

Hoon Dok for Children

# The History of God

Book II



Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

## Preface

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The children of today will become the adults who guide our world in the years to come. They mature through developing the ability to distinguish right from wrong, the sublime from the profane, and goodness from evil. Through having a heart of attendance toward God from the start, children lead upright lives and thereby ensure a bright future for the world.

Written for the student in the later years of elementary school or beyond, this volume, *The History of God*, is, in effect, a simplified Divine Principle book, dealing with all that has transpired between God and humankind from the Creation to the present time. It is a companion to *Living with God*, which was published for the younger elementary school student.

*The History of God* comprises three parts:

Part 1, explaining about the living God, His character, the creation, God's blessings and the fall of humankind;

Part 2, recounting the history of God's salvation of fallen humankind and unfolding the story of redemption centered on biblical figures such as Adam, Noah, Abraham; and

Part 3, expounding on the providence to receive the Messiah and the appropriate attitude for children to adopt in the new age.

The new millennium presents us with many opportunities to live lives of great meaning and to help our children to do the same. It is my earnest desire that this book will guide its young readers to lead exemplary lives as we enter this new age together.

Sun Jo Hwang, FFWPU International President

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**The History of God**

**Part 1**

## **The History of God (Part 1)**

### **Section I. God and His Creation**

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### **Section II. The Fall of Man**

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# I. God and His Creation

## 1. The Living God

### God created everything

Look at the world in which we live:  
mountains with peaks soaring towards the heavens, rolling waves of the vast blue oceans spreading endlessly into the horizon; both land and sea



teeming with every possible form of life.

With the coming of spring, beautiful flowers start blooming in the fields, and in the fall the trees magically change color all on their own. In the morning, without fail, the sun rises, and after it sets in the evening, the stars, like diamonds, always brightly shine.

We admire it all because it is so beautiful and exquisite. Bowing our heads, we fall into deep thought. Could all of these wonderful things have appeared on their own? If not, then who could have made them?

In the biblical book of Genesis (1:1-31) is the story of how God made the world. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Then God said "Let there be light," and there was light. When God cast his eyes upon the light, He was happy.

Then God divided the light from darkness, calling the light day and the darkness night. This happened on the first day. Upon the second day, God created water and air, and on the third day God gathered all the water into oceans and said "Let the dry land appear!" and thus the continents were created. And God saw that it was good, so He created the trees and the grass. On the fourth day, He created the sun and the moon; on the fifth, fishes of the sea and birds of the air; on the sixth, all the beasts that roam the earth. Declaring, "Let Us make man in Our image," He made the first man and woman. Finally, after having completed all these things, God rested on the seventh day.

### **An invisible God**

In this world, because we cannot see God with our eyes, some people think that God does not





exist. However, there are a number of things existing on this earth that also cannot be seen. Consider the fragrance of a flower: We can see the flower but not its fragrance. How can we know that the fragrance came from the flower? Even without smelling the fragrance, we can observe the bees and the butterflies being attracted in its direction. Thus, in spite of not seeing it, we know that it exists. Similarly with the wind: Looking at a flag flapping, we see the flag but not the wind. Yet it is the flapping that indicates to us the presence of the wind. We also know that our parents love us, but we cannot see their love directly. Furthermore, we dream in our sleep, go to school the next day and tell our friend about the dream we had. Our friend

might tell us about his dream, but we could not show each other our dreams. Nevertheless, we would not deny the reality of each other's dreams.

We come to know of something by using our five senses. We know of the sun through looking up in the sky, and we are aware of a piano being played nearby when the sound of its keys being struck comes to our ears.

From the aroma coming out of the kitchen, we know that our mother is cooking a big pot of kimchi stew. With blind-

folded eyes, we are sure that what has been placed in our

hands is a balloon, even without seeing it.

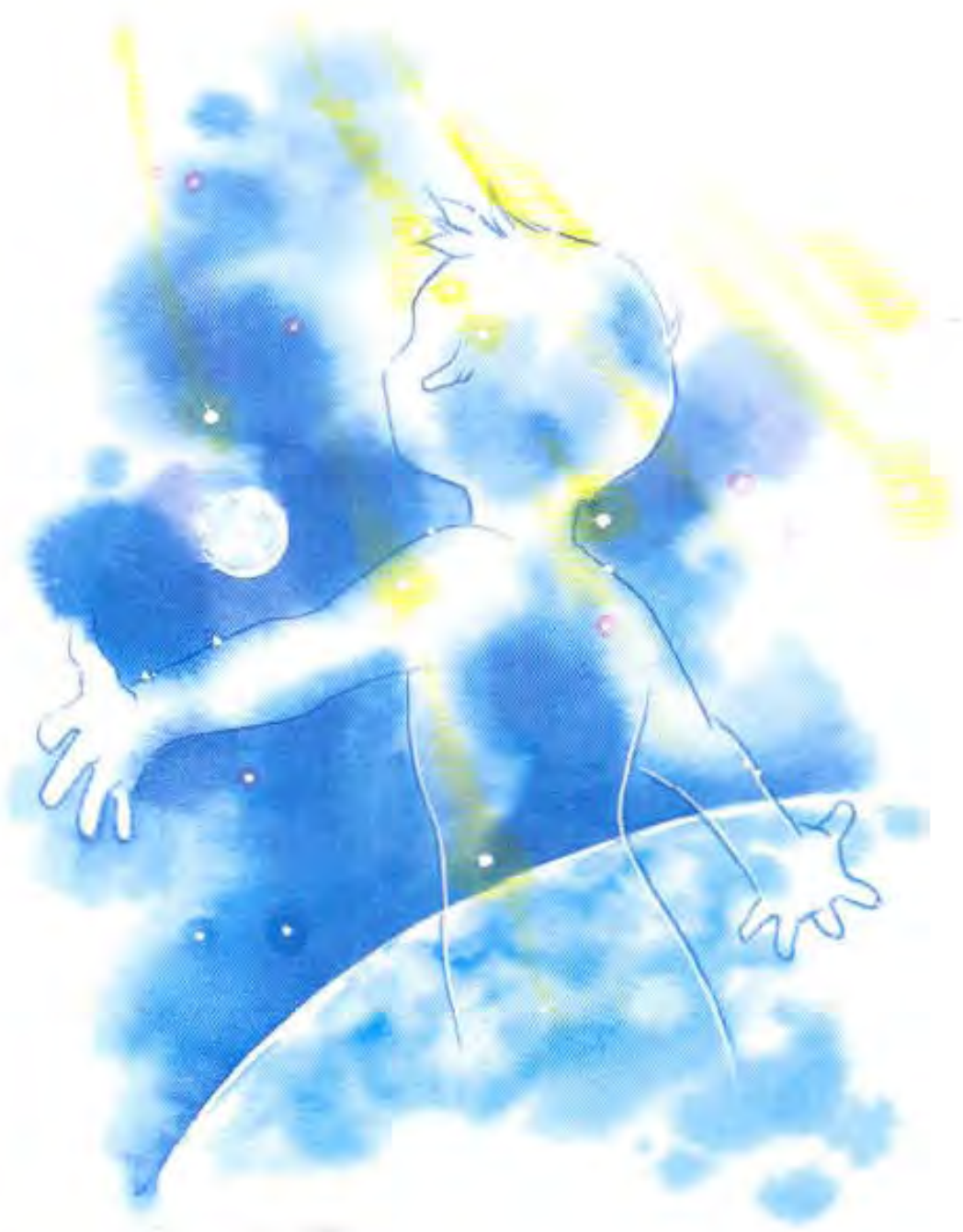
Yet, we cannot detect God by using our five physical senses. We are totally unable to say anything about what God looks like, where He is, or how long He will stay. Even though science has developed a lot, we still have not found a way to see or hear God. If this is so, then how can we know that God exists?



We read someone's mind through their facial expressions, words and actions. Although our mind is invisible, it expresses itself through our actions and language. When you see your friend smiling and speaking in a contented voice, you know that he is in a good mood. But when your friend doesn't want to talk or is crying with his head on his desk, you know that he must be either upset about something, or not feeling very well.

It is the same with understanding God. We can know about God through all things created in this world. Just as our mind and body cannot be separated, God cannot be separated from the world that He created. In the same way that He lives inside our hearts, God is ever present in the trees, the flowers, the oceans, and the sky.

All living beings on this planet are beautiful and mysterious on their own, but they all help each other as they co-exist. The sun lights up the world with strong brightness, while the moon cloaks the world with a gentle light. Together, our dad and mom give birth to us and bring us up. We in turn build close relationships with our friends. Does it seem that all of these things could have come into existence on their own? No, they could not. They are this way only because God made everything on this planet with His love and blessing, and because He is constantly present in the creation.



## **God of wondrous power**

We are living in a huge and vast universe, too great for us to imagine. Even the earth we live on is a comparatively small planet, even though from our viewpoint it seems so vast. When the sun rises, it becomes day, and when it sets, it becomes night. At night beautiful stars twinkle. The stars, numerous beyond our imagination, constantly maintain their

paths in the universe by themselves. The moon waxes and wanes according to its set pattern, without ceasing. Going down to the sea, you watch the tide ebb and flow. Spring, summer, fall and winter follow each other without fail. Science tells us that all these phenomena are governed by laws and principles.

Consider the sun, the earth and the moon: The earth takes a year to revolve around the sun. It also takes a day to rotate on its own axis. The moon takes a month to revolve around the earth. The stars and planets do not move randomly but on a precise course. It is mysterious. Do you think such things could have been accomplished randomly? Not at all! All these things were brought about in accordance with the fixed laws of nature.

There is no way that these laws could go wrong. Water flows from high to low ground just as sure as sunset follows sunrise. The laws of nature did not appear by accident. All living things live, move and help each other to survive because of the heart with which God created the world. Although we cannot see His heart, God helps all living things on earth live in harmony. That is just how great His power is.

- ◆ Talk about how we can know God even though He is invisible.
- ◆ Explain a law of nature that you know of.

## 2. The World Resembles God

How do we go about drawing a picture? First of all, you have to prepare the materials you are going to need for drawing the picture. Next, you think deeply in your heart about what you would like to draw. Then you follow a plan, using the proper materials to draw lines and shapes and use colors on a canvas to make the picture you want. Then the drawing that you produced is like the picture you had in mind. Something visible that looks like your invisible idea has emerged. In the same manner, God first thought in His heart of what He wanted to make, then planned, and, using the right materials, created the final product. We can say that the universe we live in is the visible result of an original image that was in God's mind, which is invisible.

Thus, the world that we live in was created. It did not appear on its own. Within the created world dwells the heart and body of God. If you look at it this way, the world has two attributes akin to God's.



First, all things are made up of a mind and body. In other words, two parts are put together to make one being. Although we may think that only human beings have minds, it is true that animals also have a mind. Even the grass and the trees have feelings. If you own a dog and treat it with love, it will wag its tail and be happy; and if you get angry at it, it becomes dispirited.

