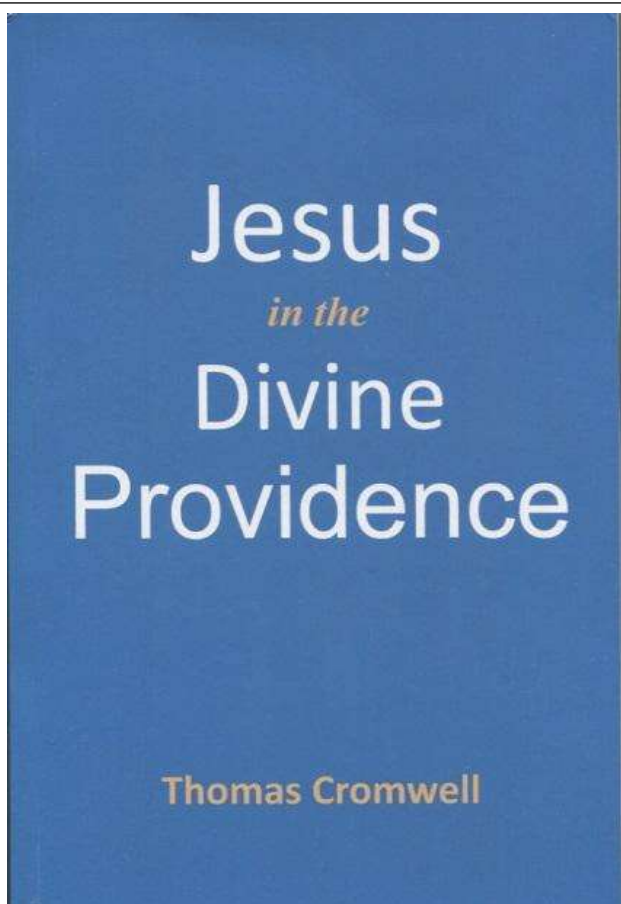


FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Impressive New Book By Thomas Cromwell

Knut Holdhus
July 27, 2023



New book by Cromwell: Jesus in the Divine Providence



Thomas Cromwell

Thomas Cromwell calls for a revolution "in the way we understand Jesus" in "Jesus in the Divine providence", published by [East West Publishing](#) in December 2022. The key to getting to know who Jesus really was, according to the new book by Cromwell, is a clear understanding of [God's](#) providence - "the invisible hand of [God](#) that guides humanity to the fulfillment of our original purpose." (p. xi)

And there is an "original and unchanging purpose" to what [God](#) has been doing all these years. The goal is "to raise up sinless replacements for Adam and Eve who can establish a new Eden, the [Kingdom of Heaven](#) on earth." (p. xiii)

The first part of the well-structured book, the first 11 chapters, deals with the providential preparations for Jesus - how [God](#) prepared a nation and the world for the long-awaited Saviour. Although much space is given to the Biblical account of the millennia to lay a foundation for Jesus, Cromwell also goes into the providential significance of other religions and spiritual movements, including the faiths that appeared in Asia some centuries before Jesus was born - Buddhism, Jainism, Confucianism, Taoism and Zoroastrianism.

The second part of the new book by Cromwell deals with the life and person of Jesus, seen from the perspective of him being a new Adam. We get a detailed look at the providential role of members of Jesus' immediate family and his influential relatives - John the Baptist and his family. They had the responsibility to embrace Jesus and give him all the support they could. They didn't. Nor did other key leaders in Judea provide the assistance the Saviour desperately needed.

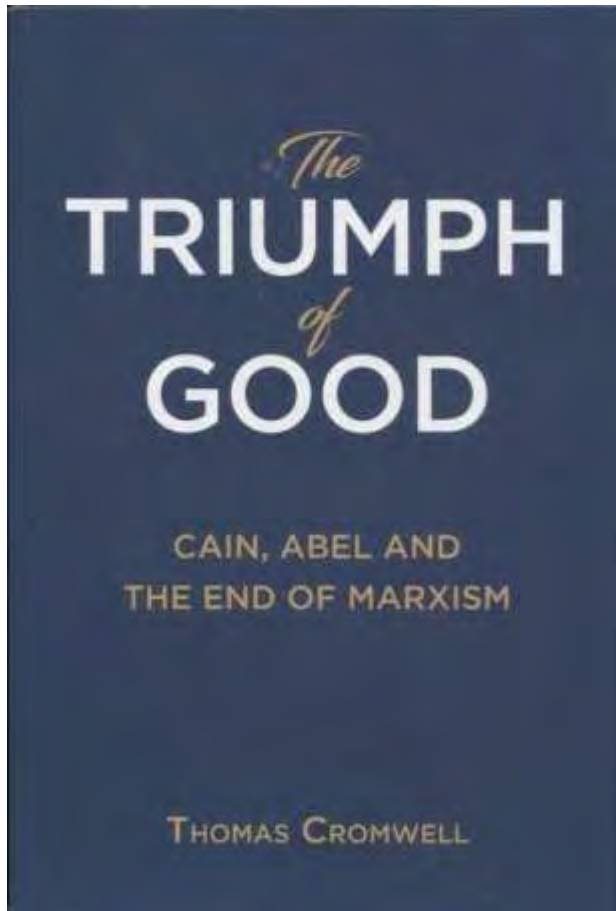
The third part shows how [God](#) has been working to lay a foundation for the second coming of the Messiah. Cromwell points out,

