

Introducing the
Divine Principle

by Dr. Michael Hentrich

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This is the booklet for the person who would like a quick overview of the teachings of Dr. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon; something you can read in about an hour, and briefly get the main points. That is what you have in your hand.

The *Divine Principle* consists of three basic parts. The first explains God's ultimate plan and vision for man. Have you ever wondered why we live this life for 70 or 80 years or so, and just what God expects from us, anyway? If you've ever thought about this, then the first part of the *Principle* will speak to you.

The second part explains very specifically, and logically, why our lives are so full of frustration, conflict and lack of fulfillment. Did you ever wonder why true happiness and true love are so nearly impossible to find? If you've ever asked yourself that question, the second part of the *Principle* is for you.

Part three traces the history of man from "day one" to the present, revealing a remarkable, but unnoticed and recurring, pattern in the history of God's efforts to help us. God is not a sadistic God who is heartlessly watching man suffer and waiting for the right moment to condemn everyone for their weaknesses. Instead, he's a heartbroken God who's been trying to show us how we can transform our misery into true happiness, but we've almost always refused to listen, and when we listened, we usually didn't understand. This world is going to soon become a beautiful place, sociologically. Both God and mankind will make that transformation together; it won't be done by God alone when he's good and ready. God has *always* been desperate for his children to stop suffering and

become happy and prosperous. Part three of the *Principle* will put your whole life in a new perspective and turn what has seemed to be historical chaos into purposeful, logical and hopeful sense.

and now, the *Principle*... **PART I**

Everybody's goal in life is to be truly happy and fulfilled. People have always been this way. Religion has offered people spiritual guidance, comfort and forgiveness, but the everyday contradictions we still wrestle with in ourselves prove that the happiness and fulfillment God intended for us is still out of reach.

The various sciences have become the new hope for people today. Science has answered many questions and helped people in many ways. But, science cannot address the inner contradictions we struggle with, such as between selfishness and unselfishness, or the conflicts between our spiritual and physical desires. Science can't seem to teach us how to love, how to find lasting happiness, or how to create a lasting peace. Neither can it tell us how life came to be or what its purpose is, or show us how to sincerely care... about anyone

or anything. It can't show us how to make a marriage last, or how to prepare for our future life in the spirit world, either. Science needs to embrace the spiritual side of life so it can address some of these major, internal and vital areas.

Since God is invisible and intangible, many people have given up believing in him. For others, he's just a vague concept. But, while there's no empirical evidence or measurable data about God, there's still rational, deductive reasoning which can give us a lot of helpful insights into what he must be like.

Because there is always a resemblance between cause and effect in any action, God's invisible characteristics can be seen in the world all around us. An art critic can look at the paintings or listen to the music of ten different artists and easily distinguish the works of one from the other. In the same way, God's own personality has to be embodied in the things he designed. A chaotic God would not create a logical world. A heartless God would not create a world full of beauty. That's why Paul of Tarsus said if we look at the world around us, we can learn something about God.

For one thing, we can see that nature is generally structured as either a masculine/feminine pair, or in the material world, as positives and negatives, or yang and yin. We see man and woman, male and female animals, stamen and pistil plant life, anions and cations, protons and electrons, and so on. What does this have to do with God?

It tells us that God must have not only the essence of masculine nature in his own personality, but he must also have the essence of feminine nature. Otherwise, where would masculine and feminine nature come from? Therefore, men and women are equally essential expressions of God in the world. If this is true, then the union of a man and woman would be a more complete expression of the heart and personality of God than just a man or a woman alone.

Then why has the harmonious union of man and woman been so difficult in human society, seemingly more problematic than in the rest of nature? If the designer, God, is a harmonized oneness, a blended singularity encapsulating all that we see in nature, then why do men and women find lasting harmony with one another so hard to create? We'll address this later.

Looking again at nature, we can see that everything has both an external, material or tangible form and also an invisible, internal character which guides and directs the form.

Sub-atomic particles and atoms are made of energy but are guided by invisible laws of nature. Plants are made of cells, but are guided by the same laws of nature and also by a simple kind of sensitivity and awareness. Animals are made of tissues and organs but are guided by instincts. And, people are also made of tissues and organs but are guided not only by instincts, but also by complex emotions, will and intellect. God, therefore, must have not only energy with which to create, but also heart, will and intellect, i.e.,

personality.

So, if this is true, then ask yourself: "What might make such a God happy?"

As humans, we've experienced that a designer, creator or artist, feels happiest when his work perfectly reflects his own personality and feeling. If I feel really peaceful but my work of art feels chaotic, I'm not going to like it. It should embody the same things that I feel. Any expression of creativity reflects the personality of the artist. The universe and ourselves must be designed and created in God's own image. We even have some of his own creativity in ourselves.

In the same way, men and women were designed to make God happy by reflecting his own personality back to him. He likewise designed the rest of nature to resemble, in some sense, our own human design and make us happy by reflecting some of our own nature back to us. For example, when we enjoy the companionship of a dog or other pet, it's because we experience something of ourselves in that animal. How, then, can you and I experience the most happiness in life?

The Genesis story of the Bible says God gave the first humans three "blessings". As explained by the *Divine Principle*, the first blessing, to "be fruitful," was not intended to mean that we should have lots of fruits in terms of things or children, but that we should be people who live "fruitful" lives, meaning that we become effective, virtuous people, even developing ourselves to resemble

God. A “fruitful” man would be a spiritually mature man whose mind and heart had grown to reflect God’s own mind and heart, with perfect internal harmony, and harmony also with nature.