This shows us that animals have feelings. Similarly with plants: If we play nice music near them, they grow well, while noisy jarring music stunts their growth. Thus, we see that plants have feelings too. We think that taking care of our body is important, but we need to know that our mind is at least as important. This is what we have in common with all the things of Creation. If we show a loving heart to any aspect of the Creation it will likewise respond, even in some small way. All this is a reflection of God's internal character and external form, and there is nothing in this world that does not share these two natures. This is how our world resembles God.

Secondly, all living things display dual characteristics, namely masculine and feminine; people are divided into men and women, animals into male and female, and the reproductive parts of plants into stamen and pistil. This pair system maintains the existence of each being and makes



possible the multiplication of offspring.

In the book of Genesis, it is written, “in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them.”. In the second chapter, it is stated that “It is not good that man be alone; I will make him a

helper.” So God took one of Adam's ribs while he was asleep and created the woman Eve from it, and brought her to Adam. Thus, original man and woman were perfect partners made to help each other to live in harmony.

Nature itself contains many examples of this harmonious polarity: hot and cold weather, the sun and the moon, summer and winter, day and night. Yet the two opposites do not conflict but rather complement and support each other. They are this way because God's polarity is originally in harmony within itself. Thus the world in which we live resembles God.

◆ Among the members of your family, is there someone who resembles someone else?

◆ Say something about the dual aspects of God. Give some examples of this being reflected in the natural world.



### 3. Everything Exists in Relationships

#### Give-and-take action

Looking at all living things in this world, we realize that they cannot exist by themselves. A man and a woman have to unite their minds and bodies to be able to have children. Nothing can live unless there is the give-and-take of love. We cannot just breathe air in: we must also breathe out. All things of the creation exist in relationships. Life is impossible if any single entity tries to exist by itself. This is something predetermined by God. Give-and-take action is an expression of God's basic nature, and stems from God's primal energy. God loves all things equally and created the cosmos so that everything and everyone would thrive through helping one another. If, in a family, the husband and wife love each other, the parents and children love each other, and the children in turn all love each other, then that family will be a happy one. But if the husband and wife do not



love and trust each other, and if the parents and children do not love and trust each other, and if the children do not love and trust each other, then the family will be divided and unhappy. Societies, nations and the world follow the same principle. These problems will occur if we think of distancing ourselves from God's eternal power and love and try to live in our own self-centered way.

Give-and-take action does not only happen among us. We can also have it with God who created us. Just as God created us and loves us, believing in Him and returning His love is equally important. We have to show God a loving heart and we have to know how to show our love for Him in action. How can we accomplish this? It is important to go to church and pray, but before doing so, we need to love the people around us. This is true because God dwells within each one of us. God is always with us. To love our neighbor is to love God. God never changes. He is always the same. Only we change. We say that we do not know God or that we do not want to find out about him. As a result, many problems have appeared in this world. It is all because we have cut ourselves off from a proper give-and-take relationship with God. The relationship we have with God needs to be close, like those we have with the people around us.

## A lifestyle in which you give first



In a life of give-and-take, you should be happy when you both give and receive. When you give a gift to a good friend, you should feel happy and conversely, when you receive a gift in return, you should also feel happy. When you receive love from your parents, you experience joy and when you help them, you should feel the same thing. But

sometimes we feel that we are losing something by giving to others. This is a wrong way of thinking. It is because we do not have a loving heart towards others. Parents reserve nice-looking and delicious fruit for their children, while keeping the less appetizing ones for themselves. Do you think that they do so because they prefer the ones that do not taste as good? Not really. They give their children the better ones, because seeing the happiness on their faces gives them joy. As you are their beloved child, they give things to you without feeling bad about it. They give and continue to give, yet still do not feel that they have given enough. Thus, if anyone gives a gift to someone else, yet feels it was too precious to give,

that would be because they did not have enough love in their heart.

Jesus told us to do unto others what we would have them do unto us. He who gives love to many will receive much love from many in return. Those helping others will in turn receive much help themselves. There is a saying in Korea that “if you say good things to others, you will receive kind words in return.” It means that if we show kindness to others, they in turn will show kindness to us.

Often, we are nice to people because we expect something in return from them. For example, we may run errands for our parents not really out of a desire to help them, but to receive a reward for doing so. We may not think this is wrong, but it means we are not thinking of doing something good for someone else, but rather we are just thinking of ourselves first. Why do you think we respect our parents? It is because they are always making sacrifices for us without complaining. Many people on this earth revere and love Jesus. They do so because of the hardships he endured, even to the point of giving up his life, in order to save us all. He is the one who gave of himself first.

- ◆ Why do we respect brave and unselfish people in history?
- ◆ Talk about one way you could make your parents happy.

You cannot receive respect from others without doing something for them, or if you are unkind to them. People who give a lot have rich hearts, whereas someone who only enjoys receiving is spiritually poor. A person who has given a lot may be richer than another person who has many possessions! A life in which we first give is a life where we become rich. A person who is rich in heart is filled with God's eternal love and power.

## 4. The Blessings Given to Humankind

### **Why God created the universe**

Nobody likes being alone. If anyone were in a big house all by himself, of course he might be lonely and scared. But if he had someone to talk to, or a book to read, or television to watch, then he would likely feel much better. We are happiest to be among family and friends, aren't we? God is just like us. If God were all alone by Himself, then He would not be happy either. Even though God made all things with His infinite power, don't you think that He too would feel suffocated and isolated all by Himself? It was for all these reasons that God created human beings and the Creation. This is why it is written in the book of Genesis that God declared the things that He had created to be good.

Our parents, who brought us into this world,

feel happy simply by looking at us. God feels exactly the same. He created all things on the earth in order to feel happiness. All God's creatures exist to make Him happy. In the same way that our parents are happy when we do nice things for them or when we listen to them, God experiences great happiness when we feel grateful for His love. That is even greater than the joy He felt when creating the universe. God likes this kind of greater joy. He created us to feel this great joy too, and He wants to feel great joy through us. We can have such happiness if we receive God's love and return our love to Him. This is the reason God made the Creation.



### **The Three Blessings**

We build houses in order to live in them. We make cars so that we can travel quickly and comfortably in them. We go to school to gain the knowledge we need to lead good lives and to get along better with others. All things were created for a purpose. We ourselves may have certain talents

and preferences that help steer our destiny. But what do you think that people were really born on this earth to achieve?

God made Adam and Eve and gave them the Three Blessings, namely “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Gen. 1:28) Let us examine this more closely.

The First Blessing is to be fruitful. This means carrying out good deeds as our mind tells us to (uniting our body with our mind), and through this completely experiencing God's love by becoming a person of goodness. By completely inheriting God's loving heart, we mature and come to reflect God's image, and thereby fulfill the First Blessing.

The Second Blessing is to multiply. This means to create a wonderful family. God was saying that if Adam and Eve were to live by His words, they would become a perfectly loving couple and have children of goodness. God's Second Blessing meant that His children, after growing up and getting married, would have beautiful children and a happy family. Through a couple and their children following God's loving heart, they can make a beautiful family, and many such families together would make a wonderful neighborhood, community, nation and world. Therefore, the



family built upon God's love is the cornerstone for solving all the problems in society.

The Third Blessing is to have dominion over the earth and replenish it. This means to govern

the creation in truth and in love. God made all things so that we could live surrounded by beauty and abundance. However, if we do not understand the real meaning of the Third Blessing, we will end up polluting and destroying nature, and in the end, we will not be able to continue our own existence. Even people who accomplish the first two blessings but fail in the third will not thrive. God gave us these three precious blessings. We fulfill them to live happily and in harmony. Why did God give us these three priceless blessings? It is because we are His children whom He created and whom He loves. We must live in accordance with the pattern of the Three Blessings in order that our world is as happy as God wants it to be.

- ◆ Explain why God created the world.
- ◆ Explain about the blessings God gave to humankind.



## The relationship between God and mankind

God created us so He could look upon us and be happy. As we want to make God happy, how do we go about it? Although we were created along with the rest of the Creation, God made us in order to receive joy on a higher level. Unlike the rest of the Creation, human beings were given the ability to act and think on our own, and therefore to respond to God from our own free will. Our hearts can grow to the point of being able to relate fully with God as our parent.

The relationship between God and a true person is like that between mind and body. If our body followed our mind perfectly, then wouldn't we lead a happy and contented life? Our mind seeks to lead us to do good things. If our body does not follow our mind, then we cannot live in the right way. To become perfect people, we have to follow God's words. In the same way that our mind and body become one, if a person acts with God's love and according



to truth, he will become one with God.

## **God's character**

What kind of person do you think God is? First of all, God is a person with a heart of infinite love. The love of parents towards their children has come down to us from time immemorial to the present age, remaining the same throughout the human race all over the world. Where do you think this love that all parents across the globe have in common comes from? It comes from God who created us as His children. God's heart of love reigns supreme as the highest heart among all other hearts.

Secondly, God is a person with a kind, just and beautiful heart. We hate falsehood and love truthfulness. We applaud kind acts and admire beautiful scenes. We learned to appreciate kindness, beauty and justice from our parents and teachers. This all stems from the original heart of God, from which our own hearts are derived.

Thirdly, God is a person who created laws and principles and follows them perfectly. Everything in



this world, from the smallest atom to the biggest star, obey these laws. Our original potential is to resemble the heart of God. The universe follows the set laws without any problem in order to preserve the laws and principles passed down by God. What do you think would happen to the world if all the laws and principles suddenly collapsed? If the ground were to rise and fall all on its own, and the sun were to remain in the sky for a year, living things would find it hard to survive on the earth. In a sense, God made a promise to all things that they would all be able to live happily. We all continue to exist because God keeps His promise by upholding His laws and principles.

Fourthly, God is eternal and unchanging, being with us everywhere and at all times. God existed before the creation of the sun, before the creation of the earth, and He will live for evermore. He dwells above the clouds and passes through the rustling grass. He soars with the high mountain peaks, and is refreshed in the lush valleys. He traverses the desert sands and mighty oceans, but He is also present with the smallest mouse and each flower that blooms in spring.

God's deep and unchanging heart of love and blessing thus permeates the entirety of the creation.

## II. The Fall of Man

### 1. People with Two Minds

#### The good mind and the evil mind

We consist of mind and body, with the body following the mind. However, our mind is divided between good and evil. Good deeds arise from a good mind, while evil deeds come from an evil mind. The Principle explains how our original mind directs us towards goodness, while our evil mind leads us to be selfish. Our original mind is our good mind. Our evil, selfish mind exists side by side with our original mind within each of us.

For example, what would you do if you found a



watch left lying on a playground? If you want to find the owner, it is possible for you to do so. But you might decide instead to just put the watch into your pocket and simply take it home with you. The desire to get the watch back to its rightful owner arises from your original mind, while the idea of wrongfully keeping it for yourself arises from your evil mind.