"Finally, the Bible's narrative ends with the lives of the earliest followers of Jesus, notably the 12 disciples and the apostle Paul, leaving us without a scriptural basis for understanding the providence as it has developed over the past 2,000 years." (p. xvi)

Cromwell analyses major historical events from the perspective of the Divine providence.

One concept emphasized by the British/American author is the Cain-Abel

paradigm. Cromwell has in fact previously devoted an entire book to this subject, his 2021-publication *The Triumph of Good - Cain, Abel and the End of Marxism*.



As the [Unification Principles](#) point out, the original Cain-Abel conflict between two brothers developed into a global conflict in our time. Since the Enlightenment, Cain-type and Abel-type ideologies have emerged. It is these in particular that the author describes, but he also links them in an interesting way to the conflict-filled world today. In addition, he relates them to the problematic relationship between the biblical Adam and Eve's two sons, and the equally tragic relationship between Lucifer and Adam.

But an interesting aspect of such an analysis is that Cain and Abel should actually have been reconciled at the dawn of time. That was what [God](#) wanted. In the same way, [God](#) sees the struggle between Cain and Abel forces in today's world as a struggle between "brothers".

Cromwell uses the Cain-Abel paradigm to describe Jesus,

"He came on the foundation of victories by Abel as described in the Old Testament. Before him there had been many Abel-type figures in Israel [...], but he was the first Abel-type person who was sinless and therefore exemplified an absolute, perfect standard of virtue." (p. 17)

The same paradigm has as well implications for those who believe in Jesus,

"Because Christianity is the religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus, the absolute Abel, its purpose is to represent Jesus to the world as an Abel-type force for good that can liberate Cain from the dominion of Satan. This mission has broad implications in all fields, from religion to science and politics." (p. 271)



Artistic image of Jesus from multiple sources, including the Shroud of Turin (XIV century). Photo: Monozigote / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC ASA 4.0 Int](#)

Cromwell delves into the Cain-Abel paradigm in several of the chapters and looks at "Christianity as global Abel", "the challenge to save a Cain-dominated world", "the importance of discerning Cain from Abel".

The paradigm is applied to the discussion of the relationship between Christianity and Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and Christianity and Marxism.

The culmination of the Divine Providence is a [Kingdom of Heaven](#) being established here on the earth. Cromwell emphasizes,

"Our original mind yearns for Eden before the Fall, for a world under the dominion of our Creator, free from sin and evil. We instinctively recognize that the work of salvation is not done until this kingdom becomes a reality. It is not enough for [God](#) to rule in a spiritual realm only;

this must happen on earth too. Otherwise, the dominion of Satan on earth will not be ended and the children of [God](#) will continue to suffer under Cain-type individuals and governments." (p. 361)

In the new book by Cromwell, he describes his first encounter with Jesus at the age of 13 and growing up in an Anabaptist Christian movement founded in a Germany just recovering from World War I - the Bruderhof community.

Cromwell was also attracted to the writings of C.S. Lewis and his ability to translate Christian ideals into "the real world of our experience".

About 50 years ago, Cromwell met a former member of the Bruderhof community. She invited him "to visit a group she was living with called the Unified Family." He writes,

"The members were followers of a Korean religious leader called [Sun M. Moon](#). I found their teaching challenging but intriguing. The ideas they shared shed a whole new light on what I had learned from the Bible, and provided a clear set of answers to many of my questions." (p. 376)

Over the years, Cromwell has also met and studied a wide variety of other religions. He worked for 25 years in the Middle East as a journalist, newspaper publisher and peace activist.

