, are living in the ideal world He planned for.

IDEAL WORLD

How will the ideal world come about? Many Christians have a childish view of Jesus. Jesus is seen as some kind of Daddy who will come and whisk them away and put them into some perfect safe place with gold-lined streets. Sun Myung Moon teaches that this view is juvenile. The adult, grown-up view is that God and Jesus want us to shed blood, sweat and tears to build the ideal world. Sun Myung Moon’s revelations from God and Jesus are about hard work—even carrying a cross. It is about being a spiritual warrior. God wants us to fight Satan and evil forces and be victorious.

WITNESSING

Jesus’ last words to his disciples were to witness—to convert people. How many Christians make witnessing their primary goal in life? They don’t because there is nothing more difficult than to teach God’s word in this world. Christianity has degenerated into an easy religion. Sun Myung Moon teaches us to take the hard course. He walks his talk. We find joy and happiness when we embrace the call of God and the Messiah to fundamentally change our lives and then witness to others, but we also find heartache and challenge. We are supposed to work so hard we will be persecuted for upsetting people with our relentless pushing of the truth. People will say they do not want to be preached to. To follow Jesus means to be labeled a crazy fanatic—an extremist. Christians do not realize the magnitude of the war we are in. They are lazy and therefore Satan continues to rule this world. It may be difficult to be a religious person and be persecuted, but it is far more difficult

to not carry the cross. We have the duty of being focused on the Messiah's great mission he gives us and to follow his difficult course as he pursues the vision God gives of an ideal world.

Sun Myung Moon teaches:

Christians Naive

Christians are very naive to think that believing in Jesus is all that is required for them to end up in heaven while they leave this world behind. Their idea of a guaranteed place in heaven is a crazy concept that could never enable man to fulfill God's will. From God's standpoint that is heretical thinking, not the principles of the Unification Church. (4-18-77)

Saved — Simply Believe in Jesus?

Some Christians today may be puzzled when they hear about indemnity and man's portion of responsibility. They think, "Almighty God is a God of love with a soft heart, a God of love. What do you mean by such a cruel thing as indemnity? God is not cruel." Often people would prefer to think that if they simply continue to believe in Jesus they would be saved. They think they don't have to do anything else.

Belief in Jesus

Let us examine what is meant by "belief in Jesus." To what extent does someone believe in Jesus? Does a person believe in Jesus only as he relates to him as an individual, or Jesus within the family, or Jesus as he reigns over the society, nation, the universe, or the Jesus who is in God? That makes a lot of difference.

A favorite *Bible* verse of Christians today is John 3:16, which says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but shall have eternal life." Many Christians put the greatest emphasis upon the second part of the

verse and forget the most important thing: that God so loved the world. God did not love the church or the individual so much that he sent his only begotten Son. It was because God so loved the world, the universe.

Thus Jesus is the one who came to save the world. When we believe in Jesus the world is very much in our minds. God is in Jesus and Jesus is in God.

Jesus Calls Us to Separate from Satan and Sin

When you say you believe in Jesus, do you only believe in those things, which make you feel good? Do you reject those things about Jesus, which make you feel painful? We should accept what Jesus taught and do those things which Jesus himself would want us to do. We must not take part in things that Jesus would not like. What are those things, which Jesus would not like? They are, simply, Satan and sin.

Vague Belief in Jesus

We are to separate ourselves from Satan and sin and believe in Jesus from that position, rather than from a position in which sin, Satan, and Jesus are all mixed together in our lives. Jesus wants to rule over a world from which Satan and sin are eradicated, not a world in which sin is mixed together with everything and in which people have just a vague belief in Jesus. This is why Jesus said, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." For what should we repent? We must repent of the fact that we have been living together with Satan and sin throughout our lives. Then we can serve heaven.

Where are the faithful believers in Jesus and where are the righteous churches that can publicly proclaim proudly that they are absolutely separated from Satan and sin and that they are following Jesus exactly as he would have them do? Since no one can say they are living in perfect love in an ideal world with no

suffering and tears, Christians who truly follow Jesus must be struggling to separate from sin and to love the world from the perspective of Jesus, the Savior who labors still to bring the world to God.