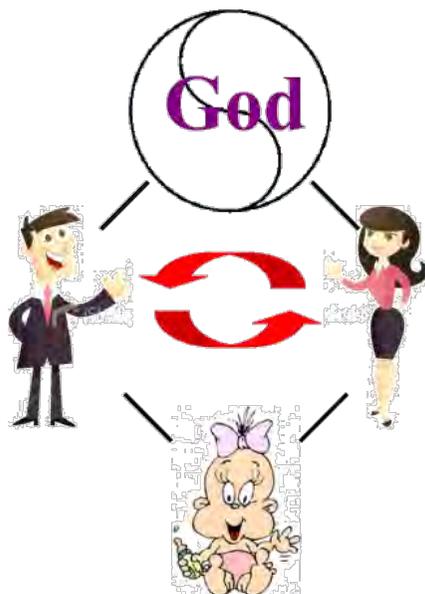
Such a mature person would feel God’s joy or sadness, and think as God would think. The kind of inner contradictions we take for granted would not be experienced by such a person. He would live freely according to his mature heart, and still be in perfect harmony with both God and nature — without the need for moral laws and rules. Some might call such a person a “living temple of



God,” or a human expression of God. Jesus was like this — both human and Divine; he even said, “*When you see me, you see the Father.*” But, this was also God’s intention for all of his children, including you and me.

If the kind of love we feel for our friends and neighbors were the same unconditional love that most parents feel for their own children, then this maturity of heart would be blossoming in us. It's not impossible. In fact, the potential for that love is intrinsically designed into us.

The second blessing of God to the first humans was to “multiply”. The meaning of this might seem obvious, but God wanted us to not only have babies, but to multiply his own goodness in everything we do and create. He never intended for us to multiply pain and selfishness and children needing religion to be saved. This means God had planned to see a spiritually mature man marry a



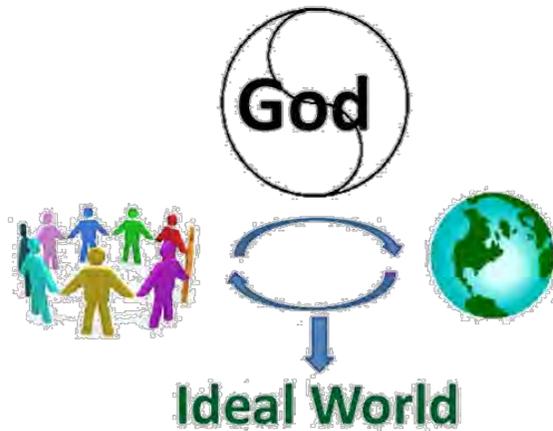
spiritually mature woman and together raise pure children who would also grow to resemble him. The children were to naturally grow up experiencing the masculine love of God through their father, and the feminine love of God through their mother.

Does there exist such a family today? Have we ever had such a family? No, not really, if we're honest. The human race got off to a bad start and we've never seen the kind of parents who could raise up this kind of children in any generation. Therefore, the world is orphaned, in a sense, from God's love. Everyone is starving for, and searching for, the love of true parents.

If the first humans had become true parents, a whole family, society, nation and world would have been populated with children knowing the love of God as an everyday social reality. We wouldn't have a world governed by all kinds of moral laws, rules and regulations and needing religion.

The third blessing, to "subdue the earth," meant we should become a spiritually mature humanity loving nature the way it was intended to be loved. With individuals, families and a society loving nature as it was intended to be loved, we would be living in the literal kingdom of God, or kingdom of heaven on earth.

The plan was simple, but profound. Of course, considering the way things turned out, we might feel that this is just a fairy tale. However, there's a natural, simple mechanism by which all of this was to originally take place.



You may have noticed that everything in nature develops or matures through some sort of process. This is true even for rocks and chemicals. The developmental process always takes time. Especially when we think about man’s love and personality, there is an obvious process and period of time needed to develop and mature. In fact, our heart and personality actually go through three basic stages of development.

As a child, we know mostly how to receive love. Parents don't expect young children to have mature love. Later on, as a teen, we grow to have a more sharing kind of heart and personality; we give the amount of love that we have received. Some might say, “If you love me, I can love you.” Unfortunately, it seems few people have matured beyond this level of heart. Even many marriages are based on this ‘conditional’ kind of incomplete love. But, people are capable of a much higher degree of love, called unconditional, or parental, love.

When a parent feels willing to give his very life for his children, or for someone else, without thought for himself, this is an example of unconditional love. It's not so uncommon actually, but most of us are lucky if we feel it for more than one or two people in our lifetime, let alone for everyone.

It's God's love; unconditional, parental love. It's interesting to note that all the 613 laws and commandments given in the Old Testament of the Bible were summed up by Jesus with his two Great Commandments: *"Love God above all things... and love your neighbor as yourself."* And it's not enough just to have mature love in our hearts. We have to learn to express and receive that love effectively, as well.

The question remains, what is this life for? Why are we here? You might think this is a silly question; one for which there is no real answer. But, that is wrong. Of course, the purpose of our life is to experience happiness and fulfillment. But, there is much more to it than that. How are we to experience this happiness in ways that harmonize with our intrinsic design, without hurting ourselves and others?

First of all, we will experience the ultimate happiness when we successfully make those three blessings we talked about happen in our lives; when we develop a heart and personality like God's own, when we multiply the love and happiness we experience, and when we love nature like our own body. But, there is more to understand

about the purpose of our life than that. In the process of making those three blessing happen in our lives, we also need to take care of our own long-term well-being, plus serve the greater good, the whole, or others.

All living things are the same. For example, a bumble bee is naturally concerned with its own well-being, comfort, health, and nourishment. However, it also serves the greater good by distributing the pollen of flowers, making honey, and its body will eventually provide nourishment for other living things in the biosphere.