Featured image above: The front page of the new book by Cromwell: Jesus in the Divine Providence. Photo: Knut Holdhus

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The Kingdom of Heaven

The Kingdom of Heaven – a world overflowing with true love



Photo: Damian Markutt / [Unsplash](#)

Ladies and gentlemen, what kind of place is the kingdom of heaven? In brief, the heavenly kingdom is a world overflowing with [God's true love](#). [True love](#) is its axis. [True love](#) is everywhere, in the outward expression as well as in the inward thought. Everyone's life is filled with [true love](#) from beginning to end.

In the kingdom of heaven, people are born through [true love](#), live in the embrace of [true love](#) and follow the track of [true love](#) until the day they pass on into the next world, the spirit world.

The kingdom of heaven is a natural world where all people live for the sake of one another. Consequently, antagonism and jealousy cannot be found anywhere in that world.

It is a world that is not governed by money, position or power.

There, the success of every person represents the success of the whole, the likes of every person represent the likes of the whole, and the joy of every person represents the joy of the whole.

The kingdom of heaven is a world filled with the air of [true love](#), where everyone breathes [true love](#). Its life throbs with love, everywhere and all the time.

The citizens of that kingdom are all linked together through their common membership in [God's](#) lineage. There, the whole world and all its people are connected in an inseparable relationship, like the cells in our bodies.

[True love](#), the love that is [God's essence](#), is Heaven's only governing power. Accordingly, [God](#) also exists for [true love](#).

Ladies and gentlemen, you should now devote yourselves to practicing a life of [true love](#). Can you love [God](#) more than Adam or Eve did? Can you love [God](#) more than Jesus did?

By thoroughly actualizing [true love](#), you should bring your mind and body into perfect harmony.

You should establish [relationships](#) of [true love](#) with everyone around you. To put it another way, you should perfect a true family consisting of three generations of grandparents, parents, and children living together in [true love](#). If you do this while you are on Earth, you will be eligible to enter Heaven.

(Excerpt from [Peace Message 7](#), a speech [Sun Myung Moon](#), [Hak Ja Han](#), and other members of their family held in 12 South Korean cities and in major cities worldwide from 31st Aug. 2006.)

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God

God as reality

God exists. You may have felt it. So have millions and millions of believers.

Some have felt God through the beautiful harmony of nature, and some through religious scriptures.

Others have had spiritual experiences. Millions have had near-death experiences.

In any case, the Creator is not something you just believe exists. He is reality. He is as much a part of reality as you or any physical object. It is not only physical things that are real. Some people believe that, in the same way people used to think that the Earth was flat, and that the sky was an arc that stretched above the Earth.



When asked on an Australian TV program, "Do you believe in God?" famous Canadian psychologist and author Jordan Peterson

"said he considered himself a deeply religious person, and he acted as if God existed and he was terrified he actually might."

(Quoted from "Why rock star psychologist Jordan Peterson struggles with this question," an article by Stephanie Bedo on news.com.au 1st March 2019.)

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[Father Moon](#) says,

"We have a mind. The mind is invisible and may not appear to exist, yet it exists. Does it exist in the head or in the heart? The mind exists throughout your body. It is present in every cell of your body without exception. The same is true for God. Because this world is like His body, He is present everywhere in the world." – From a speech [Sun Myung Moon](#) gave 8th January 1971, quoted from [Cheon Seong Gyeong](#) (2005 version), Book 1, Chapter 1.

"You cannot see God. Can you see energy? Since God is the original body of energy, you cannot see God even in the spirit world." – From a speech [Sun Myung Moon](#) gave 21st October 1979, quoted from [Cheon Seong Gyeong](#) (2005 version), Book 1, Chapter 1.

And by all means: God is not unscientific. Natural science does not disprove the [existence of God](#).

[More](#) about God.



[Father Moon](#) 25th June 2005

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The Unification Principles



The key to understanding [Sun Myung Moon](#) and [Hak Ja Han](#) and their movement is the Unification Principles (The Divine Principle), an important part of their teachings and the name of the revelations [Father Moon](#) received from [God](#) and Jesus during the period 1935-1944.

The Unification Principles explain [God's original ideal](#), how and why the ideal was not realized, and the long and complicated process [God](#) and we humans have had to go through in order to return to a world that is as [God](#) originally wanted it to be. In addition to describing the most important events and people in this process, the Unification Principles explain its ultimate goal.

The teaching gives you answers to each of life's big questions and also gives you a comprehensive understanding not only of your own life, but of the great physical and [spiritual reality](#) of which we are all a part.