But sadly, we know that Satan exists within the churches as everywhere else; there is almost as much sin there as in the rest of the world. All too many Christian leaders are so compromised with the world that what they love and hate is no different from what the rest of the world loves and hates; there is very little difference between the world and those churches. Which would Satan find more pleasure in—the church or the world? Why would he like the sins of the church more than those of society in general? Satan likes the sins of the church more because then he can protest to God, “Look at those people in the church—they don’t love others; they even hate others! They are not faithful, either. This must be my church.”

The churches that remain this way must perish at the time of the last days along with the evils of the secular world. God has promised that he will destroy all evil at the time of the last days. God would even destroy such churches before the rest of society.

What really surprised me when I first came to America was the way Americans used the names of Jesus Christ and God as an exclamation—not to praise them, but to put them in the worst position. I wondered what people meant when they said, “Jesus Christ!” and I realized that they were describing something bad. What led to this kind of custom? What do the best words imaginable have to do with the worst things that can happen to people? Have you sometimes observed that certain Christians may be worse than people of the secular world? Those who claim they believe in God may actually be worse

than those who don't—they are more egoistic, less loving and giving, etc.

This American nation is founded upon Judeo-Christian principles, yet Americans have become very individualistic. Was Jesus an individualistic person? How did Americans come to be so egoistic and individualistic when Jesus had nothing of an egoistic nature? We can come to the simple conclusion that if people really believed in Jesus they would not have become like that. Instead of believing in Jesus for Jesus' sake and for God's sake, some people believe in him for their own benefit. In other words, they use Jesus and God for their own sake. What do you think about this?

Belief in Jesus Brings with it Responsibility to
Love the World

Returning to our original point, God sent Jesus to humankind because He loved this world so much. Did humankind believe in Jesus the way God wanted them to, or did people generally believe according to their own discretion and desire? This is the most important determining factor of a person's belief.

Just Believe

The greatest error occurs when people think that they can "just believe" in God and Jesus and they will receive more and more blessings from God. Such people feel they can have everything they want, without doing anything in return. That is similar to the attitude of a thief, who just takes things without working.

Did Jesus believe in God in that way? Did he think that because God sent him as his only begotten son it meant he had all power? Did he feel that all he had to do was to keep on believing and claiming his faith in God, and then he could subjugate all the Roman Empire automatically? If Jesus couldn't do that, what is the justification for thinking that other people

can do that? In other words, many people say that Jesus couldn't just believe in God and do nothing, but that we can. Jesus believed in God and we believe in Jesus. Jesus didn't just say, "God, I believe in You so You must bring all the people and all the Roman Empire under my domain." It is clear that such a thing would not work for Jesus. If everything could have come to Jesus automatically, why did Jesus witness? Why did Jesus gather and train the 12 apostles, the 70 disciples, the 120 elders? Why did he have to do all that and endure so much persecution along the way? Jesus went the way of persecution and bloodshed according to God's dispensation; he had no other way to go. Jesus knew the suffering that lay ahead of him, but he also knew he had to go that way in order to accomplish God's will.

Do you think I am placing unnecessary stress on this or do you understand that this point is the most crucial one of belief? Jesus had to go the way he did because he knew what God wanted him to do—namely, to save the world and all mankind by loving them. Therefore, it stands to reason that everyone else who loves Jesus must also do God's will—to love the people of the world and save them.

Because God so loved the world He sent his only begotten son. Jesus had the obligation, the mission, to make the world one which could receive the love of God. Jesus looked around and saw that the world was not lovable. Is the world lovable today? At this time, there are many different churches with great power and influence in the world. They embrace this world in their own ways. Can God look at them and be completely pleased with them? Communists have even infiltrated the churches and developed theologies to suit their own purposes, such as liberation theology. How can God love such churches? We can understand that the true, correct faith is not the way many Christians have

been going, but rather it is the way Jesus tried to establish in his time—to gather the people, teach the people, and establish the kind of world which God could freely love. Jesus had to love the world in order to accomplish his mission. This was the work of God and also the work of Jesus—it was the purpose for which God sent Jesus. Jesus had to bring the world to God for God to accomplish His purpose of sending Jesus to the world.

Then what would have happened? When all people became worthy of receiving the love of God freely, everything would have been accomplished. God loved the world, so he sent Jesus. When the people of the world are able to freely receive the love of Jesus and God, they will be satisfied. These things have to be accomplished; it is very clear.