When we consider the purpose of our own life in terms of our long-term well-being, we immediately think of eating and sleeping, clothing and shelter, or earning money to live. These are important, to be sure. But, a more fundamental meaning and purpose of caring for our own long-term well-being is to prepare ourselves for our life in the spirit world after we die. To do this, we must develop our heart and personality to the highest degree possible; to even become like God. Dr. Moon called this earthly life a womb for our eternal



afterlife. So how do we prepare for that? By going to Church on Sundays? Well, religious life should help us prepare, but sometimes it can distract us from preparing, as well. It's how you live that religious life and what you do with the other 6 ½ days of the week that really counts. The most important point in the preparation is that you develop profound love and compassion; i.e., the love of God.

In terms of serving the greater good, the whole, or others, like in our example of the bumble bee, many people do charitable activities. The problem is, too often people help others because they think they should, or because it is expected of them if they are to be a good person in God's eyes or in the eyes of others. That's noble, but the spiritual benefit will be greatly reduced because it's not being done sincerely. The greatest spiritual benefit will come when you serve others or do charitable activities because you sincerely care about the people, or about the things. Motivation is everything. This is fundamental to Dr. & Mrs. Moon's teachings. Is it easy? No, especially in this world where excessive selfishness is the norm.

Why then, if God's plan and design for us was so simple, have we lived such a suffering history of frustration and selfishness? Where did selfishness come from? After all, human selfishness is not like an animal's instinct for survival. We're not selfish because we have to eat to live. Social conflicts are only an extension of the personal conflicts we all struggle with in ourselves. We seem to live with two conflicting desires; one which tells us to lift other people up above ourselves and care for them first, and the other desire which

tells us to take care of our own comforts first, even at the expense of others. Virtually everyone has struggled with this inner conflict. Where does it come from? Did God, after creating a beautiful, harmonious and ecologically balanced system of nature, somehow slip, and design people with an inherent contradiction, like a cup with a hole in the bottom of it? Of course not. The answer has been hidden until now.

Many great thinkers and people with a message from God have come and gone. The most significant of them for the 21st Century and beyond has been Dr. Sun Myung Moon (1920-2012). No one taught more divine wisdom about unconditional love and relationships and family than he and his wife. Study their teachings and apply them in your everyday life and you will grow exponentially to your fullest potential and happiness. Their teachings echo those of Jesus, Muhammad, Buddha and others and bring those understandings into the contemporary world.

Their deep insights into the fundamental cause of human conflict and frustration, in other words “What went wrong with this simple, elegant plan of God?” will lift you to a whole new level you never imagined. You will find a brief description of those insights and answers in Part II, which follows.

The Principle, Part II

The Genesis story in the Bible is considered by most people to be just folk lore and irrelevant to our modern lives. However, it actually contains profound information which we all need to fix ourselves and fulfill both God's and our own dreams for our lives.

According to the story, there was a garden, and in the middle of the garden were two so-called trees: a "tree of life" and a "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" which bore a forbidden fruit. Also in the garden was a so-called "serpent" who spoke to the woman and tricked her. We will see, these are not their true identities.

As the story goes, God told the man that he was not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge, or he would die. The man told this to the woman. Then, the serpent tricked the woman into eating the fruit, and she, in turn, convinced the man to eat the fruit. At that point they felt fear and guilt and they covered their sexual organs with aprons and hid from God. God then scolded them and sent them out of the garden. Much of this story is to be taken metaphorically.

Almost everyone has just assumed that the fruit was a literal fruit, maybe an apple or pear. But Jesus later explained very clearly that it's not what you eat with your mouth that damages your spirit. He said:

“Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.... Do you not see that what goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and so passes on? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a man....”

Jesus was talking about eating with unwashed hands, but his point about the relationship between eating food and spiritual damage is clear. Eating something will not hurt your spirit. Also, we cannot inherit the damage from something our parents have eaten. The effects of food poisoning could last only one generation, at most.

From still another perspective, why would two people eat something that they knew would kill them, especially if they were surrounded by a feast of healthy and delicious fruits? Even an animal will avoid poisonous grasses or berries. Another traditional interpretation of this story is that the fruit is not important; it was just the man and woman’s disobedience that caused all historical problems for mankind. Let’s take a look at *this* explanation.

If God, as our creator and father, has more love and heart than what he gave to us, which he must, then how can we say that God would condemn the entire human race over a small act of disobedience by the first two of his children? That would mean that God would subject all people in history to misery and suffering for one mistake on the part of two people. If the man and woman, who were completely innocent and pure, couldn’t follow even a simple commandment from God, then what chance is there for us to do any better? If a human father were to test the obedience of *his* children with a deadly fruit, or make them and all their descendants suffer in some way for one small mistake, even our ungodly society would be

outraged and call him a child abuser, take the children away from him and put him in prison. Is this the kind of heartless God we believe in? This effort to explain the root of our problems as a simple act of disobedience is obviously wrong.

The word "fruit", as used in this story, is symbolic of something far more important to people's happiness than simply something to eat. To understand what the fruit was, we have to look at the tree which bore the fruit, and also at the so-called "serpent".

First of all, there are two meanings for the word "tree" in the Bible. One meaning, of course, is a tree which can be chopped down. But, in other parts of the Bible "trees" refer to people. For example, Jesus cursed a tree and it withered and died. This was a literal tree. He also referred to himself and others as "trees" when he said, "I am the vine. You are the branches." Paul also referred to us as wild olive trees, and Jesus as the true olive tree, into which we should engraft ourselves. And, the last page of the Bible refers to Jesus when it says, *"Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have the right to the tree of life and enter the city by the gates."* Obviously, "tree of life" is not referring to the type of tree which can be chopped down. And the names of these trees are more than a little suspicious. They refer to people. When you read carefully you discover that the tree of life and the tree of knowledge were distinct from the real trees of the Garden.

"And out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

The so-called "serpent" was also a central character in this story, but it was not really a serpent, either. The Bible said,

"that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan,

the deceiver of the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."