These two conflicting natures in us are constantly pulling us in opposite directions. Our original mind strives to propel us along the path towards the higher good, but our evil mind constantly seeks to drag us down the road of wrongdoing. The heart of love goes the way of goodness, while the heart of wanting things self-centeredly goes the way of evil. The struggle between these two conflicting minds causes us great distress. How wonderful it would be if we had never had an evil mind from the very beginning! How joyful we would be if we only had a good mind! If God created us with a heart of love, then why is it that we have not only a good mind, but also an evil mind?

### **Why we have two minds**

The person who created and rules this world is God. God is all knowing and almighty. He never commits evil for He is a God of goodness. God did not create evil; neither did He create evil people from the beginning. Originally, the world He created was full of beauty and goodness, Adam and Eve were



originally beautiful and good people. However, the good human ancestors did something bad along the way and as a result came to have an evil mind. The evil mind does not see the original good mind and God's heart of love. Take the example of a clear pond. In the clear water, we can see the fish swimming, but if a flood sweeps mud into the pond, the water becomes murky and we can no longer see the fish.

- ◆ Give an example of your good mind and evil mind fighting.
- ◆ How do you think you can fight effectively against your evil mind?

## 2.The Fall of Our Ancestors

### God's Commandment

Why do people have two minds? The Bible states that this was caused by the fall of the first ancestors of humankind. Evil came about through the fall. After God created them, Adam and Eve were living in the garden of Eden. God provided them with everything they needed, asking them to take charge of all things living there. He allowed them to eat of all the fruit in the garden, except that from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, saying that if they did so, they would die.

However, the serpent in the garden told Eve that if she ate of the fruit, she would not die, but rather her eyes would be opened and she would become like God. Eve saw the fruit was beautiful and delicious,



and, ignoring what God had said, ate the fruit and gave some to Adam to eat.

After eating the fruit, they discovered the reality of both good and evil. They also realized that they were naked, and, in their shame, covered their lower parts with fig leaves. Before eating of the fruit, they had not known of shame and embarrassment. It was through eating the fruit that they came to feel these

things. Soon, their original mind had become corrupted by evil. For disobeying God's commandment, they were driven out of the garden of Eden.



### **The tree of the knowledge of good and evil**

The Bible explains why we have two minds, in the following manner: Adam and Eve's mistake of deviating from God's commandment became known as the original sin, the first sin committed by humankind. The root of all our sins is the original sin. If we truly want to live a good life





without sin, we need to eliminate this original sin. We must return to the point before the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was eaten. Is that possible? What can we do to reverse our ancestors' misdeeds? What is the real meaning of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Was it a real

fruit like an apple or a pear? It seems strange to think that people became sinful just through the eating of a fruit. Therefore, it could not have been a normal fruit, but must instead contain a hidden meaning, like a puzzle? Can you solve this puzzle?

## **Two trees in the garden of Eden**

The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil stood side by side in the garden of Eden. By knowing what the tree of life represents, we might be able to guess at the meaning of the

Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. The Bible tells us that being a tree of life is the same as reaching our dreams. Adam wanted to become a tree of life. He wanted to reach his dream but his sinful act caused his way to the tree of life to be



blocked by a fiery sword (Genesis 3:24), even though we can clearly see that he greatly desired to reach it.

What was Adam's hope and dream that he could not fulfill? It was to become a perfect man united with God's own heart of deep love. In this way, the tree of life represents a true and perfected man, or Adam after fulfilling the First Blessing.

In searching to understand the meaning of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, we note

that it stood next to the tree of life in the garden of Eden. If the tree of life symbolized Adam, then the tree of the knowledge of good and evil must signify the woman, Eve. Eve's eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil meant that she was not yet perfect. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil bears good fruit if you do good, but bad fruit if you do evil. The fruit carries seeds, which spread and multiply. Although Eve was supposed to have children resembling God's heart of goodness, in fact she came to develop an evil mind, which she passed on to her children. We see that Eve did not live according to God's loving heart, but instead lost her original heart of purity.

This problem was passed on to Adam when he, too, ate the fruit against God's instructions.

### **God's will and human responsibility**

God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If they had obeyed Him, they would have become perfect. Instead, they were unfaithful and broke the commandment, thus falling into sin. Whose responsibility was this? We should take sole responsibility for our actions. Whether we become perfect or not does not only depend on God's ability. This is something that only we can truly do for ourselves. God created us humans, giving us

the responsibility to work on our own perfection, at the same time being clear that He would not interfere with human responsibility.

Why did God decide that we needed to grow towards perfection, rather than make us perfect right at the start? God is the Creator. If we are to be truly in His image, we should become little creators. We cannot make a new kind of bird or flower, but we can help God to make one special thing. We can help God to make ourselves! The growth and perfection of our character is the only part of God's Creation that is left to us, but the entire creation is left incomplete unless it is accomplished. When we fulfill this through our life on earth, we become little creators who resemble the great Creator, our Heavenly Father.

This is the main reason God gave us our portion of responsibility.

- ◆ What is the meaning of the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
- ◆ What is the meaning of eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
  - ◆ Discuss the attitude of being responsible.
- ◆ Why is our earthly life so important in the light of our understanding of human responsibility?
- ◆ Examine your daily life and thoughts to see if you are living with an awareness of your eternal spiritual nature. Talk about this with other people..

## 3. How the Fall Happened

### **The mission of the angels**

Angels are God's servants. They were created before people the rest of the Creation. They assisted God when he made us and the rest of the creation. The angels had the responsibility of raising God's children,



Adam and Eve, in accordance with His word. If they had done that, Adam and Eve would have become perfect and would have risen to a level even above the angels. Unfortunately, the angels did not all want that to happen and among them was one who so disliked the idea that he abandoned the position of responsibility God had entrusted him with. Who was he and what was the duty he failed to fulfill?

### **The fall of the angel**

In the garden of Eden, the angels had different missions. The angel Lucifer dominated God's love within the angelic world and held the position of an archangel. Lucifer received the most love from



God before Adam and Eve were created. However, God loved Adam and Eve as His children, and as they continued to receive His love, they grew more and more beautiful. Lucifer felt as if he were receiving less love.

Lucifer wanted to have the same central position in human society that he had enjoyed in the angelic world, as the channel of God's love. For this reason he wanted to take over the position Adam and Eve held. Lucifer approached Eve in the manner of a serpent, and this meant that he had transformed himself from an angel of goodness into the evildoer, Satan.

Lucifer had forgotten his own position of being a servant and became greedy for love. Eve became curious about love prematurely. The two of them then began an unprincipled relationship. As Lucifer the angel was a spirit being, their relationship also took place spiritually. They thus committed the spiritual fall, which was an evil act not of the physical body but of the spirit.

When all beings become one in love, they exchange elements with each other. As Eve became

one with Lucifer through love, she received feelings of dread and guilt; she also came to realize that God had intended Adam to be her partner rather than Lucifer. In the same way that the Archangel tempted her, Eve in turn tempted Adam. Thus, Adam fell when he, too, was still immature. This untimely love relationship between Adam and Eve is called the physical fall.

The physical fall followed from the spiritual fall. Were it not for the spiritual fall, the physical fall would not have taken place. Eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil came to mean committing the fall both spiritually and physically.

Because God knew of the possibility of Adam and Eve falling before reaching perfection, He gave them the commandment to on no account eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. If the ancestors of humankind had obeyed this commandment, thereby fulfilling their responsibility, they would have reached perfection and come to occupy positions of governing the entire Creation including the angels. As a result of Adam and Eve ignoring God's instructions, humankind fell into a pattern of the self-centered love and began its long and sinful history.

◆ From the environment around us, can you find evidence that the fall of man was something to do with the misuse of love?

## The aftermath of the fall

We have learned how the Archangel Lucifer and Eve fell into sin. In an encounter of false love, it is not possible to sin alone, as the act of love requires a partner. The crime committed by the ancestors of humanity has been recorded in the Bible in the following way.

God called to Adam: "Where are you?"

Adam responded, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

And God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

Before they fell, Adam and Eve were both

naked, and were not ashamed. After the fall, however, they felt ashamed of their nakedness and sewed fig leaves together into aprons to cover their lower parts. If they had committed a crime by eating some actual fruit from a tree called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, then they certainly





would have covered their hands or mouths instead.

It is human nature to conceal one's faults. Thus, the act of covering their lower parts shows that these parts, and not their mouths, were the source of their shame. Adam concealed his lower parts after the fall, indicating that he felt guilty about something to do with that part. Adam and Eve's lower parts were the source of their shame because they were the instruments of their sinful deed. Which sin could one commit with the lower parts? It could be nothing else but the act of fallen love, also known as an improper sexual relationship. An improper relationship between a man and a woman can take place either before or outside a lawful marriage.

From the viewpoint of God's purpose of creation, love should be the most precious and sacred act. But because the act of love was the very cause of the fall, people often feel guilty or ashamed about it, or joke about it. Love that is misdirected and thus causes us to fall short of our potential as God's children is what really led to the fall of the first human ancestors.

### **A lifestyle of purity**

Adam and Eve were supposed to have obeyed God's commandment and protected their love until the time they would have reached maturity.

In the fullness of time, they would have had children centered on God's love. However, because

they chose to fulfill their love before the appointed time, God's desire remained unfulfilled. Their inability to embody God's joy and beauty plunged God into sadness. Hatred, cheating, lying, fighting, and robbing other people makes God unhappy; but what saddens God most is the misuse of love. Particularly the wrongful use of love before the time is ripe is abominable to God.

Keeping our mind and body clean and unstained by sin makes it possible for us to live a life of purity, which is beautiful and precious. If we use a knife for a good purpose, we can do something very useful.

But when wrongfully used, a knife can cause harm to innocent people. It is the same with love. By keeping our mind and body pure our lives contribute to a good world. In contrast, failing to live in purity, means we damage other people and our community. Only through purity can we return to the original state that God intended us to live in.



- ◆ Discuss with your parents about the fall of Adam and Eve
- ◆ What can we do to lead a life of purity?

## 4. The Results of the Fall

Through a blood relationship with Satan, we became his children. In his time, Jesus told the Jews that they were “of their father the devil” (John 8:44), also referring to them as a “brood of vipers” (Matthew 3:7). These verses indicate to us how, because of a premature love relationship, we became the descendants with the wrong blood lineage.

After the fall, this world came under the domination and ownership of Satan. What would have been a peaceful world was transformed into a world of hatred, murder, war and lies. Nowadays, the number of youths that deceive their parents is

increasing. At home, parents and children fight, and children fight among themselves. On

a larger scale, nations break treaties, criticizing and even fighting each other. Countless people die every year from starvation, disease and war. Through his blood relationship with humankind, Satan influences people to



multiply sin and evil through all these acts of wickedness, and thereby continues to keep them under his dominion.

Where do you really think Satan exists? What do you think he looks like? In the same way that we wonder what God looks like, we also wonder about Satan's appearance. Actually, Satan lives inside of us; he dwells within our evil mind.