If groups of Christians emerge from this hopeless world who are loving others, thinking more of serving than being served, and doing as Jesus did, then God will be able to fulfill the promise he made when he sent His only begotten son. Jesus sacrificed himself and gave up his own life; he remained completely faithful to his mission of making the world lovable by God, making the people worthy of receiving God's love. If some new Christian group emerges at this time, following the path which Jesus trod, then Christianity and the world will have hope for the first time in a long time.

Bear the Cross

Look around and see which denominations would fit these specifications. What about members of the Unification Church? Why don't we do the same things that many other churches do and believe exactly the same way that they do? Why do we fight against communism? We do this because it is the germ which will destroy all religion if it prevails. Our movement is trampling down on Satan and sin and especially

communism, destroying those germs, and on the other hand we are sacrificing ourselves as Jesus did and bearing our own cross so that God can give His love to the world.

Would God say he likes Unification Church members? Would God be ashamed that we work harder than other Christians? No. God would say, "How proud I am of the Unificationists!" Are you sure he would say that? How about Jesus? When he looks at the Unification movement, would he say, "Oh, you should be ashamed of yourselves; my other followers don't work the way you do. You embarrass me."? No, instead, Jesus would say, "You are my hope, my pride."

See Hope in Unificationists

If God loves us and Jesus loves us, what about the people of the world? They might be saying, "We hate those Moonies," but as they say such things, they are watching us, and gradually they are discovering that there is nothing wrong with us. They are gradually coming to like us, and they will come to see hope in us. When other Christians have a real chance to see us and work with us, will they continue to hate us or will they love us?

Jesus sought to bring the entire world to God, and we are determined to do that. Jesus was to confront the Roman Empire. I have been confronting the government of the U.S. and I have pledged to preach the Gospel in Moscow, as well. The most powerful effort of America to stop me has been to put me in jail, but will such a thing stop our movement?

Logical Understanding

Since God so loves the world, I continue to push you out in order to make this a lovable world. When we undertake something worthwhile, it is important first to have a logical understanding of

why we must do it. We must do the things we do because of human responsibility.

Inch by Inch

Does God really love me or not? When you look at how hard I have worked and how I have been persecuted, don't you think God might have done something more on my behalf? You say that God really loves me, but I might argue with you and say, "If God loves me, what has He ever done for me?" At no time in my entire mission have I ever had a peaceful moment. Wherever I have gone, I was not readily welcomed at first; it was only after I had given much and taught many things that people would begin to understand. I have had to fight continuously to gain ground for God—inch by inch.

If God were to give me the power to work miracles and somehow retaliate against those who persecute us unrighteously and show them dramatically how wrong they are, they would not continue to mistreat us. Why does God allow these unrighteous things to continue? When Jesus was crucified, God was certainly watching the scene. Did God not have the power to stop the Roman soldiers and rescue Jesus from the cross? Jesus was God's own son. What kind of a father could bear to see his own son's blood being shed in such an unrighteous way and not do something? Can we call such a God a God of love and justice? Where was God's justice then? When my court case was over and the judge pronounced my sentence, why didn't God do something? Was it because God did not have the power to do anything? Why did God seem to pretend not to know about it? That is a riddle. In this common yet very important issue comes the understanding of the human portion of responsibility.

Law of Human Responsibility

The discovery of man's portion of responsibility is a cosmic discovery. Great discoveries have been made in science, such as Einstein's theory of relativity; however, the discovery of the law of human responsibility is the greatest of all. Without understanding this principle, the most fundamental issues in life remain as a puzzle. "Why do righteous people always have to suffer? Why is a great man's name only resurrected after his death?" The answers to these questions hinge upon the principle of human responsibility.

God's Grace

The Unificationists are the ones who are supposed to appreciate this fact of man's responsibility the most, but ironically you hate it as much as everybody else does. Have you accomplished your portion of responsibility or not? The heaviest consequence of this principle is the requirement that humans make effort to indemnify sin. How long the human indemnity period will last is not known by anyone—not God, not spirit world, not me, not anyone. We may keep asking why the misery in life must go on, but it is a fact that as long as there is sin in the world, we must take responsibility for it. If anybody, including God, were to remove the human burden of indemnity, people could no longer have the dignity of responsible beings. This is not to deny the reality of God's grace, but even grace comes for the purpose of assisting people in fulfilling their portion of responsibility. Therefore God did not intervene when Adam and Eve committed the fall. God did not intervene because he would not violate man's portion of responsibility.