This tells us several important things. It tells us that the "serpent" was a creature that knew God's commandment to the man and woman (i.e., it must have been a spiritual being), is called the "Devil" and "Satan", lived in heaven until it was "cast out" to the earth, and was a leader of angels. Now, as you may have figured out by now, this can only refer to one creature, namely the angel Lucifer, who ruled over the angelic realms.

Then, let's get to the point. What really happened? After the man and woman's disobedience, their immediate reaction was to cover their sexual organs with aprons. If they had disobeyed with their mouths, they would have been ashamed of their mouths or hands. Why be ashamed of their sexual organs? And why did God immediately say, upon hearing the man's confession of his newly-acquired shame, *"Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"* There was an unmistakable connection between the man and woman's loss of innocence, and their mistake.

Lucifer was also involved in this. What was the problem of the fallen angels? The Bible reveals that:

"The angels that did not keep their own position, but left their proper dwelling, have been kept by him in eternal chains in the nether gloom until the judgment of the great day; just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise acted immorally and indulged in unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire."

The problem of the fallen angels was immorality and unnatural lust. What's a "fruit"? A fruit is the part of a tree which contains the

seeds for reproduction. What was the fruit of the woman? It was her sexual organ. Even today, some cultures refer to sexual relationships as "eating the fruit."

God had wanted his first two children to grow to full spiritual maturity - perfection - as Jesus described it in his Sermon on the Mount, *before* having children. Had the first human ancestors matured to have this fully mature love *before* having children, what a different world we would live in today! Everyone is still searching for true love.

What really happened is this: Lucifer tempted the woman to share sexual love with him to facilitate his totally selfish motivation and ambition to take his own dominion over mankind, supplanting God as our Father. The woman believed his lies and sexual temptations and then took her new-found carnal knowledge, guilt and fear to the man for comfort, tempting him to also disobey God's commandment and "eat the fruit".

Were these two first people perfect, and not just pure? Their behavior tells us they were *not* mature, or perfect. The man told God it was the woman's fault that he disobeyed, and the woman told God it was the angel's fault that she disobeyed. Everyone "passed the buck". Would a mature, Christ-like person do that? No! They were not yet mature. They then began having children *outside* of the Garden, *after* they fell. The woman inherited the selfish motivation of the angel. The man inherited it from the woman. We have all inherited immature, seductive and selfish love and self-centered motivation. The world has been the same ever since. Children have never been able to find true and perfect love from their parents. It's been an endless cycle - an unbreakable cycle. Everybody has suffered from it.

Lucifer acted out of a feeling of selfish jealousy for the man and woman's superior position to him in relation to God. They were

God's first children, while he was only a servant. God loved them all, of course, but Lucifer was used to being God's most trusted helper until the man and woman came along. The full process and motivation for the fall of the man and woman are critical to understand, and a full explanation can be found in the full text of the *Exposition of the Divine Principle*. If you investigate it, you will more deeply understand how this process expresses itself in your own life today.

Sex, itself, was not the problem. Sex was intended by God to be the most beautiful, exciting and holy expression of love between a man and woman. The beautiful gift of sex has also been terribly misused throughout human history. Consider prostitution, the so-called oldest profession in the world. Why have some religions seen celibacy as the way to come closest to God, refraining from normal human sexual activity? Consider incest, porn, rape, sex trafficking, etc. Today, depraved sexual imagery and porn are everywhere. How do we advertise a car, battery or tires, except by showing lots of skin. Why has sex always been so degraded and misplaced in people's lives? Why have our relationships, marriages and families been so strained in this area? We have turned sex into everything except the fantastic, divine and bonding experience that God intended it to be in our lives.

It's because man and woman began on the wrong foot through the distortion and destruction of love; love that was to be the very center of human life. God's love was supposed to be the fabric of his human paradise on earth, but selfishness combined with sexuality has become the fabric of hell on earth.

After the fall, God's heart was shattered. After all of his effort to create a beautiful and perfect world for his children, he lost everything when true love was compromised. He said in Genesis that he was "*sorry he made man on the face of the earth, and it grieved*

him to his heart.” But, he wanted, and still wants, to restore this world to the goodness and love he originally intended for it. The question many people have is, why has God allowed us to suffer so many generations before doing something about it? Why does he still wait so long to fix this problem? The answers will be revealed as we amazingly dissect history in **PART III** of the *Principle*.

The Principle, Part III

As the *Principle* explains, God did not want to wait thousands or millions of years before sending Jesus. However, God needed to prepare some people to understand and accept the Messiah when he finally sent him to us.

According to St. Paul, Jesus came as a new "Adam" to reintroduce the full and perfect love of God as a man -- something the first man failed to do. The first man lost faith in God and lost the ability to embody God's love in his life. The human race then inherited this very same problem from generation to generation. Virtually every problem we suffer from is rooted in selfishness and lack of true love.

God began to prepare a group of people so they could recognize Jesus as a model of faith and love and unite with him and support his efforts. God worked to mold these people into a culture that would

be living for, and striving for, the same virtues of faith and love that Jesus would later teach and demonstrate. To accomplish this, God began working immediately, even in the first human family, to establish these essential traditions of faith and love.

The first man was too confused to distinguish between right and wrong, so God divided his character between his two eldest sons. He then pitted them against each other to recreate the jealousy and selfishness that brought disaster between Lucifer and the man, so they could hopefully resolve and overcome it.

God asked both sons to show him their faith by making offerings, which they both did. Then, God rejected the offering of the eldest of the two sons but accepted the offering of the younger one. This served to recreate the situation wherein the elder, namely Lucifer, had felt jealous of the younger, namely the man. God then begged the eldest son to overcome his jealous feelings toward his younger brother and warned him of the painful tragedy that might happen if he didn't. Unfortunately, the elder brother killed the younger brother, just as Lucifer had spiritually killed his man and woman.

