

Billy Graham's Mission as John the Baptist

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Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Revelation 1:7

The Divine Principle teaches us that the Second Coming of Christ will occur in the East, and that the nation in which He will appear is Korea. But how could a poor preacher from the small, destitute nation of Korea in the 1960's be seen by the world and recognized as the Lord awaited by all of Christianity?

When Christ came to Israel 2,000 years ago, God had prepared John the Baptist to recognize and give testimony to Him. In fact, the Bible tells us that John the Baptist was so powerfully filled with God's spirit that many even wondered if he were the Christ. In the same way, at the time of the Second Coming, God prepared Christian evangelists and prophets on the national and worldwide levels to testify to Christ at His Second Coming. If those Christian leaders whom God had prepared had been able to recognize and humble themselves to the Lord of the Second Advent, the world could have quickly been restored as God's Kingdom.

Perhaps the most well-known of these world-level preachers was Billy Graham (1918-2018). Billy Graham was born two years prior to True Father, the Rev. Sun Myung Moon. Graham preached to 210 million people in 85 countries on 6 continents. His largest crusade was at Yo-i-do plaza outside of Seoul, Korea, where he spoke to an estimated 3.2 million people, most of whom traveled by foot, over a period of 5 days. People started arriving at 4:30 a.m. He was deeply moved by their fervent faith. On the final day of the crusade, June 3, 1973, 1.1 million people attended the event. Rev. Moon also spoke at Yo-i-Do plaza in June of 1975, in front of 1.2 million people.



Rev. Billy Graham at Yo-i-do in Korea 1973



Rev. Sun Myung Moon at Yo-i-Do in Korea 1975

Additional facts about Billy Graham and Sun Myung Moon

1. Both Billy Graham and Sun Myung Moon began their missions around the age of 25. Rev. Moon began to preach in Korea in 1945.
2. Billy's Graham's wife, Ruth Bell Graham, was born the daughter of missionaries. The name Ruth is the same name as one of Jesus' lineage in the Bible. She attended boarding school in what is today North Korea.
3. As an ecumenical preacher, Rev. Graham embraced all of Christianity, including Catholicism. As a result, he was often attacked by fundamentalist Christians. Graham praised Pope John Paul II as one of the greatest leaders of the age. Billy Graham's ministry was for all Christians, not only one denomination or group.
4. Like Rev. Moon, Graham believed there is no black, white, or yellow in God's eyes. Graham was a supporter of Martin Luther King, Jr. Rev. Moon also recognized Martin Luther King, Jr. as one of the greatest religious leaders of the time. Rev. Graham worked together with Martin Luther King, Jr. for a period of time. Rev. Moon, Billy Graham and Martin Luther King, Jr. all were subject to many death threats. Graham attracted hatred because of his support for blacks. At one southern stadium where he preached, there were ropes in the stands separating the blacks from the whites. Graham asked the ushers to remove the ropes. When they wouldn't do it, he went into the stands and removed them himself.
5. Both Billy Graham and Sun Myung Moon strongly supported marriage, emphasizing that it is only within the husband-wife relationship that God intended for men and women to have sexual relations. Both were very staunchly opposed to divorce, insisting it was absolutely not permitted as far as God is concerned. Both stressed the importance of sexual purity in life. Billy Graham's son, Franklin, was lambasted for his opposition to homosexuality when he took over the Billy Graham Evangelical Association. When Rev. Graham began evangelical work, he realized that many people around him were compromised by blackmail, sexual temptation, etc. He had his evangelical team sign a pledge not to get involved with those kinds of issues.
6. Billy Graham said that people would one day travel throughout the universe at the speed of thought. Rev. Moon said we would travel at the speed of love.
7. Billy Graham said that the center of Christianity during his lifetime was the West, but that missionaries would soon be coming to the United States from Asia (the East).
8. When Billy Graham went to Australia and spoke there, there was a gang leader who hated him. Several gang members in the audience had come with ghost guns, planning to kill Rev. Graham at the event. The leader of the gang testified later that he heard a voice inside of him telling him not to kill Graham. The gang leader began crying inside. He instructed the other gang members not to shoot.
9. Rev. Graham and his staff were very conscious about the possibility of being set up for blackmail. When they would go a hotel, they would check the room to see if there might be a naked woman and cameraman in the closet. They were aware that one incident like that could ruin the whole ministry.

10. Billy Graham had highly successful rallies at Madison Square Garden and Yankee Stadium (among other places). Rev. Moon also spoke to a packed crowd at Madison Square Garden, as well as at Yankee Stadium and Washington Monument.
11. Beginning with Harry Truman, Billy Graham counseled US presidents until he passed away in 2018. Rev. Moon also met with and counseled sitting presidents.



Rev. Graham meeting with US Presidents Harry Truman, George H. W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton



Rev. Moon with Pres. Eisenhower in 1959, and with Pres. Nixon in 1974

12. Billy Graham had rallies in North Korea, Russia, and other communist countries. He embraced the communist leader of North Korea, Kim Il Sung, as an expression of God's love for him. Rev. Moon, who was born in what is now North Korea, also embraced Kim Il Sung, and encouraged him to give up the atheistic Communist ideology. Both Rev. Graham and Rev. Moon met with the Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who was instrumental in tearing down the Iron Curtain.



Rev. Billy Graham with Kim Il Sung and with Mikhail Gorbachev



Rev. Moon with Kim Il Sung and with Mikhail Gorbachev

13. Billy Graham often emphasized the unchanging nature of God's love. Rev. Moon frequently spoke about true love being eternal, absolute, and unchanging.

When we compare the lives of these two great men of God, we can see that the same true God – the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jesus – had prepared the nation of Korea for an important role in His providence and was working with both Billy Graham and Sun Myung Moon toward the accomplishment of His ultimate Will.