I have been persecuted in this country, yet I have not done anything evil or wrong. Many people are watching what has been happening to me and are curious about the source of the persecution. Many other well-educated people and scientists

can see that even though the majority of the world is accusing Sun Myung Moon, I have been doing things that are worthy of praise and even assistance.

Separate from Satan

Yet there is no more efficient way for people to go from the extreme of being unworthy of God's love to being worthy except by going through persecution. The first thing we must do is separate ourselves from Satan. Do we do that when our lives are cozy and comfortable? No, the best way to separate ourselves from Satan is when we are enduring tremendous persecution. After Satan has opposed someone so much then God can freely love that person, and Satan will have no chance to accuse him any more. Thus, a way is created by which God can more speedily love all those who have been unworthy of his love. Quickly the conditions are made for God to embrace them.

Remember the reason why these things have been happening—everything begins from the point of human responsibility. After man's responsibility is accomplished, what happens then? Once an individual successfully fulfills his portion of responsibility, that person enters the realm of the direct dominion of God. Does God maintain that dominion over a person by giving him a lot of money, or what? It is only through love that God gains direct dominion over mankind. Once that direct dominion is achieved, people can lead the kind of life, for the first time, which God originally intended for them to live.

Love is Most Important

In the Garden of Eden there was no crime or sin. Adam and Eve could do nothing really wrong except to violate the commandment God gave them. Once Adam and Eve had come under the direct dominion that would have meant they had passed through the time of the possibility of the

fall. The only thing that would have been left for them to do was to experience love. Nothing else would have been truly significant. Love is the most essential and important element of the world; unless someone had violated that, nothing would have been a sin. Therefore all a person must accomplish is to receive the “certificate” of God’s love. God can make the world a totally peaceful place. Satan will be unable to complain against God at all. When we finally possess God’s love, we never want to commit a crime or a sin at all. The reason why people commit crimes and sin is that they want something they don’t have. When God’s love is with us we are satisfied and have no need for anything more.

Long and Complicated Route

Since the fall occurred, however, and since restoration efforts have consistently failed, we find that it takes a long and complicated route, step-by-step, to separate from Satan—from the individual level of indemnity, the family level, the clan, society, national, world level, to the cosmic level.

Law of Indemnity

This is not something I made up; the principle of human responsibility has existed from the very beginning, although it hasn’t been so well understood. It existed when Adam and Eve were alive, but all they needed to do was simply keep God’s commandment and live for 21 years faithful to God. Before Satan existed, there was no additional indemnity condition to be met. But with the fall and with the multiplication of Adam and Eve’s fallen family into a society, nation, and world dominated by Satan, human responsibility became heavier. Now we must separate from Satan on every level by fulfilling conditions of indemnity. This law of indemnity is applicable not just for specific individuals or just to Unification Church members but to everyone. Whether someone understands or

believes this law or not, he must eventually go through these steps.

Welcome Persecution

This is the reason why we go the path we go. This is why I have welcomed persecution and will not shrink from the course that lies before me. I never pray to smooth my way or to lighten my burden. I will fulfill my own portion of responsibility.

Cross of Indemnity

Do you need restoration by indemnity or not? Do other Christians need it also? What about Jesus—did he walk the path of restoration by indemnity also? Clearly, that was the path he trod. What about Sun Myung Moon? Yes, no matter what, there is no way I can avoid that. No matter how almighty God is, there is no way even He can avoid the cross of indemnity. He must endure uncertainty and heartbreak as He watches His children stumble along the path. Therefore, we should march on to fulfill our responsibility well.

Jesus completely occupied the love of God, but He did not want to stop there. He knew why God sent him to the world, so he did everything possible to pass along God's love to other people. Jesus received the purest love from God, and he wanted to spread out that love to the whole world. He wanted to make all humankind into God's sons and daughters.

Jesus is our Brother

Jesus wanted all the people of the world to be loved by God, just as he was. Jesus was the one who was first loved by God; all humankind was supposed to be those who were second-loved by God. Therefore, the relationship between Jesus and all humanity is like that between brothers and sisters. How close you can feel to Jesus when you realize that he is your elder brother!

Jesus is not Distant

Many Christians have believed that Jesus and God are the subjects of religion and we are their objects and that subject and object can never get close to each other. They are so high and omnipotent that we can't even think about being on the same level of relationship with them; if we do, that is blasphemy. But we can see that Jesus is not the distant subject of religious belief. He is a part of your daily life, just like brothers and sisters in a family, not like the teacher of a religion relating to his followers. Maybe the first step of relationship had to be distant like that, but eventually Jesus wanted everybody to be a part of the same family.

