

Celebrating Birth and Death in God's Kingdom

Sermon by Rev. Ken Doo / April 03, 2016



Last week was Easter Sunday. All Christians rejoiced and celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the savior.

The resurrection of Jesus was a remarkable event to humans. Men and women who once feared death were able to dream of a revival after witnessing the resurrection of Jesus. So, Christianity became the religion of life and resurrection for those who followed and believed in Jesus as the messiah. At

this point, the resurrection of Jesus Christ became the core of Christian theology and belief.

There is a valley called Girdron valley between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives. The valley is spread out about 5km. There lies the packed stone casket of Jews, Christians and Muslims. Those who were buried here believed that the Messiah would return at this location. Because they knew who Jesus was, people held high expectations of his return and felt that they should welcome and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

It is very important to know the reason for rejoicing at the birth and resurrection of Jesus. We cannot appreciate and be happy on this special occasion without knowing its significance. Jesus was born because of Adam and Eve.

If Adam and Eve had not fallen, there would be no reason for Jesus to manifest himself on the earth. There would be no reason to celebrate and rejoice at the birth and resurrection of Jesus.

We give great significance to the birth of Jesus. It is because Jesus was someone who came with the mission of human salvation. But we do not realize one important thing.

God is invisible. He was a fearful spirit in the Old Testament, the Almighty God. The God who created the universe appeared as the manifestation of Jesus to people. This event is the first time since the creation of Adam and Eve in human history.

God appeared and led humanity spiritually in the Old Testament. God the Father is invisible and cannot be seen by humans. According to this view, God did not appear in the flesh; rather, He took on a symbolic, incorporeal appearance, such as a cloud, much like He did with the Israelites in the desert with Moses (Deuteronomy 31:15).

God appeared to Moses in flames of fire. This was all the people of the Old Testament knew about God. And suddenly the mysterious God manifested Himself in the body of baby Jesus. For the first time in human history, we could converse and live with God. It was such a glorious day for us.

- Why do we need to be happy and celebrate the day of Jesus' birth?
- Because it is the birth of the Messiah for the sake of human salvation
- We were able to live directly with the invisible God through him.

I would like to share with you the two most important missions of Jesus. The first most important mission of Jesus was to complete the "Three Great Blessings" that Adam and Eve did not complete. In Genesis 1:28 God commanded Adam and Eve to "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

The second mission of Jesus was to conquer the fear of death, which was left to us by Adam and Eve.

Why was it the mission of Jesus to restore the mistakes of Adam and Eve? The Bible refers to Jesus as the 2nd Adam. God's "first incarnation" was Adam and Jesus was the "last incarnation" of God. Paul refers to Adam as a "pattern" for Jesus. He states in Romans 5:14 that "Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come [Christ]." (Romans 5:14)

"The first man was of the dust of the Earth, the second man from heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the Earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven." (1 Corinthians 15:47-49)

As proof, Jesus revealed himself as "the First of God's creation" (human-divine being) and "the Last of God's creation" (human-divine being).

JESUS proclaimed "I am the First and the Last." (Revelation 1:17)

In the Book of Isaiah, God also expresses himself as the "First" and "Last":
GOD said "I am the First and I am the Last." (Isaiah 48:12)

And also when you look at John 14:6~10,

“6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.”
as Jesus said the God is in him.

So why did God come as the second Adam using Jesus' body? He did so to resolve the

problems Adam and Eve have created. God is omnipotent and He is perfect. But God's creation was corrupted. God does not abandon his creatures. In order to restore the fallen Adam and Eve, God invested himself for thousands of years. Here we could discover the love of God.

When we look at Gen 2:17 it says "but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." But Adam and Eve ate the fruit and hid from God in fear. Gen. 3:10 "He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

God told Adam and Eve they would die if they ate the fruit." But Adam and Eve still ate the fruit. From that they learned of death and this is where fear originated.

So, here are two questions for you,

1. Was Jesus able to "Be fruitful and increase in number?" I saw a lot of people with the name Jesus, then are they Jesus' descendants?
2. Did Jesus resolve the problem of fear surrounding death? He left people with hope.

Jesus couldn't complete the mission to "be fruitful and increase in number; fill the Earth and subdue it." (Gen. 1:28) He passed away on the cross before he could remove the fear of death.

John 14:3 said "I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

And he promised he would come back and save the people.

This is the reason people believe that someday we will have a 2nd coming.

As we see in the Bible, Jesus was born with the spirit of God. So, he was the manifestation of God. Therefore, he should be the first and the last, like God as he said in Revelation 1:17.

All things in the universe have both a beginning and an end. This is because all of creation was made in resemblance to the nature of God. We humans also have a start and an end- birth and death. This concept of life is fundamental. Birth and death are part of life. One is the beginning, the other is the end.

God as the Alpha and the Omega manifested Himself in the body of baby Jesus, but when Jesus' life suddenly ended because of the crucifixion, God had to leave Jesus' body. Therefore, as God appeared in the body of Jesus as the Alpha, He must come again into different person and will complete the unfinished mission of Jesus, and finally establish the omega through the body of the 2nd coming.