We see the Bible and the holy writings of other religions as important contributions to clarifying the path each individual must follow in order to live in harmony with [God](#) and their fellow human beings. A unique part of [Father Moon's](#) teaching is how [God](#) has worked for the past 2000 years, and how [God](#) works today.

There is no published edition of the Unification Principles written by [Sun Myung Moon](#) himself.

After his life-changing spiritual [encounter with Jesus Christ](#) 17th April 1935, the young Korean started to study the Bible intensely for many years. In the margins of his Bible he wrote down notes about insights he arrived at and revelations he received. Those notes are said to have been central when later putting together the texts known as the Unification Principles (The



Sun Myung Moon's first encounter with Jesus in 1935.

Divine Principle).

The very first manuscript of his teachings was apparently lost in North Korea during the **Korean War**, while he was a prisoner in a concentration camp. After arriving as a refugee in Busan, South Korea, for one year until May 1952, he wrote Wollu Wonbon (The Original Text of the Principles), an unpublished text.

After the Korean War (1950-1953), and after the **Unification Church** was **founded in 1954**, he asked one of his main disciples, Hyo-won Eu, to write a more systematic version of the teachings.

The first book that was published, only in Korean, was Wollu Haeseol (Explanation of the Principles) in 1957, written as an interpretation of and a new perspective on the 66 books of the Bible.



The year after, Eu started the work on the text that became the official version of the Unification Principles, **Wollu Kangron** (Exposition of the Principles).

It was published in Korean in 1966, and in 1973 in English as "Divine Principle", after **Father Moon** had moved to the USA in 1971.



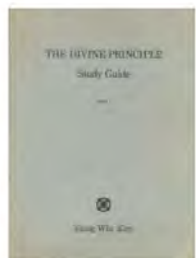
Divine Principle, 1973



A new and better translation appeared in 1996, "Exposition of the Divine Principle".

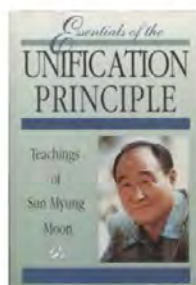
Other versions of the Unification Principles have also appeared in English:

"Divine Principle and Its Application", by Dr. Young Oon Kim, published in 1968 and translated into a number of languages. Republished 2004 as "The Living Code – A New Look at the Bible".



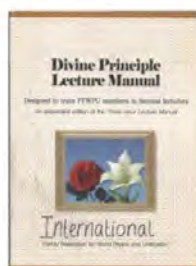
"The Divine Principle Study Guide", by Young Whi Kim (Yeong-hwi Kim), one of the first 3 couples, part 1 first published in 1973, part 2 in 1975.

"Outline of the Principle – Level 4", (Wollu Kangeuian in Korean) by dr. Cheong-hwan Kwak, then International Director of Education of the **Unification Church**, published in 1980 in English and translated into many other languages. This is a lecture manual with hundreds of diagrams beside the text.



"Essentials of the Unification Principle – Teachings of Sun Myung Moon", written primarily by Thomas Cromwell, published in 1994 with the approval of the International Director of Education of the **Unification Church**. The book includes a chapter on Mohammed and Islam as well as one on how we may apply the teachings to our life.

"United Visions – One God, One Truth, and One Human Family", by Abdelmoumin Ahmed, written originally in Arabic, published in English 2009, written primarily for a Muslim audience. Input from senior lecturers of the Unification Principles.



In 2016, "Divine Principle Lecture Manual – An expanded edition of the Three Hour Lecture Manual" appeared, published by the **Family Federation**, Seoul, South Korea. It was designed to train members to become lecturers and contains more than 250 illustrations and lots of explanatory notes.

What we call the Unification Principles (The Divine Principle), is simply wollu – 원리 – in Korean. The



Korean word wollu means principle or principles. Korean nouns are not specific about their number – whether they are singular or plural.

Unification Principles in Korean. Screenshot from trueteaching.org

Apparently the singular form “principle” was chosen by the Korean members in 1956, when deciding on an English name for the teachings, in order to emphasize that the content makes up a unitary whole. In order to avoid misunderstandings, we use the term “Unification Principles” here as the teachings certainly refer to more than one principle.

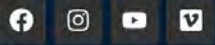
Also, it should be clear that the English expression “Divine Principle” is not intended to mean that everything in the book is about some divine principle. Rather, the teachings reveal that certain fundamental principles play a significant role in shaping historical events and the progress of **God's** work to create the world he planned from the beginning. Also, an understanding of those principles allow yourself to better master your own life and your **relationships**.

[More](#) about the teachings



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