But God didn't give up, as we might have. He raised up another man of faith ten generations later, named Noah. Noah was a great man who successfully demonstrated his faith by building a boat on top of a mountain, as God had asked him to. But, Noah's sons judged their father and failed to qualify themselves to re-enact this important spiritual process. Therefore, we will move on to God's next historical champion, Abraham.

Once again, God asked Abraham to demonstrate his faith, this time by cutting and sacrificing a number of animals and birds. But, because Abraham was somewhat lax about God's request, he fell asleep before finishing, and failed. However, God gave Abraham another chance, but this time God required a much more difficult

demonstration of faith. God asked Abraham to sacrifice his own son. After some hesitation, Abraham took his son to a hillside, built an altar and put his son on it. Just as Abraham was about to kill him, an angel appeared and stopped him, telling him it was not necessary to sacrifice his son, and that God had only wanted to see what kind of faith Abraham really had.

And, because Abraham's son understood what was happening and did not resist his father's efforts to sacrifice him to God, he inherited the extraordinary faith of his father, as the sons of Noah had failed to do.

Next, to overcome the jealousy and anger problem between brothers, God used Abraham's two grandsons, Esau and Jacob. Esau and Jacob were destined to re-enact the problem between Lucifer and the first man, between his elder and younger sons, actually between all of us, in a sense. These special twins again had the mission in life to overcome jealousy and resentment between brothers. Therefore, God allowed a situation to develop in which the younger brother Jacob stole the family inheritance from his elder brother Esau, which made Esau furious with jealousy and anger. Understandably, Esau wanted to kill his younger brother, and even hired an army of 400 men to help him do it. This recreated the same emotions that Lucifer had felt in the beginning, with God's hope that now they can be overcome.

Jacob fled his angry brother, going to his uncle's house where he lived a humiliating life for many years and was repeatedly tricked by him. Through his experiences of being tricked and cheated by his uncle, Jacob could learn about the painful heart of his elder brother. After a long period of suffering, Jacob gathered his family and belongings and set out to return to his angry brother Esau and somehow reconcile their relationship.

Along the way, the Bible tells us that Jacob wrestled with an

angel and won, thereby symbolically restoring the proper relationship between humans and the angelic world. The angel blessed him and gave him a new name, “Israel”, which meant “the victorious one.”

After this victory over the angel, Jacob offered everything he had, his family, servants, material wealth, and even himself to his jealous and angry brother Esau. In other words, he valued his brother’s love more than anything else in the world.

Through this self-sacrifice, Esau’s heart of resentment was melted and, as Esau and Jacob lovingly embraced each other as brothers, this established the pattern by which the problem of jealousy and anger between brothers — or between any two people — can be resolved. Jacob and Esau’s victory over resentment paved the way for people to be able to understand and receive Jesus’s future message of sacrificial love and forgiveness. The same pattern of love overcoming hatred was also repeated in the life of Jacob's young son, Joseph.

However, practically speaking, in the midst of a whole world of hostile and ungodly peoples and nations, Jesus would not have been safe being born into a tiny family of potential believers. God needed a faithful nation that would protect Jesus and help spread his teachings throughout the world.

From the time of Abraham's example of total faith, God spent a Biblical period of 1930 years spreading that faith and preparing his people to receive and believe in Jesus. This period can be broken down into a distinct pattern of events which led to Jesus' coming at the precise time that he was born. A remarkably similar pattern of events and time periods have occurred since the time of Jesus until today. We will now briefly describe each recurring situation or time period.

Starting with Jacob's 12 sons and 70 relatives, there eventually arose the entire nation of Israel, carrying with it the legacy of Abraham and Jacob. Beginning with Jacob's family, we see that their descendants suffered as slaves during a 400-year period in Egypt. Through this experience, God strengthened and deepened their faith. In their suffering, they sought God passionately.

Then, after this 400-year period, God called a man named Moses to free them from their suffering. While Moses didn't know it, he was actually to lift these people up to the next stage in God's preparations to send the new Adam, Jesus.

During the following 400 years, the Hebrew people lived in a feudal society under leaders called Judges. God wanted them to be a united body of believers to receive Jesus as a nation. But, unfortunately, the Hebrew Judges failed to unite, delaying Jesus' appearance. So, after this 400-year-period of feudalism, God established a United Hebrew kingdom when Saul became the first Jewish King.

If the political leader and the religious leader at that time could have united in this monarchy, Jesus would have had a very efficient vehicle through which to spread his teachings — much more efficient than a democracy. Unfortunately, the political and the religious leaders were not united at all. These failures could have been avoided if the people involved had had a deeper understanding of the legacy of Jacob and Esau, who overcame the most severe of differences and reunited with each other.

God also wanted a Holy Temple built as a physical symbol of the preciousness of the living "Temple of God" who was to come. However, King Saul was too corrupt to build the temple, and his successor, King David, shed too much innocent blood. Finally, David's son and successor, King Solomon, fulfilled the building of the Holy Temple, only to compromise it later with the idols and non-

Jewish traditions of many of his wives. The process to get to this point with the three kingdoms took 40 years for each, or about 120 years.

Therefore, after all of this, God was left with lots of people, a nation and a temple, but they were a confused people who had embraced the ideas and traditions of various other religions. They had lost the essence of their preparation to receive the coming Jesus.

To try to repair this damage to the people that God had worked so long and hard to raise up, he separated them into two as he had in the first family. He created a relative distinction between the good traditions and the bad by separating the Jewish nation into two parts; that of Judah to the south, and Israel to the north. Judah was generally less confused and faithful, and Israel was generally more confused, contrary and faithless.