Remember, the world is God's goal. And just as Jesus willingly gave his life so that the world might live, God wanted all Christians to be willing to give themselves for the salvation of the world. However, today, most Christians are not even close to realizing this heart of God.

God seeks to build one family of humankind. Therefore, the family, church, and nation which God desires transcend all barriers of race and nationality. The people who are a unified blending of all colors of skin, and who transcend race and nationality, are most beautiful in the sight of God and most pleasing to Him.

I have been telling you Christians that you cannot remain idle or indifferent. You cannot just think about your own life and your own family and going to Heaven eventually. That attitude among conventional Christians is a problem.

Need a Spiritual Revolution

Christianity must unite. The church must liberate herself from sectarianism. She must undergo a drastic reform and achieve an ecumenical and an inter-religious unity. For this, we need a spiritual revolution, and it has come in the form of a new

Christian movement. The Unification movement has been created by God to fulfill that mission. The new ideology, which the Unification Church brings, is Godism, an absolutely God-centered ideology. It has the power to bring Christians of all creeds, and other religions and conscientious people, into unity....

Build It with Our Hands

[We must] build the Kingdom of God [on earth]. Then we shall all truly become brothers and sisters under one Father, God. This will be a world of love, a world of happiness. Our planet will be one home, and humanity will be one family. God's will, his long cherished desire from the beginning of time, will finally be fulfilled. This will be the eternal, ideal world of God. Indeed, it will be the Kingdom of God on earth. We will build it with our hands.

This is our supreme mission. It is truly our God-given, sacred mission. God is crying out to the world, and we are His instruments. The world must respond to His call. Listen to God's commandment. Initiate a courageous march towards the Kingdom of God on earth. Whatever the difficulty, let it not stop us. Our march is God's, and it will go on to the end.

Today let us pledge to God Almighty our loyalty and dedication to the fulfillment of this divine mission. In the name of God, let us unite, and together build the Kingdom of God on earth!
(God's Warning to the World, Book II: Reverend Moon's Message from Prison)

REINCARNATION

The theory of reincarnation is incorrect. God created each of us to have only one physical body and one spiritual body. When our physical body dies our spiritual body goes to the spirit world. Our spirit man cannot go into a mother's womb again and take on a new physical body.

The theory of reincarnation came about because of spirit men returning to earth to work with people on earth. Because no one has reached perfection on earth spirit men need to come down to earth and cooperate with people. A spirit man can get vitality elements for his growth from the physical body of the person in whom he or she is working with.

In some cases spirit men so dominate people on earth that they tell the experiences the spirit man had while he lived on earth. When outsiders look at this it appears to be the reincarnation of a passed away spirit man. Memories that some people believe they have of earlier lives they led when they were a man or woman living in the past are really those spirits sharing their lives with the actual person on earth. It is so real because it is the actual lives of another person or persons. In certain people spirits return to help transfer their mission to another. Elijah did that with John the Baptist although John didn't know it. Some people interpret the *Bible* by saying that John the Baptist was the reincarnation of Elijah. John and Elijah are two separate people.

Child prodigies are explained by understanding that spirit men are helping. It is not reincarnation. This also explains speaking in tongues, psychic healing, spiritual possession, multiple personality and some kinds of insanity.

Christianity calls the belief that the spirits of those who have died can make contact with the living on earth—spiritualism or spiritism. Many Christians interpret the *Bible* as saying that the dead “sleep” in their graves until a future resurrection takes place and their bodies will rise from the dead with a new body. All phenomena such as “ghosts”, séances, visions, etc. are only angels and other spirit men. But the *Bible* clearly says that the dead are not asleep and can communicate with those on earth. First Samuel 28 tells of an ancient “séance.” King Saul of Israel wanted to know about a battle with the Philistines he was about to have. In First Samuel 28:7 he orders his servants to find a medium, “Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit that I may go to her, and inquire of her.” They found the woman at Endor. Saul disguised himself and went to her at night and said, “I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee” (verse 8). The medium asked who she should bring up. Saul said: “Bring me up Samuel” (verse 11) and she did. Samuel

prophesied that Saul would be defeated. Christianity is wrong in saying this was just an angel. The clearest instance of communication with those who had died is Jesus talking to Moses and Elijah at the Mount of Transfiguration.

