

## About Ahn Shi II

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*A personal reflection.*

According to Scriptures, God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh day. This is why there exists a seven-day week. It is also why all three Abrahamic faiths have dedicated one day of the week to be a day of rest called, Sabbath.

Sabbath is a day during which most people who believe in God do not work, instead, use that day to think about God and worship Him. Most Muslims, for instance, consider Friday to be the Sabbath. In Judaism, Sabbath is unanimously the timespan between sundown on Friday and sundown on Saturday. In Christianity, most Christians consider Sunday to be the Sabbath. In short, all the Abrahamic faiths have dedicated one day of the week to honor God based on the scriptural account of the creation.

In the Unification movement, as a religious movement derived from the works of the Messiahs, Sunday has been our generally accepted day of worship. However, in 2004, True Father declared the beginning of Ahn Shi II, which is a Unification Movement's equivalent of Sabbath.

Some people may ask, "How can the Sabbath fall on the eighth day?" Others may add, "Did True Father intend to establish a week that has eight days?"

I remember when I was growing up, there were times when some of my siblings and I went to visit my grandmother, my mother's mother. She used to go to the field, planting corn, cassava leaves, sweet potatoes, etc. And when we visited her, we would go to the field with her. It was a long walk from the town where she lived to her field. She actually had several of them. My grandmother lived in a town called Kikonka (pronounced, kee 'kohn kah). And Kikonka, as well as other towns, did not have open land for people to grow crops. Most of the land that people used for farming was in villages. And in those days, people would farm in their hometowns, the villages where their family roots were. This is because they could easily claim a portion of

land belonging to their clan. By the way, I am originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (former Zaire) in Africa, just in case you were wondering.

Being a Catholic, my grandmother did not work on Sundays. There was also one more day of the week that she did not go to the field. And that day fell on a different day each week. Some weeks it fell on a Monday, sometimes on a Tuesday, etc. One day, as myself and my siblings who were visiting her got ready to go to the field, she indicated that we were not going because it was *Konso* (pronounced, 'kohn tsoh). *Konso* was the day that my ancestors rested, so I learned. It was their Sabbath, in a manner of speaking. I also learned then that my ancestors actually had a four-day week, which included *Konso*, *Nkenge* (pronounced, n-'khe n-ge), *Nsona* (pronounced, n-'tsoh nah), and *Nkandu* (pronounced, n-'kha n-doo). They worked every day, except on *Konso*.

I don't know whether True Father intended to establish an eight-day week, but what I can say is that whether or not True Father intended to establish an eight-day week, it would not have been the first time in human history that a week would be any other length than seven days. The pertinent question is: "Why is Ahn Shi Il important?"

It is within the teachings of the Unification Movement that the number eight is the number of new beginning. This means that Ahn Shi Il, which is every eighth day, is actually the day of a new beginning. It comes after the seventh day, or the day after God rested after having created. In other words, Ahn Shi Il is important because it is actually the day that starts a new cycle. It represents the original time that the creation was supposed to start to give back to God. Remember that it took God six days to create the universe, and one day of rest. That makes seven days. The eighth day symbolizes the time period that God would have started to enjoy the fruit of His labor. Remember also that one day is like one thousand years to God:

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.  
(2 Peter 3:8)

As the heavenly realm has been recreated by our True Parents in this era of Cheon Il Guk, Ahn Shi Il is a reminder of the pledge to carry out the

purpose for which God created the universe. In other words, Ahn Shi Il marks the time of reaffirmation. It is the day that we renew our love for God and our resolve to become owners of Cheon Il Guk through fulfilling the ideal of the Blessing, which is also the ideal of the Creation. Every eighth day, we are to take inventory of the last seven days and see whether or not we have made progress in our relationship with God, whether or not we have contributed to the realization of God's ideal, whether or not we have grown as individuals, whether or not we have made progress in making God the one and only Supreme Being in our lives, etc.

People can observe Ahn Shi Il by not working on Ahn Shi Il, by going to the Holy Ground if they live close to one, by doing Hoon Dok Hae if they do not do it regularly, by offering the Family Pledge in Korean if they regularly offer it in English, etc. Whatever people decide to do different from other days, the attitude on Ahn Shi Il should be one of gratitude, reassessment, repentance, and rededication. Hence, Ahn Shi Il is a day during which to renew the foundation upon which to create oneness with God, our Heavenly Parent. However you do it, please, make sure that you observe Ahn Shi Il.

May God bless you.