However, as we were originally created by God, in spite of Satan's influence, we have the power to do good by God's grace. When we sin, our conscience bothers us. Inside our mind, which is divided between good and evil, God and Satan, are battling over us.

Through our original nature, which is connected to God's heart, we strive to lead good lives. God sends good spirits and angels to motivate people towards acts of goodness. The Bible contains many examples of how not only angels, but also prophets of old, and even Jesus himself, were sent to help certain people to accomplish their missions. Thus, throughout human history, God and Satan have been locked in the constant struggle between good and evil.

- ◆ Can you see the results of the fall of man in our society?
- ◆ How did God react to the fall of man? What did it mean for Him?



**The History of God**

**Part 2**

## The History of God (Part 2)

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# I. God's Providence of Salvation

## 1. God's Heart



When God first made all things and human beings, how do you think He felt? Looking in the Bible, it is clear that He was happy. The joy from making something is greater than any other. To accomplish God's will, man and woman are supposed to help each other, by working together to create new life forms, thereby becoming father and mother.

As human beings, we experience the greatest joy when we become parents. For that to happen, we need to have a loving heart, which is a heart of joy.

The happiness that God first felt was His loving heart, which in Korean is called *shimjung*. *Shimjung* is the most essential part of God's character. He does not turn his back on us, whom He created. Having lost His sons and daughters, He goes out to look for them in order to bring them back to His heart. Throughout history, God has given all his energy to save us.

To fulfill God's purpose of creation, we have to

understand it well. Because all things exist in relationships, we have to do our best to give love to others in our relationships. By doing so, we are also returning love to God.

## **2. God's Plan to Save All People**

Adam and Eve fell away from God through eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and were driven out of the garden of Eden. The creation lost their masters and has been groaning in travail ever since. Although the fall was a direct result of human error, God as the creator could not but take the responsibility for their plight. For the sake of God's own happiness, He could not simply discard the very children He had created, even if they had sinned.

God therefore set about to save fallen man. Since then, He has been working unceasingly towards this purpose. In this, there are set laws and guidelines to be followed. This is called the "providence of salvation." When people fall sick, they consult a doctor and must follow his prescription in order to regain their health. Similarly, for this world to be cured from sin, we must follow the prescribed path and direction of restoration.

- God created this world. This happened according to a detailed plan involving different stages one after



another. As the ideal world was planned and made according to exact laws and rules, its restoration cannot simply be carried out in a haphazard manner. God's providence of restoring humankind progresses according to specific laws and principles.

### **3. Restoration Through Indemnity**

Human beings were supposed to have lived relating only with God. However, due to their fall, they found themselves in a position where they were serving two masters, God and Satan. For example, if a person does not believe in Jesus, yet leads a conscientious and virtuous life, Satan cannot drag him into hell; yet God cannot bring him to Paradise either as long as he does not believe in Jesus. He remains in the midway position. Thus, a fallen person will go to God's side by making good conditions and to Satan's side by making evil conditions. To receive salvation, we have to separate ourselves from Satan, and return to the original state of Adam and Eve before the fall. We need to meet the Messiah, eliminate our original sin, through which we are saved. The Messiah is the person through whom fallen people can be restored centering on God's word. To receive his help, we need to have a perfect reciprocal relationship with him, thereby severing our ties with Satan. If everyone could establish a relationship with God

through the Messiah, then we would all be living harmoniously in a peaceful world. With the Messiah as its center, that world would be one family under God.

When someone has lost his original position or state, he must make some condition to be restored to it. The making of such conditions of restitution we call indemnity. Suppose two people who once loved each other come to be on bad terms; they must make some condition of reconciliation before the love they previously enjoyed can be revived.

In like manner, it is necessary for human beings who have fallen from God's grace into corruption to fulfill some condition before they can be restored to their true standing. We call this process of restoring the original position and state

through making conditions “restoration through indemnity,” and we call the condition made a “condition of indemnity.”

God's work to restore people to their true, unfallen state by having



them fulfill indemnity conditions we call the “providence of restoration through indemnity.” However great our sins may be, God is giving us the opportunity to cleanse them. Why would He do that? As our Parent, that is the extent of His love for us as His children.

No matter how bad we are, our parents will, sooner or later, forgive us. In the same way that our parents set certain conditions for us to be forgiven, repentance, faithfulness or going through a course of suffering are some of the conditions that religious people have to fulfill in order to receive God's forgiveness and regain His heart of love.

#### **4. The Purpose of Meeting the Messiah**

The Messiah comes in the position of the True Parents of humankind, so that people born from fallen parents can be reborn without the original sin. For us to return to the original state before the fall, we must leave the realm of satanic domination. To eliminate our original sin, we must be born again through the True Parents, the Messiah.

What would happen if a hospital were prepared with the best medicine and equipment but had no doctors? The hospital would not be able to fulfill its purpose. Even if all the necessary preparations had been made to restore us from our fallen state, if we fail to meet the one person capable of curing us of



the original sin, all those preparations would have been in vain. Among all ailments, the original sin is the only one curable by one person alone, namely the savior of the world, the Messiah.

A patient requiring surgery can only undergo the operation after certain necessary procedures have been carried out first. Likewise, we need to make extensive preparation before meeting the Messiah who will save us.

The first stage involves the laying of a foundation of faith by demonstrating to God that He can trust you. This might consist of prayer, serving others, fasting, or making an offering of ourselves in some other way, in order to re-establish the foundation of faith lost by Adam. By learning about God's will and heart, treasuring our church life, and

leading a life of holiness and purity, we can establish our own foundation of faith.

The second stage consists of laying what is known as the foundation of substance. To substantiate something means to demonstrate it factually. In other words, we are challenged to prove our faith by our works. If we are unable to love our neighbor whom we can see, how can we say that we love God whom we cannot see? God wants to see His children living in harmony with each other before they come before Him to make an offering.

Establishing the foundation of faith and the foundation of substance are the conditions necessary for us to prepare for meeting the Messiah. The providence of salvation requires us to build up our faith and then to put it into everyday practice. God's



ultimate plan was to send the Messiah to save humanity, but first He prepared a foundation through the families of Adam, Noah, Abraham, and others, in accordance with the laws of indemnity. By studying providential history, we discover how hard God worked to create the conditions for the Messiah to be able to come into the world.

### **Human responsibility**

The fulfillment of God's will was not entirely accomplished by Him solely. Of course it is not possible to give an exact mathematical ratio between God's and man's portions of responsibility. We can however say that our part is miniscule compared to that of God's. Nevertheless, that small part must absolutely be accomplished for God's will to be completely realized. To do the will of God, we will have to find ways and means on our own. God cannot and will not interfere with the decisions we have to make for ourselves. Because man has not fulfilled his portion of responsibility, God's providence of restoration remains unfinished until now. If everything depended on God, He would never have left this world in its present evil state. God wants to see us take full responsibility as His children and work together with Him to advance His dispensation.

◆ Can you give an example of when you set up a foundation of faith?



God found His champions of faith in Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, with whom He established His covenant to send a savior into the world and restore our relationship with Him. Through this family, God found the Israelite people who came to play a central role in the divine providence. The Old Testament recounts the history of the Israelites and of the Jews, whereas the New Testament deals with the Christians, the followers of Christ. Judeo-Christian history reveals clear patterns of God's providence of restoration, which started from a family, then developed into a community, spreading out over the national level to reach worldwide status in the present day. It is not just the people of Israel but also those of every nation that have come to deeply understand God's heart and will through reading the Bible. For God does not just love one race or nationality, but actually the whole world.

## 2. Adam's Family

### **Cain and Abel**

After Adam fell, God immediately tried to restore his family. Adam and Eve were originally meant to serve only God but after their fall found themselves in the midway position between God and Satan. God therefore could not use them to launch the providence of restoration and instead selected





their two sons Abel (the younger) and Cain (the elder) to represent God's and Satan's sides respectively.

One day, Cain, being a farmer, made an offering to God from the harvest of his field, while Abel, being a shepherd, sacrificed one of his animals on God's altar. God, however, rejected Cain's offering, choosing to accept only Abel's. What do you think was the reason for God's acting in this way? Why did God love Abel and hate Cain? The reason stems from the circumstances surrounding the fall of Adam and Eve.

Eve had a love relationship first with an angel, and next with Adam prematurely.

She thus fell twice, firstly with the wrong partner, and secondly with the right partner (Adam) but at the wrong time. From this viewpoint, the second fall was more forgivable than the first. In initiating His providence of restoration, God had to make a division between good and evil within Adam's family. Cain as the elder son represented the fruit of the first relationship on the evil side, while Abel as the younger son represented the fruit of the second relationship on the good side. Thus, God could not deal directly with Cain's offering because he represented God's enemy. As Abel made an acceptable offering in conformity with God's words, he was able to become the central figure for the foundation of faith. It now remained for Cain and Abel to become one and thereby establish the foundation of substance. It was up to Cain to leave Satan's side by abandoning his false beliefs and go to God through loving Abel as God loved him.

Instead, Cain was disappointed that God did not receive his offering. God sought out Cain and asked him, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin



is couching at the door. It's desire is for you, but you must master it." (Genesis 4:6-7)

God wanted Cain to distance himself from sin and to get closer to Abel. Instead, Cain killed Abel in the field. He could not understand God's heart and in his anger committed a great sin. Resulting from this murder of Abel by Cain, the foundation of substance could not be laid in Adam's family. Consequently, Adam's family could no longer be used in the providence of restoration. At the age of 130, Adam had a third son named Seth, who took the place of Abel in representing God's will.

### **Lessons we can learn from Adam's family**

We need to understand God's providential plan by studying the roles of Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel. Firstly, God's will can only be fully accomplished when both God and man fulfill their respective portions of responsibility. Secondly, God's will is absolute. This means He will find another person to be the central figure if one fails. Thus, Seth took over the position of Abel in representing God's side. Thirdly, Cain was supposed to love Abel from God's viewpoint and humbly learn God's will from Abel. Through that, they would have become one with God, living up to His expectations.

Unfortunately, God's plan to save humankind through Adam's family came to be delayed for a very long period of time.

### 3. Noah's Family

#### Noah's call

Seeing the evil sins that were being committed by human beings, God regretted having made man. However, Noah was a good man and God wanted to make a new start for humankind. Therefore, God devised a plan for salvation centered on Noah's family, choosing Noah as the central figure to restore the foundation of faith.

#### The flood judgment

God planned to destroy the world full of evil and sin with a flood. He told Noah to build an ark and enter it with his family and one male and one female of every type of animal.

Noah believed in God's word. Despite being scorned and ridiculed by everyone else, he devoted 120 years to building the ark.