God then sent many prophets from Judah to Israel, to try to clean up their confusion. But, after trying this for 400 years, the people resisted God's efforts and Judah, too, fell into confusion, faithlessness and corruption. Now God's preparations for Jesus were even weaker than they had been before.

At this point, God was left with no choice but to sift out the loyal remnant among his people by letting the Jews fall into the captivity of Babylon and Assyria. These two nations conquered the Jews and took most of them into captivity.

After about 70 years, they were released and allowed to return to their homeland. But, only a handful of faithful Jews returned to rebuild the temple and reestablish the Jewish nation and culture, which is exactly what God wanted. God was looking for that faithful remnant which emerged from captivity.

Finally, after another 140 years of growing and rebuilding, on

the foundation of the restored traditions of faith and love in a new, strong, and united Jewish culture, God sent the prophet Malachi to set the final preparations for Jesus to be born.

About this same time, the great empire of Rome emerged, with all its technology, communications and trade routes. The Roman Empire reached to the four corners of the known world. The language of Rome was spoken throughout the world, much like English is today.

Around 650 B.C., Buddhism appeared, teaching that a “Maitreya Buddha” or messiah figure, would someday come to the Buddhist world. Confucius also appeared less than a century later. Confucians also believed that a “True Man” would someday come. Plato and Socrates also lived at this time. Plato looked forward to the appearance of a “great thinker,” or “philosopher king”.

In these and other ways, God set the worldwide stage for the acceptance of Jesus. God prepared many peoples and cultures in many ways to receive Jesus. Jesus was intended to fulfill each of their hopes for a Messianic person to come. However, God also warned of the disaster that would happen if the people failed to accept him when he came to them.

To do everything possible to *prevent* such an outcome, God raised up Jesus’s own cousin, John the Baptist, as the greatest young Jewish leader of Jesus’ time. The Bible says John stood in the position of Elijah, to “*make straight the path of the Lord,*” and to make a “*people prepared.*” An angel said John was coming “*in the spirit and power of Elijah.*”

John surrounded himself with many fine Jewish monks and spoke to them at length about the expected appearance of the Messiah. John’s father, Zachariah, was even a Jewish priest.

When Jesus was 30 years old and came to John at the Jordan River, John knew him only as his cousin. John then received a revelation that Jesus was the Messiah they were waiting for, and John publicly told this to the people nearby.

However, here was the tragic turning point in the life of Jesus. John initially testified publicly to the divinity of his cousin Jesus, but John himself never followed Jesus. John walked away in disbelief and never came back to Jesus' side. John did not even tell his friends to follow Jesus. Two of John's friends came to John to ask about his testimony to the divinity of Jesus, and John spoke of how Jesus was greater than himself, after which these two decided to follow Jesus, but that was all.

As John continued down the banks of the Jordan River, continuing to baptize as was his custom, those great young monks whom John had unknowingly raised up to become Jesus' followers stayed with John, some of them probably wondering why John did not become the Jesus' chief disciple, nor any kind of disciple of Jesus. They trusted that John knew best what to do about the revelation he had received about Jesus. It would seem only false humility for John to say that Jesus "*must increase and he must decrease,*" After all, if John had united with Jesus, wouldn't they both have increased together? Wouldn't it be greater to have been one of Jesus' chief disciples, rather than just a prophet, as John had been?

When the Jewish scribes and elders asked Jesus, "*By what authority do you do the things you do?*" John should have been standing by his side, responding to their questioning with testimony of his own revelation concerning Jesus as the Son of God.

Instead, while Jesus was teaching the new message of forgiveness in his dealings with adulterers, and for the sick and the lame, John was continuing to follow the old way of condemnation in

relation to King Herod's sister-in-law. He accused her of adultery with the King. For this, John was soon beheaded.

Just before his execution, still struggling with his revelation about the divinity of Jesus, John sent some of his disciples to Jesus to ask him if he was really the expected messiah or not. Jesus responded, *"Blessed is he who takes no offense at me."* Later, Jesus said of John, *"Truly I say to you, among those born of women, there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."* To repeat: *"...even the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John."* He added: *"From the days of John the Baptist, the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and men of violence take it by force."*

John did almost nothing after his proclamation at the Jordan River to testify to Jesus. He even contradicted Jesus, undercutting Jesus' authority and credibility in the eyes of the Jewish people. Jesus said John was in the position of Elijah who was prophesied to come before him, but John himself denied it.

If Jesus appeared at your door today, and you recognized who he really was, wouldn't you do something about it, more than John?

Instead, Jesus was forced to find some poorly-prepared disciples among the fishermen of the area. Most of them had no knowledge of the Jewish law. They had very little faith in Jesus, and could hardly understand his simple teachings. Were it not for Jesus' resurrected appearance to them for 40 days after his death, these followers would have never started the Christian movement.

Jesus' request from the beginning of his ministry was for people to *"believe in him whom God had sent."*

"Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how I would have gathered you together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you would

not.”

The apostle Luke said Jesus was betrayed and killed because they *"did not know the time of [their] visitation."*

Matthew told of terrible judgment for those who reject even Jesus' disciples. Jesus pleaded with the people that if they would not believe his words, that they at least believe his healing miracles and other good works, that they might be saved.

Jesus did everything he could to convince the people that he was the Son of God. But, without the continuing supportive testimony of a person like John the Baptist, which God had expected, the Jewish leaders could not believe. They even said Jesus' miraculous powers came from the Devil.

Jesus scolded those who opposed him and said that those whom they led away from him were becoming twice the children of hell as they themselves. Jesus was very angry with them.