On early Easter morning in 1935, Jesus appeared to the young Sun Myung Moon as he was praying in the Korean mountains. In that vision, Jesus asked him to continue the work, which he had begun on earth nearly 2,000 years earlier. Jesus asked him to complete the task of establishing God's kingdom on earth and bring peace to humankind.

When Rev. Moon accepted the mission, God manifested himself in him as God manifested himself in Jesus' body.

So Rev. Sun Myung Moon held the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and was blessed in holy marriage to Hak Ja Han on March 16, 1960. Their marriage was followed by a series of group marriage blessing ceremonies for their disciples.

Year after year, hundreds and hundreds of pure brides and bridegrooms throughout the world were blessed in marriage. With them, many children were born they formed the 2nd Gen. and 3rd Gen of God's restored family, thus for the first time, fulfilling the command God gave Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28.

So, True Parents open the door for the great three blessing; "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the Earth and subdue it." (Gen. 1:28)

True Parents relieved the fear of death by showing us that there is life after death. We celebrate births in our culture while we despise death, we look upon death with grief, fear and anxiety.

Because of the fall, fear became a barrier of division between life and death. It completely created a fine line between life and death in man's life. Humans' emotions on death are fear, horror and grief which Adam and Eve left behind.

All things have a beginning and an end. This is expressed in human life through birth and death. Everything in God's creation resembles God, because they have the attributes of God. So, if we think of death as the end of human life, God cannot be eternal. The spirit of God, which He imparted in us is eternal. Upon completion of our term in the physical world, we shed our body and move into the realm of eternity.

Father Moon explained that,

"To die is to be reborn in God's love, but in the human world they make a big fuss, saying, "Oh no, I am dying!" God laughs loudly at this."(Rev. Sun Myung Moon)

After the Fall of Adam and Eve, the question of the human's fear of death went on for 6000 years. But Rev. Moon answered this question through revealing life after death. He stated that, "It is like an insect emerging from its cocoon, throwing away its hard shell and taking on a new form, becoming a new being, a new essence." (TF. 49-285, 1971.10.17)"

So man's death, his Seong-hwa, is a joyful ascension into a new realm; it is a transformation and an entry into a new world, it is a rebirth in God's love. It ought to be a moment of joy and a day of celebration and victory. It is the most joyful time of our life.

Brothers and sisters, would you be sad to be born in the embrace of God? Would you fear and dread that encounter with God?

Rev. Moon untied the two issues of Adam and Eve left behind; "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the Earth and subdue it." and revealed life after death.

In Revelation 1:8 God declares, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Alpha of God began with the birth of baby Jesus. The invisible God in the Old Testament came down into human body, showed His true love to people. However the Alpha of God could not continue to the Omega, because of Jesus' unexpected departure. So, the Omega of God had to appear again in human body.

So, in conclusion,

The birth of the Messiah is the appearance of the Alpha of God on earth. So we, humanity must celebrate that monumental day in which God came down to earth and became a friend and brother to humanity and opened the door to eternal life to the kingdom of heaven on heaven.

Jesus' birth and True Father's, Seong-hwa, joyful and victorious ascension are not a matter of birth and death of the Messiah.

The point of birth and death is the expression of God's love toward humans, even though our human ancestors messed up God's original plan.

So our hearts overlooking the birth of Jesus and the joyful ascension of True Father must be one of gratitude to God.

We must celebrate and honor True Father's Seong-hwa and Jesus Birthday.

This is how we can praise God and offer our deep appreciation and love.

The Roman Emperor Constantine officially proclaimed Christianity as the state religion in the fourth century. Thanks to that proclamation, Christians were able to officially celebrate the birthday of Jesus.

So, in order to celebrate and officially recognize True father's Seong-hwa, we need to establish a Cheon Il Guk nation.

Likewise, without Cheon Il Guk, God can only be the Alpha and not both Alpha and Omega.

What we must do:

On the day of Jesus' birth Day, the day of the Alpha, we should practice to love people like God loves humankind. We must love ourselves. We must love our neighbor and brothers and sisters.

On True Father's Seong-hwa, the day of the Omega, we must love our spouse; we must love our physical children and our children faith.

So we must widely spread out the love of the couple. We must multiply the children of

God. We must love our ancestors and learn their wisdom, so that we can create the foundation of our eternal life.

So we have a task to do on August 19th. We need to bring 430 couples of the children of God and celebrate True Father's Seong-hwa. This is a joyful day, a day of celebration. This is the day we offer our much appreciation and love to God. That day will be the day we can call God the Alpha and the Omega as He is the First and the Last. In the Kingdom of God, birth on earth is a celebration; ascension into the next world is an even bigger celebration.

In celebrating the birth of Jesus and the ascension of True Father, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, we are planting the seed and expanding God's tradition, a tradition of love, of victory, a tradition of joy and gratitude.

Let us pray.