Soon after the ark had been completed, and once its doors were closed, it rained continuously for forty days. The flood swept over the whole land, drowning all of the people and the animals that were not in the ark. The ark floated on the waters for





many months. After the waters abated, Noah's ark landed on the summit of Mount Ararat. Forty days later, Noah opened the window of the ark and sent forth a raven, which circled about looking for a place to land until the waters

subsided. Noah also sent out a dove which flew about but then returned to the ark because it found no place to land, and Noah took it back inside. Seven days later, Noah sent forth the dove a second time. Still the water had not yet dried, and again the dove returned, this time carrying in its mouth an olive leaf, indicating that there would be a place for it to land the next time. After another seven days had passed, Noah sent out the dove for the third time. This time the dove did not return to the ark, for the ground was dry. When the dove did not return, Noah's family finally came out from the ark and walked on the land which had been purged of sin and made new.

The story indeed carries a deeper meaning: the ark that Noah made symbolized the cosmos which God had created; the members of Noah's family symbolized humanity; and the animals brought into the ark symbolized the entire natural world. The

forty-day flood corresponded to the period of chaos before the creation of the universe. The raven circling about signified that Satan would be looking for a condition through which he could invade Noah's family.

### **Ham's mistake**

After the flood judgment, Noah became drunk from wine and fell asleep naked in his tent. When Noah's second son Ham saw his father lying naked in his tent, he felt ashamed of Noah and took offense. Ham stirred up the same feelings in his brothers, Shem and Japheth. Swayed by Ham to feel ashamed of their father's nakedness and turning their faces so as not to behold the sight, they walked backwards and covered their father's body with a garment. When Noah woke up and found out what Ham had done to him, he said, "Cursed be Canaan! A slave



shall he be to his brothers.” (Genesis 9:25)

Why was it such a sin for Ham to feel ashamed of Noah's nakedness? God, through the forty-day flood judgment, had cleansed the earth of corrupted humanity and had planned to set up Noah as the second ancestor in the place of Adam for the restoration of mankind.

God expected that the members of Noah's family would react to Noah's nakedness without any feelings of shame, as He wanted to recover the joyful heart that He had felt when looking at Adam and Eve in their innocence before the Fall.

Had Ham been one in heart with Noah, regarding him with the same heart and from the same standpoint as God, he would have looked upon his father's nakedness without any sense of shame. He should have loved and been proud of Noah no matter what. Instead, Ham's feelings of shame were a sign that he was not close to his Father, but was still connected to the realm of the fall. He could not inherit the position of Abel from which to establish the foundation of substance.

Tragically, when Ham made his seemingly small mistake, allowing Satan to taint them, God's will centering on Noah's family ended in failure.

- ◆ Discuss what kind of people God's central figures must be.
- ◆ How did the providence in Adam and Noah's families fail?

## 4. Abraham's Family

### **Abraham's call**

After an indemnity period of ten generations and four hundred years had passed since Noah, God called Abraham, the firstborn son of Terah, an idol maker. An idol is something that is made to fulfill the role of a god, but is not related to God.

Abraham, whose original name was Abram, lived in the fertile land of Haran. One day, God came to him and told him to leave his homeland, relatives and father's house and go to another land. God said, "I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great." (Gen.12:2)

In obedience to God's command, Abram left his father's house. Based on this faithful response, God established Abraham as the new central figure in the providence of salvation. He was an ordinary person called to pioneer a new history, chosen as a righteous person following God's call to transform a world without faith into a world of faith.

### **A small offering and a big offering**

God commanded Abraham to offer a dove and a pigeon, a ram and a goat, and a heifer, instructing him to first cut them in half. Abraham cut the ram, the goat and the heifer in two, but he did not do so for the dove and pigeon.





Because Abraham did not cut the dove and pigeon in two, as he should have, birds of prey came down and defiled the sacrifices. At sunset, God came to Abraham and said to him, "Your descendants will be sojourners in a

land that is not their own, and will be slaves there, and will be oppressed for four hundred years."

Why was it a sin not to cut the birds in half? God's work of salvation aims to restore the sovereignty of goodness by first dividing good from evil and then destroying evil and uplifting the good. Because Abraham did not cut the dove and pigeon in half, the birds of prey, symbolizing Satan, invaded the offering. Not dividing the birds had the effect of handing over the entire offering to Satan.

When a person has failed to make an offering, he must make another one to return to the original state, this time a greater sacrifice than the first. As a result of Abraham's seemingly small mistake, his descendants the Israelites were destined to enter Egypt and suffer as slaves, and God's providence would be delayed by another four hundred years.

After Abraham failed in the symbolic offering, God commanded him to sacrifice his only son Isaac



as a burnt offering. Isaac was Abraham's beloved son born to him at the age of 100, but Abraham obeyed the order unquestioningly. Abraham's faith was absolute. In obedience to God's command, he was about to kill Isaac, his only son when God intervened at that moment, calling out, "Abraham, Abraham! Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." (Genesis 22:11-12)

Father and son then offered a ram together.

When Abraham was prepared to slay his son, even the son that had been born by a miracle, he demonstrated utmost loyalty to God. Abraham and Isaac were completely united in their faith in God's will. Though Isaac and Abraham were two different

individuals, they became as one person in the sight of God. By faithfully obeying God's will, Isaac inherited the divine mission from Abraham and restored through indemnity the foundation of faith.

### **Jacob and Esau**

The work of Abraham's family to restore Adam's family continued through Isaac's two sons. For this purpose, Esau and Jacob had to be placed in the divided positions of Cain and Abel respectively.

Jacob and Esau were twins who began fighting in their mother Rebekah's womb. Jacob, as the second son who had the responsibility to restore the birthright of the firstborn son, cleverly obtained it from Esau in exchange for some bread and a pottage of lentils. Because Jacob highly valued the birthright and worked to reclaim it from his brother, God had Isaac bless him.

Esau sought to avenge himself on Jacob by killing him, but bloodshed was prevented by their mother Rebekah, who sent Jacob away to the house of her brother Laban in Haran. There, after suffering through twenty-one years of drudgery, Jacob triumphed over the ungenerous Laban in the fight to restore the birthright by gaining family and wealth as his due inheritance. When Jacob returned to his homeland with his family and wealth, he offered them to Esau to overcome his brother's hostility. When Esau opened his arms and affectionately

welcomed Jacob, they fulfilled the indemnity condition to remove the fallen nature, and for the first time, the foundation of substance was laid successfully. At last, the foundation for the Messiah was established in Isaac's family.

However, God could not send the Messiah at that time. By Abraham's time, fallen people had already built up satanic nations that could easily overpower his family. Hence, the Messiah could not have safely come on that foundation. A foundation of a sovereign state was needed to cope with the nations of the satanic world. Though the descendants of Isaac had established the family foundation for the Messiah, they would leave their homeland and suffer in a foreign land for four hundred years as the penalty for Abraham's mistake.



◆ Why was the meeting between Jacob and Esau after twenty-one years so important?

## 5. The Story of Moses

### The Hebrews

As God had said, Abraham's descendants lived as slaves in Egypt for 400 years. Their misery was reflected in God's words to Moses:



“I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; for I know their sufferings.

So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey...

Now, therefore, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to Me, and I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

Come now, therefore, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” (Exodus 3:7-10)

At that time, Egypt was a military superpower that had conquered many neighboring countries and enslaved their peoples.

These slaves either waited on the Egyptians or performed hard labor. At that time, the children of Israel suffering there in bondage were called Hebrews. God allowed His beloved chosen people to go through trials for four hundred years. During that time, He planned to deliver them out of their plight. It is said that those whom God loves, He chastises, in order to raise them up by strengthening their faith.



## **Moses the chosen one**

At this point in history, God's providence of restoration extended from the level of Abraham's family to the level of the Israelite nation centered on Moses. God called Moses to save the children of Israel, with the purpose of sending them the Messiah. Thus, Moses was chosen as the central figure to establish the foundation of faith on the national level in order to receive the Messiah. What kind of a person do you think Moses was?

As the number of Hebrew slaves in Egypt gradually increased, the King of Egypt (called the Pharaoh) became alarmed and ordered all newborn male Hebrews to be killed, while sparing the girls. A Hebrew family consisting of the father Amram, the mother Jochebed, a son Aaron and a daughter Miriam, lived by the River Nile. Jochebed gave birth to a third child, a boy who came to be named Moses. Moses remained in his family's house until the age of three months.

Because they could no longer keep Moses secretly, his family placed him in a reed basket, setting it afloat on the River Nile. The baby in the basket was discovered among the bulrushes by an Egyptian princess, who decided to adopt and raise him as her own child. Realizing that the princess would need a nurse to care for the baby, Miriam introduced her mother Jochebed to her. While receiving the education of a prince in the palace,

Moses was also educated by his mother about God's heart and will.

Despite the comforts of palace life, Moses remained faithful and loyal to God. His heart was broken as he saw his people suffering under the Egyptians. One day, seeing one of his brethren being mistreated by an Egyptian taskmaster, Moses was incited by his burning love for his people; he struck and killed the Egyptian.

The next day, when Moses tried to stop two Hebrews from fighting each other, the one who was in the wrong defied him by referring to his act of killing the Egyptian the day before. Afraid that the matter would soon reach Pharaoh's ears, Moses fled





into the wilderness of Midian. He had failed to gain the trust of the Israelites, and at the same time was driven out of Egypt.

Moses' act of killing the Egyptian was an expression of God's heart of burning indignation as he looked down upon the affliction of His people. Because the Israelites mistrusted Moses and opposed him, the foundation of substance could not be established. Then God came looking for Moses.

### **Moses leads his people out of Egypt**

Moses still wanted to save the Israelites from their drudgery, but knew sadly that he had little power of his own to do so. One day, he heard God's voice coming from a bush that was in flames.

“I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. You shall lead my people into the land that I shall give them.” Moses answered cautiously, “Lord, how would I accomplish such a great task?”

Even as God scolded Moses for being timid, He also gave him courage, “Fear not, for I will always be with you.” Moses drew strength from God's words and set about the work of delivering the Israelites out of Egypt.

God gave Moses the power to perform three miracles and bring ten calamities, also providing his brother Aaron to support him as his spokesman, going together to meet with Pharaoh, the King of



Egypt. Moses demanded of Pharaoh that the Hebrews be allowed out of Egypt to serve their God in the wilderness. When Pharaoh refused the request, Moses sought to persuade him by performing three miracles.

The first miracle consisted of Moses casting down his staff in front of Pharaoh, turning it into a snake that swallowed up the snakes of Pharaoh's magicians. For the second miracle Moses put his hand into his bosom and it became leprous. When Moses put his hand back to his bosom again, it was healed. To perform the third miracle, God instructed Moses to pour water from the Nile on the ground and it would turn to blood.

In spite of being shown these three signs, Pharaoh would not let the Hebrews go. Through the ten plagues, God had Moses liberate the Israelites from Egypt. He turned dust into lice, covered the land with flies and frogs, and made the livestock sick. Epidemics broke out all over the country, and hail and brimstone rained down from the sky.