Jesus came to reveal to man the fullness of the love of God. Jesus' living ministry and living authority to forgive sins, even before he was crucified, could have spread quickly with the support of John and John's father, Zachariah, to the rest of the Jewish leadership and eventually to all the Jewish people. After that, a great missionary crusade, led by Jesus himself, would have carried the news of the kingdom of heaven on earth throughout the world through the network of the Roman Empire. Jesus said, *"I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So, there shall be one flock, one shepherd."*

But instead, when it became clear that God's kingdom on earth was not going to be established in his lifetime, Jesus knew, from just before his meeting with the spirits of Moses and the real Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration, that he must pay the painful price for

our faithlessness and demonstrate God's unlimited love by dying on the cross and then resurrecting. From that time on, it was Jesus' determination that he must go the way of the cross and resurrect to his disciples, to convict them in their faith and to pay the price for mankind's rejection of him. He would fulfill the warnings expressed by the prophet Isaiah concerning what would happen if Jesus confronted a faithless people when he came. He would have to return at a later time in history to establish God's kingdom on Earth.

As Paul said, *"None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they never would have crucified the Lord of Glory."*

Satan entered Judas Iscariot, as it says in the Bible, and Judas betrayed Jesus. Jesus indicated that this was the worst thing anyone could possibly do. He said, *"Woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed. It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."*

Before his crucifixion, Jesus said *"I have many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now,"* and he also said that he wanted to speak to us *"of heavenly things, but we could not even understand the earthly things of which he spoke."*

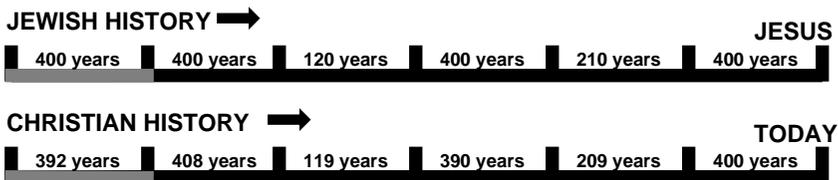
He said, *"I speak to you now in parables and symbols, but the day will come when I will speak to you plainly and clearly of the Father."*

On the cross Jesus asked God to forgive the people for crucifying him. By Jesus' death and resurrection, all can have forgiveness and spiritual salvation. This is the priceless gift that Jesus gave to us through his sacrifice on the cross. But, the kingdom of heaven on Earth, which Jesus initially said was "at hand," remains the hope of all Christians and remains to be realized when the messiah returns again.

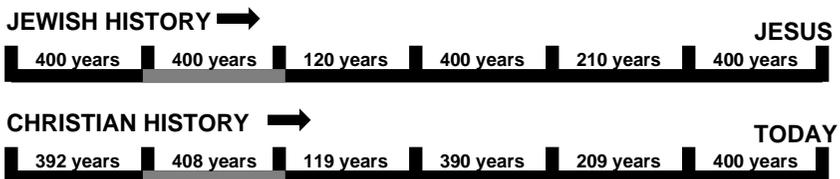
Until then, Jesus and the Holy Spirit stand in the positions of Spiritual Father and Spiritual Mother, the spiritual parents through whom we can have spiritual rebirth.

From this point, God wasted no time in beginning to reconstruct a foundation in the world for the acceptance of the return of the messiah. He again began to gather believers, Christian believers this time, to receive him when he should come again.

We can see how the Christian faith sprang from the 12 apostles and 70 disciples of Jesus, paralleling the 12 sons of Jacob and his 70 relatives. For the next 400 years, Christians suffered even more than the Jews had suffered in Egypt. They were boiled in hot oil, fed to



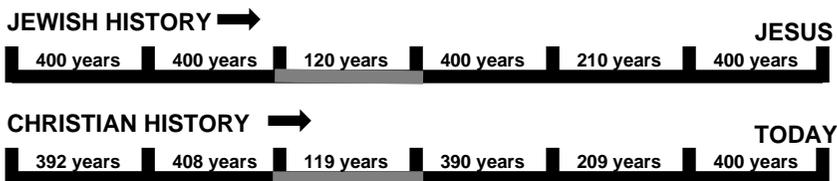
lions, and burned alive as human torches at the Roman Emperor’s garden parties. But Christians again became strengthened and deepened in their faith, and became the convicted believers who could spread Jesus’s teachings throughout the world.



A short time after Constantine made Christianity the legal

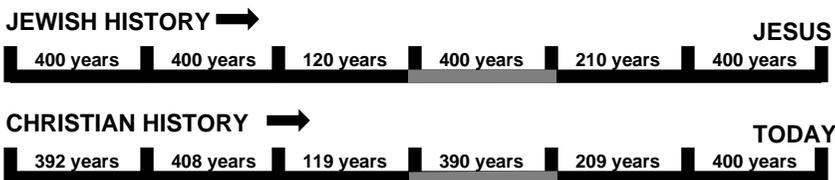
religion of Rome, Augustine published a landmark book entitled, *The City of God* which gave struggling Christians a new vision and goal, somewhat like Moses in the past. This was followed by another 400 years of a feudal Christian society. Sound familiar? Seven Holy Sees were ruled by leaders who functioned as monastic, pope and king, reminiscent of the period of the Jewish Judges. But unfortunately, like with the Jewish Judges, there was no unity among the Holy Sees.

On Christmas Day, 800 A.D., Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne, beginning the Christian period of the Roman Empire which paralleled the previous 120-year period of the three Jewish kings. He and his sons and grandsons reigned for about 119 years.



However, God's desire for a united body of believers to receive the return of the messiah was ever farther away. The grandsons of Charlemagne divided the empire into several parts, and at one point there were three competing popes. Therefore, in 919 A.D., God divided the Christian empire into the Eastern and Western Frankish kingdoms.