Each of us is influenced by people in the spirit world. Good spirits as well as evil spirits are constantly whispering in our ears. Satan himself will often work with key people to disrupt God's effort to unify mankind. We read that "Satan entered into Judas" (Luke 22:3) and after Satan was through with him and left him then Judas realized what he had done. He took the 30 pieces of silver back and hung himself for betraying Jesus.

This world is a battleground between the forces of God and Satan, between good and evil. Satan has won most of the battles, but God will eventually win the war because mankind now has the *Divine Principle* that teaches us how to stop having give and take with Satan and do as God wants us to do. The *Principle* is not just another theology that we can pick from. It is the absolute truth that will bring God's culture. It is the truth that will unite this world under one ideology.

PASS THE TEST

We should understand that each of us are influenced by spirit men and women and should not make the mistake John the Baptist did. Until we heard the *Divine Principle* we were ignorant of how the world works. After we hear the *Principle* we have the responsibility to do God's will. What is God's will? It is to live God's way of life. When we do this we will raise ourselves spiritually and those men and women in spirit world that surround us. We now know that we are not alone. Good spirits work to help us and evil spirits work to hurt us. We are constantly being tested. When we deny a temptation we grow closer to God and help those spirits attached to us to grow also. It is the only way they can grow. God wants each of us to be strong and make the right decisions. When we succumb to temptations that hurt us we now know that we hurt others as well as ourselves. Dear Reader, never think that you are alone. There are many spirits with you all day long and their salvation from Hell depends on you. Also, when we make the right choices in life we become an inspiration to others to live a higher life and therefore a happier life.

Sun Myung Moon has spoken extensively on Jesus. The following are some excerpts from a speech titled "The True Meaning of Christmas" given on December 25, 1979:

If something is logical then it should be consistent from beginning to end. Christianity today is a worldwide religion, which has prospered for 2,000 years, yet today it is entangled in confusion and chaos. Why? Because the beginning and end of today's Christian thought are not consistent. Look at the contradictions in Christian thought and Christian practice: Jesus came to build one world, but contrary to Jesus' will there are now several hundred denominations dividing Christianity. Greater division has been brought about.

Today the followers of Reverend Moon are being accused and persecuted by the world, but in the sight of God and Jesus we are the true central religion, the orthodox of orthodox. Therefore, I proclaim today that Christianity needs to learn a direction and new way of life. My direction is now being supported by spirit world, Jesus Christ and God Himself. How do you know I'm not the greatest swindler in the world? If you use your own logical minds you can deduce whether what I am saying is true or not.

Why do we need Jesus? Why do we need the Messiah? ... We need a Messiah because we want to have God centered love, and only the Messiah can give us that love. ... We need Jesus in order to learn his way of life, so that we can inherit the tradition of unstained heavenly love. In order to do that, we have to follow his way of life, obeying his instructions.

Could Jesus completely exemplify the heavenly tradition if he were a bachelor? Because Jesus was always a bachelor we have not seen any other tradition, but that was only the first step of Jesus' contribution. He was to have given the world not only a tradition of individual

perfection, but also the tradition of love between husband and wife. As a God centered man he wanted to show how men should live. As a husband he was to show how to be a model God centered husband. Does the *Bible* teach this? Have you ever read in the *Bible* how Jesus loved his wife?

Would God call Jesus a heretic for thinking that he should marry? Christianity does not have the tradition of a husband's love for his wife. Furthermore, Jesus wanted not only to love his wife but to teach her how to set the tradition of wifehood. Does the *Bible* record that tradition? Is there any record of Jesus becoming a father who could teach people the right way to love their children? Is there any indication that Jesus became a grandfather who could show how grandchildren should be loved?

Did Jesus leave any tradition for Christianity of leading a tribe? Is there any tradition for a king and ruler of the world about how to govern with God's love? Is there any tradition of a King of kings who governs without any national or racial prejudice? Is there a tradition for governing not only the physical world but also the spirit world, of showing what the Kingdom of Heaven should be like for eternity?

TRADITION

Is there a tradition of the love of God here on earth? Jesus came to teach this tradition. He struggled by himself but finally was crucified, and there was not much room for him to leave the traditions that God wanted here on earth. Compared to the scope of the mission Jesus came to fulfill here on earth, he spoke only a small bit about the tradition of the love of God. The bulk of it has been left undone. It is essentially true that Jesus must return to pick up that mission and finish it. Isn't that logical?