Locusts devoured the crops, and God blanketed Egypt in thick darkness for three days. After Pharaoh deceived the Israelites ten times with the false promise that he would release them, God struck the firstborn of the Egyptians, both humans and livestock. When the Pharaoh's first son could not avoid the misfortune of dying, Pharaoh finally let God's people go.



After four hundred years of slavery, the Israelites were at last free. They crossed the wilderness and headed for the promised land of Canaan. However, the task to restore a nation proved to be very difficult, as there were many trials to overcome in the wilderness.

## **The Ten Commandments**

Moses alone was called to the summit of Mount Sinai, where God commanded him to fast for forty days to receive the Ten Commandments inscribed on two tablets of stone. The Ten Commandments were ten laws for the people to obey. When Moses came down from the mountain with the tablets of stone



and went before the Israelites, he found them worshipping a golden calf. Unable to control his anger, Moses threw down the tablets of stone and broke them.

God appeared again to Moses and gave him another pair of stone tablets identical to the first pair, with the Ten Commandments

inscribed on them. The Ten Commandments formed the center of the covenant, or agreement, between God and the Israelites.

### **Moses' mistake of striking the rock twice**

Crossing the Sinai Desert, the Israelites stopped at Kadesh. There was no water there, so the people started complaining to Moses, "Give us water!... Why did you bring us out of Egypt, if we are to suffer like this?"

God told Moses to bring forth water, and to give it to the people. But, as the people were still complaining, Moses struck the rock twice with his staff, and had them drink of the water of the rock. But this was a sin in the eyes of God:

"Because you did not believe Me, to hallow me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore, you shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them."

Moses only saw Canaan, the land he had wished for in his dreams, from the top of Pisgah, on Mount Nebo. He never actually could set his foot in it. He was buried in the valley opposite Beth Peor. But no one knows where the burial place is.

Why would Moses' hitting the rock twice be a sin? The reason is that striking the rock twice was the same as striking the Messiah, who is the rock. The rock that could not bring forth spring water symbolizes fallen Adam. Therefore, striking the rock



once has the meaning of restoring Adam. But striking the rock again symbolized striking the Messiah, or the restored Adam, and allowed Satan to invade. In the end, because Moses couldn't completely fulfill his responsibility, he couldn't set his feet on the land of Canaan before he died.

### **Men of faith**

After Moses had brought the Israelites out of Egypt, and while crossing the desert during the journey toward the land of Canaan amongst all kinds of difficulties, God instructed Moses to send spies into Canaan, the land He had promised them.

Moses chose one person from each tribe, a total of twelve spies, and told them to go and observe the land of Canaan. The twelve chosen went to a point near Canaan and, for a period of forty days, studied in detail what kind of people were living there.

“It is good land. There are good things growing on the land. And the people of the place are as strong as giants. And their castle is surrounded by a high wall,” ten spies reported, speaking against entering Canaan. But two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, said, “Don't be afraid. God will help us,” and spoke in favor of entering Canaan.

That night the people of Israel cried out in resentment towards Moses and Aaron. They wanted to kill them there and then and return to Egypt. Then God said to them, “Those of you above the age of 21 shall not enter the land of Canaan. You shall wander in the wilderness for forty years and only your children will be able to enter Canaan.”

So in the end, those who could not keep their faith ended up dying in the wilderness.

### **Joshua and the conquest of Canaan**

Because Moses struck the rock twice at Kadesh, he was not allowed to enter Canaan and in his place, Joshua became the leader of the Israelites. Through this, Joshua, on inheriting the mission of Moses, became the central figure for the foundation of faith. Joshua was a very brave man.

He was determined to lead the Israelites into Canaan and attack it.

But the Canaanite villages all had strong castle walls surrounding them. The walls of Jericho, on the edge of the Jordan River, were especially strong and it was extremely well guarded by soldiers.

Nevertheless, Joshua was not afraid or worried at all because he believed God would help them.

Joshua put the Ark of the Covenant in the front and started leading the Israelite soldiers across the Jordan River. Then, all of a sudden, the water stopped flowing. The priests who were holding the Ark of the Covenant put the sacred Ark in the middle of the river and waited until everyone had crossed the river safely. They joyfully went forward, believing that God was with them.

In front of them stood the walls of Jericho. Joshua then started praying. At that moment an angel appeared to him and told him how to achieve victory. The priests and soldiers of Israel then circled the walls of Jericho once a day for six days.

On the seventh day, after going around the walls, they all shouted loudly, accompanied by the sound of trumpets. Immediately, the city walls collapsed. With that, Canaan became the Israelites' land, the land God had promised them. After taking Canaan, Joshua divided the land properly among the tribes. The foundation of substance was established by the Israelites for the first time. The Israelites, who failed





to trust Moses, united centering on Joshua. Now the Israelites would become the nation that would wait for the coming Messiah.

Prior to his death, Joshua gathered all the leaders of the twelve tribes and spoke to them, asking them to become a faithful people in their attendance of God. He reminded them that God had fought against their enemies for them, and given them the land that had been promised, and that was now being divided up for them. Joshua counselled the elders to “fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth.”

- ◆ Why was Moses a great man of faith despite his mistakes?
- ◆ What attitude should we have in times of difficulty?



**The History of God**

**Part 3**

## The History of God (Part 3)

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# I. God's Continuing Quest

## 1. History Repeats Itself



If we look carefully at history, we can see many instances where certain events or time periods of a previous age seem to recur in a similar fashion at a later time in history. This is history repeating itself. Why do you think this might happen?

It is because of God's will. God is absolutely determined to realize His will, but it depends on whether or not the person God has chosen fulfills his responsibility. His will can be realized or delayed. If, in the process of realizing God's will, the person selected by God fails in his responsibility, his role is transferred to another person. So the circumstances that two individuals from different times in history

history would have to confront would be the same.

If we look at biblical history, we can see the numbers 3, 4, 7, 12, 120, 400 appearing many times. For example, Jacob had 12 sons, Moses led 12 tribes, and Jesus had 12 disciples. The flood judgment at the time of Noah lasted for 40 days, the Hebrews wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, and Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days.

This kind of repetition of numbers is important in God's providence of salvation. This is because they were conditions that God absolutely needed for the realization of His will.

Next, let us look at what we need in the providence of salvation. The reason God gave Adam and Eve the commandment not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil was to realize two purposes. The first is obedience to God's commandment, and the second is, after keeping God's commandment, becoming a true person. These are the two steps fallen humanity absolutely must go through in order to receive the Messiah. The mission of the central figures of the past was to set up these two conditions. The reason why human history has repeated itself is because the central figures of the past failed to set up these two conditions.

God's will to save humanity from its corrupt and fallen state will never change. And therefore, the mission of those central figures of the past has been handed down to people of a later time in history.

This is the reason why history seems to be repeating itself with the reappearance of similar events, time periods, and people to those of previous times.

## 2. Slavery in Egypt (400 years)

History is a record of humanity's deeds. Human history is a history of countless races. But in the midst of all those races, God chose the Israelites and had them walk the model course for the providence of salvation. The reason God chose the Israelites was because they had a foundation on the family level for the Messiah.

God set up a foundation on the tribal level to receive the Messiah by forming a race from



Abraham's descendants. Therefore, the history of the Israelites is the model for God's providence to save fallen humanity. The history of Israel shows the principles of God's providence of salvation very clearly.



God had originally intended to realize the purpose of love, with which He had created the world, through Adam's family. But unfortunately, Adam and Eve fell, and thus God's will could not be realized. God made a second attempt to realize His will; this time through Noah's family.

Yet God's providence of salvation through Noah's family also ended up failing due to Ham's mistake. And so God called Abraham and, through him, attempted to restore everything. But due to

Abraham's failure to make an acceptable offering, Satan once again invaded. So God had to let the Israelites suffer 400 years of slavery in Egypt.

### 3. The Time of the Judges (400 years)

#### **A society without a leader**

After Joshua died a new leader was needed. But the person to succeed Joshua had yet to be decided upon. The Israelites lived nomadically in tribes and led free and independent lives. They did not fear military leaders if they were not in danger themselves. Their societies were run by the elders and priests. When the Israelites were oppressed by other countries, they would cry in their anguish and ask help from God, who would then choose a leader from amongst the tribes to help them out of their difficulties. Such leaders were known as judges.

#### **Leaders called by God**

The Bible contains the record of the victories of twelve judges. The first judge Oniel defeated a tribe of giants. A woman judge Deborah won over Jabin of Canaan. Gideon defeated the Midianites. Jephtah crushed the Ammonites. Samson, who served as judge for twenty years, died fighting with the Philistines. The last judge was Samuel, who was brave and pious. Israel overcame many difficulties



during his rule.

These judges lived not for their own desires or happiness but for God's will. They saved Israel from the fallen environment with their strong faith.

### **The significance of the providence of this age**

The period of the judges lasted from the time the Israelites left Egypt until the time their country was united under king Saul. Under Moses, the Israelites were protect the foundation of having separated from Satan through their slavery in Egypt. After they entered Canaan under the leadership of Joshua, Moses' successor, however, they again turned faithless, allowing Satan to defile this foundation of four hundred years. The Israelites needed to undergo another period to separate from Satan to restore this lost foundation. The four-hundred-year period of the judges, which ran until the enthronement of King Saul, was set up for this purpose.

## **4. The United Kingdom (120 years)**

### **King Saul**

When Samuel grew so old that he could no longer work, he made his first son, Joel, and his second son, Abijah, judges. But his sons were not good people, and the elders opposed them. "Anoint a king for us, and have him govern us." Samuel told



God about this, and God told him that Saul, son of Kish, would become king.

Samuel took some oil and went to find Saul. He poured the oil on Saul's head and kissed him. This was the sign to all that Saul would become king. Samuel told Saul that he would govern and defend God's people.

King Saul won several battles, but in his pride he was careless in his attendance to God. He

was reprimanded by Samuel. After that, King Saul acquired a strong nervous sickness. He was tormented day and night by a spirit. In this he was comforted by his son-in-law, David, who came to play music for him.

## **King David**

The Philistines heard the news that King Saul had lost his sanity and they came to invade. Among these Philistine soldiers, there was an enormous champion named Goliath. The Israelite troops were very afraid to engage the Philistines in battle. At that time, David went to the battlefield to give his elder

brothers food. David saw Goliath was challenging the Israelites to a fight and how afraid the Israelite soldiers were, and he became very angry. He said to King Saul, "I will fight with Goliath."

David, who was actually just a young shepherd boy, put five pebbles in his pocket, took his shepherd's crook and his sling, and went out to confront Goliath. And he spoke like this: "I have come to fight in the name of the Lord. The Lord will win over you through me."

Angered by this challenge from such a small, apparently untrained and ill-equipped soldier, Goliath closed in. At that moment David loosed a rock from his sling, hitting Goliath in the forehead.



Goliath fell to the ground and taking Goliath's own sword, David cut off his head. Seeing what had happened, the Philistine troops began to retreat. The Israelite soldiers chased after them and won a great victory.