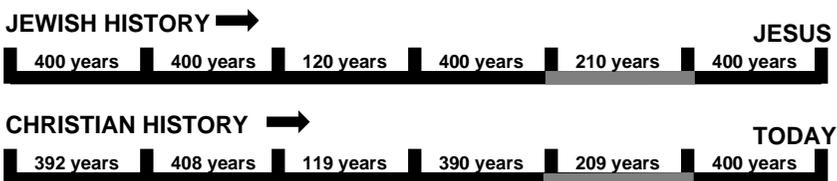
This time, instead of prophets speaking out to reform the Church, monastic orders appeared. St. Francis of Assisi and his followers, St. Thomas Aquinas and his followers, and others, tried to set a higher standard and reform the corrupted Roman church. Unfortunately, their pleas to the papal leadership fell on deaf ears.



God then directly chastised the Roman church in a way similar to what he had done with the Jews before. Since Christians did not belong to any one nation from which they could be taken into captivity, the French king held the Roman Popes captive in Avignon, France for 69 years. Historians have even noticed this historical parallel and referred to this as the “Babylonian captivity of the Pope.”

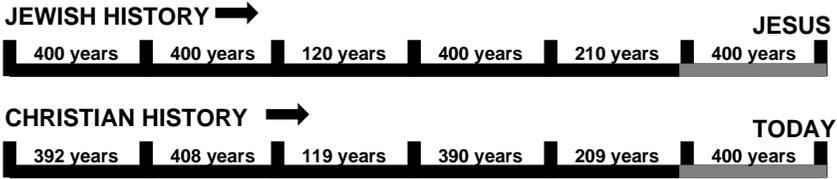
After the Christian empire was later re-established, in 1517 A.D., the great reformer Martin Luther appeared. He, too, worked to restore orthodoxy to the church. His function is reminiscent of the reformer Malachi in Jewish history, who lived just 400 years before Jesus.

Later, America was founded in the name of God. Originally as a Christian nation, and a unique nation of all peoples and all cultures and races, God raised America up to quickly become the central



nation of the world. Its technology, communications, transportation, and even its language reached every corner of the earth. Amidst great

signs of division, an undercurrent has also been moving which has been pulling the world closer together. Eastern and Western cultures have begun to mix. Economic and political alliances have formed.



Major religions have begun seeking common ground in their beliefs. The world has become divided generally into two basic camps — one more Cain-like camp of humanism, led by Marxism-Leninism, which, as you might expect, is characterized by jealousy, anger and resentment, and one more Abel-like camp of various forms of Christian or God-centered ethics and law. Cain and Abel were the elder and younger sons of the first man and woman in the Garden.

The final conflict between the world-wide Cain and Abel camps has been underway for the past century. It has recently entered its final resolution. The Abel-like free world must prevail over the Cain-like communist world without being killed. Then, both sides must unite as brothers under God. All prophecy of the Last Days is being, or has already been, fulfilled. Now it is time for all religions to understand and teach the importance of the messiah coming as a true man and a true woman, as true parents, as the fulfillment of their God-given ideals.

As you can see, all the significant events and time periods which led up to the birth of Jesus as the Messiah have been repeated since his rejection and death 2000 years ago. The persecution of the Hebrews was repeated with the early Christians in Rome; the Hebrew feudal period with the Christian Patriarchal period; the

kingdoms of Saul, David and Solomon with the Carolingian empire; the Jewish division of north and south with the Christian division of east and west; and the captivity in Babylon with the papal captivity in France, etc. All this culminated at the end of World War I, around 1920. Could the long-awaited messiah have come to us again at that time and we did not recognize him? Is it possible?

The person who discovered all this, and much much more, Sun Myung Moon, was born in 1920. He lived an incredible, unbelievable life trying to complete the work Jesus left undone. His attackers and persecutors were ferocious and merciless, accusing him of everything imaginable.

We are living in the precise time in history when God will send his son again, to completely reveal God's love and truth to man — this time clearly and plainly without speaking in parables — and to liberate all people from suffering and pain. This time he will return to marry and elevate the model of true love to the family and social level, coming as true parents and establishing a true family as the cornerstone of a true society, true nation and true world, or literal kingdom of God on Earth. Some believe he has already come, but most people could not recognize him, just like 2,000 years ago.

What you have just read is a very brief introduction to the *Divine Principle*, the teaching of Dr. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon. This booklet is the author's own personal expression of *The Divine Principle* and is not an official publication of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.

Many topics and points were completely left out. Volumes of background and elaboration could have been devoted to every point that was just mentioned here. But, if you study this brief explanation two or three times and begin to see the vision it contains, then study the *Principle* more deeply.

The *Principle* is not traditional understanding. But remember, the truth of God, as Jesus expressed it 2,000 years ago, was not considered orthodox, either, in his day. That's why God's prepared people failed to recognize and accept him, and that's also why Jesus posed the question about the messiah's future return when he said, "*Will he find faith?*" When he explains the truth again in *our* day, as he said "*...without parables and symbols,*" it may not sound like traditional understanding. Will you be ready to hear it?

Through the *Divine Principle*, God is giving 21st Century man a new, more rational and logical expression of the same truths he has revealed to us throughout the ages. You must study the *Principle* more deeply to realize how it can change your life and destiny, and the world.

God wants all of his children to be happy, and he will not give up trying until each one of us responds to him and finds the happiness and fulfillment he intended for us all.

Find out for yourself how profoundly God is speaking to mankind today. It will be the most important decision you will make in your life, and the most transformational undertaking you have ever begun. Pray for God's guidance. He will lead you to the truth.

other publications by Dr. Hentrich...

Revolution – A Treatise on the Legacy and Teachings of Rev. Sun Myung Moon

The Divine Principle Study Bible for Truth Seekers

Angelic DNA

God Doesn't Want to be God Anymore

The Humanist God

Y (Why?)

Why and How to Tithe

To be God was NOT the Plan

The Purpose of Life

Mind-Body Unity – A new paradigm of compassion

Why bad things happen to good people