What is love? What is the love of God from the point of view of Christianity? This world we live in is truly a wilderness, for there is no taste of the love of God in it. People hardly have a concept of the love of God. In this wilderness I came to cry out for the love of God. In itself this is a historical mission. I am proclaiming in this wilderness how the love of God should be.

WILL OF GOD

I came to this world knowing precisely the will of God, and the agony and heart of Jesus. I know what no one else has ever known and I came to proclaim it to the world.

Today people don't write out the word Christmas, but use Xmas instead. Often on a test O means true and X means false. Thus, written as Xmas, Christmas is the false, upside-down message. People are celebrating the wrong kind of Christmas. When you hear me say this it makes sense, but because of this people say I am a heretic who is attacking the 2,000-year-old Christian tradition.

Again, the important thing is which side God is receptive to. If the entire world has another opinion, how can you be so sure God would take my side? When we know that the true meaning of Christmas is that God sent Jesus to bring the true tradition of love, then when we exchange Christmas greetings they will be sweet and acceptable to Jesus.

Jesus led a tragic life of accusation and persecution and finally crucifixion. He truly led the most miserable life, and his one wish would be for one man to step forward and tell the world who he truly was and how he felt, why he cried out on Gethsemane. He would want someone to speak out for him who could look at the world through his eyes, with the tradition of the love of God, and tell the world what to do. Jesus would want that spokesman to vindicate his mission, to

herald the tradition of love that Jesus could not finish during his own life. This is the kind of champion Jesus truly wants to see in this world.

In the fallen world men look at a beautiful woman and think how they can have her for themselves. When Jesus looked at any woman—whether charming, feeble, young or old—Jesus felt she was his sister and thought about how to love her in a pure, heavenly way. When seen through Jesus' eyes, even the ugliest possible woman—so ugly you would have to spell ugly with ten U's—would truly be a sister and he would pour out his genuine heart to her. That's how Jesus looked at all mankind.

Everywhere I go people criticize me and call me a monster who brainwashes people. We have a better term; brainwashing is actually moon-washing, or love-washing.

We are gathered to celebrate the true Christmas because we know God and His purpose; we know Jesus' purpose and intention for coming to this world. And in addition we are handpicked by God to vindicate Jesus and liberate the heart of God by accomplishing what Jesus left undone. If we say Merry Christmas with that mind then God and Jesus would respond thousands of times, "Merry, merry, merry Christmas."

DIVINE MISSION

No other people are truly responding to the call of God. We are given the divine mission which no one else is undertaking. There is nothing greater or more important to God and Jesus and mankind than establishing the tradition of God's love. The commitment you can give that task should be greater than to any other task, and far greater than the dedication of the communists to their cause. Love is supreme; nothing is more perfect or precious. Once established it will remain forever, so for this task there is nothing we cannot spare.

Have you truly loved the world that much? Basically you have been living capriciously, but you must realize that your body is not yours—it should be the personification of God's love. It is the holy temple of God, who is love. It should be a love temple. If someone squeezes you, love juice should come out, and through you people should find salvation and eternal life.

Christmas Day is the perfect day for repentance, for checking how much you have truly lived as Jesus' representative and loved the world as he did. We are the only people inheriting the true tradition of Christmas which God conceived in His heart. The true meaning of Christmas is the tradition of the true love of God.

It doesn't matter how big or small our festivities are; we will celebrate a Christmas which God and Jesus will want to attend. After hearing me, "Merry Christmas" becomes "Concerned Christmas." This year you greet each other with "Heavy Christmas," with the desire that next year we can truly celebrate a Merry Christmas. Will fruitcake and ice cream make a merry Christmas? The true content of Christmas is the amount of love you gave during the year. That is far more dazzling than any amount of decorations.

CHRISTIANS — SECOND CHOSEN PEOPLE

The history of the world has been a nightmare. Jesus tried to teach us the truth, but he was murdered by ignorant people before he could give us the whole truth that would save us. In the next chapter we will learn how God has worked since Jesus to raise mankind to accept the Second Coming of Christ. God has worked with other cultures but His focus has been on raising Christians to be the chosen people to accept the new Messiah.

Let's now look at Christian history to see how God has worked since Jesus to prepare the world for the Third and final Adam who will pioneer the ideal world God has dreamed of for so long.