David's popularity increased every day. Saul, who became jealous of David's success in winning over the Israelites' enemies, tried to kill him, but David eluded him. After Saul died, the Israelites made David their king.

When David became king, he made Jerusalem the capital; and the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the Ten Commandments, was kept there. Jerusalem became the heart of Israel. As he ruled the nation, David improved conditions and expanded the territory, making it possible for the people to live culturally rich lives. During King David's reign the Israelites had an independent nation, and enjoyed peace and prosperity for about forty years. David was praised as an excellent leader.

### **King Solomon**

Solomon was David's son. When David died, he told Solomon to keep the word of God. Solomon loved God as his father, David, had taught him. He built a temple to God in Jerusalem, with a heart full of sincerity. Besides that, King Solomon wrote many wonderful, beautiful works expressing his belief in and love for God.

King Solomon was also famous for his wisdom. The following is a famous story showing this:

A woman had accidentally killed her baby by rolling on it while sleeping. When she discovered that her baby was dead, she exchanged it with the baby of another woman who was her neighbor. In the morning, the baby's mother, seeing the dead baby, and knowing that it was not hers, tried to get her own baby back. But the first woman would not turn over the baby.

So the two women took the baby and went to King Solomon. In front of the king, each claimed that the baby was their own.

Then King Solomon spoke. "Bring a sword." A



sword was brought and Solomon ordered, "Cut the baby in two and give each woman half." At this, one of the women said, "Yes, cut the baby in two." But the other woman cried out, "No! Let this lady take the baby. Please don't kill him"

Solomon saw this and said, "Give the baby to the second woman. She is the baby's real mother." People heard this story and were all surprised at King Solomon's wisdom. A child's mother would rather give her child away to another person than allow it to be killed. Knowing this, King Solomon had wisely devised a way to find the truth.

King Solomon ruled the nation peacefully with the wisdom that God had given him. But when he grew old, he also worshiped the idols of his foreign wives. So, as soon as he died, the nation of Israel was divided into northern and southern kingdoms.

### **The significance of the providence of this age**

King Saul should have set all the indemnity conditions to restore the foundation of faith in Moses' time. He was also supposed to build a Temple.

Nevertheless, King Saul was disobedient, however, and failed to fulfill God's will. Because he became faithless, God's plan to build the Temple was delayed through the forty-year reign of David to that of Solomon. The United Kingdom consists of the.

## 5. The Divided Kingdoms of North and South (400 years)

### Israel splits into two

King Solomon of Israel was able to keep his country unified until his death in 992 BC. When he died his son Rehoboam went to Shechem. He wanted the ten tribes who lived there, to the north of Jerusalem, to make him Israel's king.

Jeroboam heard that Solomon had died, and he came home from Egypt. Jeroboam and the tribes' elders went to Rehoboam and said to him, "You must show us that you can be better than your father, Solomon. Then we will be loyal to you."

Rehoboam said, "Come back in three days and I'll give you my answer."

But Rehoboam's young advisors did not give him good advice. So Jerusalem's northern tribes opposed him and started a rebellion.

Rehoboam was afraid and fled to



Jerusalem. The Israelite tribes made Jeroboam their king.

Rehoboam became the king of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. Thus, Israel was split into two countries, with the northern kingdom made up of ten tribes, ruled by Jeroboam, and the southern kingdom with two tribes, ruled by Rehoboam.

### **The northern kingdom of Israel**

Israel went through a period of having no good kings. There were continuous rebellions and the palace was awash with blood. God wanted to save the people of Israel, so he sent them the prophet Elijah in 852 BC during the reign of King Ahab. But the Israelites didn't believe in God anymore. They worshiped the mythical gods of Baal and Asherah.

In 722 BC, the northern kingdom of Israel fell to King Shalmaneser of Assyria. The Israelites had to go back into exile.

### **The southern kingdom of Judah**

The southern kingdom, like the North, also had no faith in God. Over time, however, its people gave up worshipping idols, and there were good kings who made effort to turn Judah into a country that served God. Many prophets also came, who worked hard to bring the country back to its original standard of faith. Judah saw twenty kings over the course of 394 years, but in 587 BC, it was overrun



by Babylon. Its people then fell captive to the Babylonians.

## 6. Jewish Captivity and Return (210 years)

Southern Israel (Judah) had served God, and although there had been many good kings, there had also been many evil kings. In the end, the Babylonians took the people of Judah to Babylon, where they remained for more than two centuries. Psalm 137 in the Bible describes the yearning of the people of Israel for their lost homeland.

After Babylon was itself conquered by Persia, King Cyrus of Persia ended Judah's exile and allowed the people to return to Jerusalem, where, under the guidance of their prophets, they rebuilt the Temple. This was a time when there was increasing expectation of the imminent coming of the Messiah. Based on Malachi's prophecies, a new era of preparation was beginning.

## 7. Preparation for the Advent of the Messiah (400 years)

The longing for the Messiah to come began to grow when the unified kingdom of Israel divided into North and South, and increased when the people



of Judah were taken to Babylon from their home.

With the return to Israel and the renewed religious fervor and leadership that resulted in the Temple's construction, many prophets and saints began movements for the renewal of faith during the four hundred years after the prophet Malachi and before the advent of Jesus.

## 8. The Mission of Jesus

### **The birth of Jesus and his mission**

Jesus was born among the people of Israel who had been praying and longing for the Messiah to come and save them.

Jesus inherited the foundation of God's providence of restoration in Israel, and was born with the mission to save all the people of the world.

Yet he was born as the son of a poor carpenter in Bethlehem. How was he raised and what sort of things did he do? There is not much written in the Bible of the thirty-three years of his life.

From his boyhood, we have only the story of Jesus when he was twelve years old, remaining behind in Jerusalem and surprising all the Temple scholars and priests with his many questions and answers. From this we can see that Jesus was intelligent and also deeply aware of God's presence and will, even at a young age.

After Jesus reached the age of thirty, and had



prepared himself for his public ministry, he dedicated his life in the effort to save humankind. Instead of his own mother, brothers and sisters, he loved and took care of his disciples and reached out to the people of Israel with his whole heart.



Jesus set the example of loving his neighbors more than his own family. Yet he received so much persecution and rejection from the people and their leaders.

In the end he was crucified because he was viewed as a danger to society, quite the opposite of his true position. Because the leaders and people of Israel could not understand his words, his deeds, and most of all his heart, his life was taken in the early stages of his ministry.

### **How the disbelief of one affected many**

A man known as John the Baptist, born the son of the high priest, Zechariah, lived a life of harsh spiritual discipline in the wilderness, eating locusts and wild honey. He was chosen by God as a bridge between the people of Israel and Jesus. Such was his exemplary standard of faith that the people of Israel would even ask him, "Aren't you the Messiah?"

John the Baptist baptized Jesus, and at that point

God testified to John directly that Jesus was his Son. John the Baptist's mission was not meant to conclude with the baptism of Jesus. His mission after that was to become Jesus' disciple and attend him. Yet John found himself unable to let go of his own mission and surrender to that of Jesus Christ. John thus continued with his own work rather than becoming Jesus' disciple.

The Israelites believed that, according to prophecy, the ancient prophet Elijah would return before the Advent of the Messiah.

Jesus said that John was "the Elijah who is to come." However, John the Baptist denied that he held that position. Through John's denial that he was Elijah, the people were then blocked from believing



Jesus' claim that he was. John was greatly respected even by the priests, and thus was much more likely to be trusted than Jesus, who was a comparative outsider. Thus, the people turned away from Jesus.

### **The three temptations**

Through John the Baptist's failure, Satan could invade the foundation of faith that John would have established. John would have been a mediator between the people of Israel and Jesus, but Jesus was forced to try to win their trust on his own instead. He had to lay the foundation for the Messiah by himself. He did a forty-day fast to separate from Satan, at which time he received three temptations from Satan.

Satan first challenged Jesus by tempting him to turn stones into bread. Jesus answered that men do not live by bread alone, but also by the word of God.

He meant that a person does not live a complete and wholesome life merely by eating bread to keep his body alive. By his victory over this temptation Jesus fulfilled the condition to restore individual nature to perfection and thereby established the basis for the restoration of God's First Blessing.

Next, Satan brought Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple and said, saying, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down." And Jesus answered him, "You shall not tempt the Lord your God." This means you should not tempt the main Temple, the

True Parent of humanity. Jesus thus established the basis upon which to restore God's Second Blessing by proving he could not be tempted to leave his position to receive love from the fallen world.

Finally, in the last test Satan said, "If you will fall down and worship me, I will give you the whole universe." And Jesus replied, "Begone Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and



him only shall you serve.'" And he turned Satan down. This means that only God is the creator and master of all things. By prevailing in the third attempt Jesus, set up the condition to restore the dominion over the natural world, God's Third Blessing. Consequently Jesus made the basis to restore the three great blessings for all people. He also and restored all the efforts for the separation of

Satan that had been lost despite the best efforts of the central figures.

### **The meaning of the crucifixion**

After John the Baptist failed, Jesus had to restore the foundation of faith himself in that position. Furthermore, he sought to win the hearts of the people so that he could succeed in making the foundation of substance. Jesus soon gathered twelve disciples and seventy believers from the nation of Israel to represent all of humanity. If they had really united with Jesus, he could have stood in the position of the Messiah.

But if we look at the scriptures, there were more days when Israel made Jesus sad than happy. Jesus' sadness and anger was because the Israelites were not faithful.

The people of Israel persecuted Jesus greatly. They would mock and belittle him for spending time talking with tax collectors and prostitutes, and for the many things he said and did that were seemingly at odds with their accepted traditions.

Even among Jesus' disciples there were those who were not completely united with him. In this way, the nation of Israel, which was supposed to form the foundation of substance centered on Jesus, was gradually invaded by Satan.

As Jesus has lost the base for the foundation of substance, he had no alternative but to die to redeem





what he could of the mission to save all humanity. It was not God's original plan for Jesus to go to spirit world, but it became the necessary secondary course that meant some measure of victory could be gained.

### **The resurrected Jesus**

Even though God had to ask Jesus to die, in effect giving Jesus' body to Satan representing sinful mankind, He worked to save humanity spiritually. During the forty-day period from his resurrection to his ascension, Jesus triumphed over his physical death and therefore over Satan who had sought to defeat him through it. Through his resurrection the people who had followed him came to have faith that they, and others, could also to be resurrected. Indeed Jesus' sacrifice opened a realm of grace for

all and any who would place their faith in him. This has become the basis of the Christian faith. The disciples were full of new hope, with their belief in Jesus' messiahship fully reaffirmed. They were very determined to teach these things to all people.

Through the disciples becoming one with Jesus the spiritual foundation of substance was laid. For the first time, Jesus could stand in the position of the Messiah and it became possible to save humanity. Anyone could then separate himself from the darkness of death through faith in Jesus.

But Jesus could only complete the providence of salvation spiritually. Thus, when Christian believers believe in Jesus and become one with him through the Eucharist, they participate together in Jesus' resurrection. If they do this, they can receive the grace of spiritual salvation. However, Christ must nevertheless return to complete the task of full salvation on the earth.

### **The path that remains**

Jesus promised his disciples that he would return. But why must Christ return? To understand this question, we need to know the purpose of Jesus' coming to earth.

Jesus' purpose of coming as the Messiah was to eliminate the world of evil and to establish the good world that God had originally planned. This means a world without evil, overflowing only with happiness

and goodness. Accordingly, because there is no evil, such a world would have no need of a savior, nor its citizens need for a religious life. Had the people of Israel received the Messiah, and believed in him, then God's Kingdom would have been built and the providence of salvation concluded. Neither the division of Christianity from Judaism nor the suffering history of Christianity would have occurred. Furthermore, because the mission of the Messiah would have been completed, there would have been no need for a Second Advent.

Two thousand years has passed since Jesus' opened the realm of grace, but we still haven't seen



anything resembling the Kingdom of Heaven established here on earth. Despite the remarkable life and sacrifice of Jesus, he was unable to remove the root of sin from within humankind. His early death meant True Parents could not be established on earth at that time.

Thus, even those who believe in Jesus cannot give birth to children who also automatically benefit from that grace. The problem of the fall of man has been passed down through the generations. The salvation of humanity can be completed only when it is as rooted within us, and thus overcomes our inheritance of the fall.

Had Jesus been able to remain longer on earth, he would, as the True Father, have been able to pass on his own purity to all humankind in this way, through the grace of the holy Blessing. That task must now be left to the Second Coming of Christ.

- ◆ Why do you think John the Baptist, a person with a strong life of faith, was unable to keep his faith in Jesus?
- ◆ Do you think it was easy or difficult for Jesus to overcome Satan's three temptations? Why do you think so?
- ◆ What do you think Jesus would have done if he had not been crucified? What do you think he was most sad about when he went to the cross?

## II. Welcoming a New Era

### 1. The Last Days

#### Understanding the end of the world

What are the “Last Days”? The Bible contains prophecy of what might literally be interpreted as the destruction of the earth. There are many interpretations of what this might actually mean for humankind. Some believe that our planet as we know it will be physically destroyed, perhaps through a collision with a comet, or by the land sinking into the oceans. Others believe that we will



bring about our own destruction through global war, pollution or disease.

Although the prophecies of global calamity and the events of the end of the world in the Bible are understood by some to be literal predictions, they are very far from what is normally thought realistic by modern science. In the Bible, it says that in the Last Days the stars will fall from the heavens and that Jesus will return on the clouds. Such statements are hard for us to understand through common sense alone. Nevertheless, it is important that we have a clear understanding of what these predictions are likely to mean.

The view of the Principle is that the Bible contains much content that is written to hide the meaning until such time as we are prepared to understand it. For example, the prophecy that the returning Messiah will come on the clouds does not necessarily mean that he will appear literally in the sky. The prophecy is symbolic of a deeper truth that must be discovered.

Therefore, it is our task to solve such puzzles in our quest for understanding.

From the viewpoint of the Principle, there were at least two other periods in human history that could be termed the Last Days. These were Noah's time and Jesus' time.

In Genesis 6:13, God said that he would judge the world with a flood. The time of Noah was thus the

Last Days: God wanted to purge sinful history and destroy the corrupt, evil world.

From the viewpoint of God's work to save humankind, the time of Jesus was also the Last Days. The book of Malachi says, "Behold, the day comes, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up...so that it will leave them neither root nor branch." (Malachi 4:1)

This time referred to in this prophesy is that of Jesus' coming. Clearly these words were very symbolic in meaning, and referred to the coming of



the Messiah as a time when evil is to be burned away from the hearts of men, rather than people destroyed.

Many people say that the present times are also the Last Days. The Bible says that in the Last Days “the heavens will be kindled and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire!” But it also says, “then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...”.

Interestingly, even though there are predictions of similar Last Days or judgement days in Noah's and Jesus' day, the earth we live on today remains the same. We can take heart that such words do not mean the actual destruction of the earth, but symbolize a cleansing and renewal for humankind.

## **Our Attitude and the Last Days**

If we look at the flow of history, we can see that one age does not completely come to an end before the next age begins. It is like the hours before sunrise in which darkness fades as the new light grows brighter. Most notably, while Jesus was preaching the new words of the gospel, most of the people of Israel were still following the Old Testament laws of Moses.

The Last Days is the end of one age and the beginning of another. It is the end of the sovereignty of evil and the beginning of the sovereignty of goodness.

It is not a time when the world will darken and



be destroyed. It is a time when the wonderful and vivid world that humankind has been desiring will come into existence. The world that God can occupy will not approach us in ways that we can see. Instead, in the midst of the same problems and confusion that we take for granted as the world we live in, the Heavenly Kingdom begins to blossom from inside our hearts. Accordingly, the Last Days is the time when good peoples' hearts are truly brought to life. A global culture manifesting God's heart will expand from among ordinary people and families to nations and the world. In light of this, the end of the world or the Last Days is not to be a time of uneasiness and fear. It is, rather, a time of hope and expectation.

We dream of a bright, beautiful future filled with truth. This new age is waiting for us. When the darkness passes, a bright new morning where people live by God's words and love will dawn.

- ◆ What kind of stories have you heard about the end of the world?
- ◆ Are you worried about the future of our world, or do you feel hope?  
Please explain why you feel the way you do.

## 2. The Return of Christ

### How will Christ return?

Jesus Christ came to save this fallen world. The people did not believe in him, however, and he died on the cross. But Jesus promised us that he would return to this earth. Early Christians believed that Jesus would come back to them very soon. With that belief, they were able to maintain their hope through the severe persecution of the Roman empire. And the Christians now wait and are anxious for the return of Jesus Christ.

Will Jesus return as people expect? If he does, when, where and how will he return?

In Revelations 1:7 it is written that he will come on the clouds. Yet we believe these words are symbolic of some deeper meaning. Then, let us understand what “clouds” might symbolize.

In the Bible, water often symbolizes fallen people. In other words, it stands for people who are impure in the eyes of God.

A cloud is formed from evaporated water that has risen into the sky. As the water evaporates and leaves the earth, all the dirt and impurities in the water are left behind. The evaporated water rises into the air and forms clouds.

Therefore, Jesus’ coming with the clouds means that he will be coming among those who are purified

from among the fallen people : He will come among the saints.

Adam and Eve had a job to do. They were supposed to grow up as God's pure image, become True Parents to a pure family and rule over the Creation, but they failed.

Jesus came to restore the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, which Adam and Eve had lost. That is why he had to be born on earth in a human body. And that is why the coming Messiah will also come in a human body. He will come as the True Parent, rescue all humankind, and, in the end, complete the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

### **When will Christ return?**

If you have an important guest coming, you need to know when they are arriving so that you can clean your house, put on nice clothes and prepare to welcome him. It is important to know when the Messiah will come, but the Bible is not very clear about the exact time. Matthew 24:36 says that no one but God knows the Messiah's schedule. On the other hand, in Thessalonians 5:4, it indicates that some people *will* know when the Messiah comes. For those people, Christ will not be coming unexpectedly, "like a thief."

We can know when the Messiah will return by looking at the way that God has worked through history. Adam, who was supposed to be the True

Parent, failed. So, through all of the Old Testament years, God had to prepare a base for Jesus to stand on; Jesus was unable to become a True Parent and that base was lost. God has had to prepare the same base for the coming Messiah, who will be the



True Parent. When we study the Divine Principle we can learn more about the foundation God needed to prepare. When that base is prepared, God can send the Messiah. Looking at God's preparation, we can understand when the Messiah will come again.

### **Where will Christ return?**

Jesus came to Israel 2000 years ago. Will he come again among the Jewish people? John the Baptist said to Jews, "Do not presume to say to yourselves 'We have Abraham as our father' ; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham." (Matthew 3:9) And we can read in Matthew 21:41, "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing the fruits of it."

These words mean that the chosen people, who led Jesus to the cross, would lose their qualification

to be the people centrally responsible for God's providence.

After the crucifixion, Christians became the chosen people. They inherited the faith of Abraham and took on the mission that Abraham's descendants had not completed. The chosen people who should help prepare the base for the Messiah to come again are not the descendants of Abraham but rather the Christians who have inherited Abraham's faith.

### **He will come to Korea**

In Revelation 7:2, it is written that the Lord will come where the sun rises. The sun rises in the east, so he will be coming to a country in the East: China, Korea or Japan. Then, to which one of those countries will he come? Which nation will God choose?

Japan entered the time when the Messiah will come again as a nation working on the side of evil, battling Christian nations during the Second World War and trying to take control of Asia. They caused great suffering to the people of China and Korea. China was moving toward Communism and was to become a Communist nation. Communism is a system that denies that God exists. So, both Japan and China were nations opposing the direction of God's work at the time of the Second Coming of the Messiah. Of the three countries from the East, Korea was the only nation to which the God could send the Messiah.



Let's take a closer look at why Korea became God's nation. The nation that the Messiah returns to must be a nation that is able to receive God's love. God came to save His lost children.

Is a parent most worried about the children who are leading an easy life, or the ones who are suffering? The Israelites in the Old Testament Age were slaves when Jesus came, and the Christians in the New Testament Age suffered greatly under Roman rulers, even being thrown to the lions in the early days of Christianity. They were people that attracted God's tender love and sympathy. The Korean people were invaded by their neighbors many times and suffered terrible abuse from the invaders, but, even during the times it had a strong military, Korea did not attack others and did not seek revenge.

And in the nation that God has prepared to send the Messiah to, we should see that He has sent prophets to prepare the way. Koreans are people that have loved Heaven since early in their history. Various religious groups in Korea have been waiting for a savior to come. The Buddhists have been

waiting for “Maitreya Buddha,” the followers of Taoism for the “True Man.” The faithful among many religions in Korea have had revelations that the founder of their religion would return ; and the Korean people generally have been expecting the traditional Korean messianic figure, called the “Jeong Do Ryeong”.



Furthermore, God’s nation has to be a country that stands against Satan. In Korea, South Korea (democracy) and North Korea (communism) meet at the Demilitarized Zone.

For Korea to become a nation fit to receive the Messiah, it had to have separated from Satan through a course based on the number forty. Just as the Israelites suffered four hundred years in Egypt and the Second Israel suffered four hundred years of persecution under the Roman Empire, the third Israel, Korea, suffered for forty years under the Japanese : from the Eulsa Treaty of 1905 to their liberation in 1945.

Lastly, the nation the Messiah comes again to must be a nation where religions can flower. The nation of Korea has inherited and passed down many religions, including Confucianism, Buddhism, and Christianity. Looking from all these perspectives, we can say that the Messiah is coming to Korea.

# The History of God

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