

Concluding the Providence of Restoration

Part 1: The Reason for the Temple

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Personal Reflection

²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands.

²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’”
(Acts 17:24-28—NIV)

Will you go to the kingdom of heaven through the Unification Church people, the Unification Church nation or the Unification Church world? Before there is a world, there must be a nation, and before there is a nation, there must be a people. Now we are a people, but we have not built our nation. The nation I am talking about is one that gathers people together from all over the world. Hence, it will be the nation that transcends national borders, transcends peoples, tribes, religions and races. It will be the kingdom of heaven on earth that God desires. Accordingly, our goal is to create such a nation. Once we have created God’s nation, we can create God’s world and then God’s cosmos. ([*Cham Bumo Gyeong*](#), Book 5, Chapter 4, Section 3 — <https://godible.org/blogs/daily-godible/cham-bumo-gyeong-episode-1>

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The conclusion of the Providence of Restoration marks the fulfillment of the Providence of Restoration. Once the Providence of Restoration is fulfilled, only the Providence of Creation will remain. The Providence of Creation refers to the fulfillment of God's ideal without having to deal with sin, repentance, grace, indemnity, etc. For this to take place, there has to be a God-centered nation.

The reason why it is important to establish a God-centered nation is in order to establish God's sovereignty. God's ideal, which is realized on the foundation of His Kingdom that has been established by ideal individuals, cannot be established without at least one nation that protects and promotes His sovereignty. This is why our True Parents keep on insisting on the establishment of *Cheon Il Guk*—a God-centered nation. The key here is to establish God's sovereignty.

Whenever the Hebrews were sovereign, they built a temple for God. Think about the First Temple. When was it built? The First Temple was built during the reign of King Solomon. Its construction began after the Israelites had been sovereign for eight decades:

In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites came out of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build the temple of the Lord. (1 Kings 6:1)

Although the construction of the First Temple took place after the Israelites were sovereign for decades, the construction of the Second Temple, however, began as the Jewish People were regaining their sovereignty after having been kept captive by the Babylonians:

In the second month of the second year after their arrival at the house of God in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak and the rest of the people (the priests and the Levites and all who had returned from the captivity to Jerusalem) began the work. They appointed Levites twenty years old and older to supervise the building of the house of the Lord. (Ezra 3:8)

(If you have a chance, please read the first chapter of the book of Haggai in the Bible.)

Today, as we are in the era of the settlement of *Cheon Il Guk*, our True Mother has initiated the construction of the *Cheon Won Gung and Cheon Il Sanctum*.

Cheon Won Gung and Cheon Il Sanctum is the name of the Holy Temple that is being constructed in the Cheongpyeong area in South Korea. Why has True Mother initiated this project?

Only True Mother can say specifically why she has initiated such a monumental and historic project. What we can learn from her words is that this Holy Temple is being constructed for God. As she alluded to in her prayer during the dedication ceremony held on May 7th of this year, "Although there have been many challenges leading up to this day, in the midst of Your giving Your blessing this day we can dedicate to You the *Cheon Won Gung and Cheon Il Sanctum*, where Your glory, Heavenly Parent, can be manifested on high." ([True Mother's Benediction](https://familyfedihq.org/2023/05/true-mother-at-the-cheon-won-gung-dedication-ceremony/) — <https://familyfedihq.org/2023/05/true-mother-at-the-cheon-won-gung-dedication-ceremony/>)

We might also ask, why construct this temple now?

As history is our witness, this is not the first temple that has been constructed for God, the Creator. Just to reiterate, in the Bible, we read

that Solomon constructed a magnificent temple for God. And that when the Jewish people returned from their captivity, they also constructed a temple for God. It is thus safe to say that constructing a temple for God is for the sake of establishing and recognizing God's sovereignty.

God's work of restoration must come full circle in order to exit the Realm of Restoration and return to the Realm of Creation—the original realm before the Fall.

Although it is recorded in the Bible that God does not dwell in man-made temples (cf. Acts 17:24), having a temple, whether it is dedicated to God the Creator or any other deities, allow believers to increase their sensibility to God or their deity and be more intentional in their relationship with God or their deity (cf. Acts 17:27). Going to such a temple, or thinking about such a temple is, by itself, a boost to the divine that dwells within a believer (cf. Acts 17:28).

Beginning the era of *Cheon Il Guk* with the construction of the *Cheon Won Gung and Cheon Il Sanctum* is about establishing a strong and substantial foundation for the firm establishment of *Cheon Il Guk*—the substantial foundation of God's Kingdom on earth. As long as the believers maintain faith in the *Cheon Won Gung and Cheon Il Sanctum*, God's will will definitely be fulfilled with or without the physical presence of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind.

Think about the Israelites' history. The construction of the Temple was necessary not only because the Temple represented the Messiah, but also because it grounded their foundation as a people and set them as a nation. As long as they honored the Temple, i.e., their relationship with God, they remained safe, strong, and prosperous.

A temple built for God substantiates the presence of God among His people, His children. It was so at the time of the Israelites during the reign of Solomon, it was the same during the time of the Jewish people after they returned to Israel from the Babylonian captivity, and it is no different with us today. The only difference is the scope of the mission. In this era of *Cheon Il Guk*, the construction of the *Cheon Won Gung and Cheon Il Sanctum* is taking place at the cosmic level.

Now, besides initiating the construction of the *Cheon Won Gung and Cheon Il Sanctum* in Cheongpyeong, our True Mother has also initiated the proliferation of *Cheon Shim Wons*—Holy Prayer Halls. What is the difference between the Temple (*Cheon Won Gung and Cheon Il Sanctum*) and a *Cheon Shim Won*?

We have already reflected on the value of a temple and, specifically, the *Cheon Won Gung and Cheon Il Sanctum*. Let us now reflect a little on the value of a *Cheon Shim Won*.

We read in the Bible that, while they were roaming the desert, God told Moses to build the tabernacle (cf. Exodus 26). According to the Divine Principle, “the Tabernacle was a representation of Jesus” as well as the Temple (EDP, pp. 245-246).

Think of a *Cheon Shim Won* as you would the Tabernacle even though a *Cheon Shim Won* cannot be readily assembled and disassembled as the Tabernacle would.

In my opinion, the reason why True Mother has opened the era of the proliferation of *Cheon Shim Wons* is in order to expand the establishment of the foundation for the settlement of *Cheon Il Guk*.

Just like God would continue to work with the Israelites who maintained faith in the Tabernacle regardless of what their leader/s did,

God, our Heavenly Parent, will continue to work with us and be with us as long as we maintain faith in Him and continue to fellowship with Him though the *Cheon Shim Wons*. This is why, because not everyone will have easy access to the *Cheon Won Gung and Cheon Il Sanctum*, True Mother has promoted the proliferation of *Cheon Shim Wons* so that everyone can be guided directly by God, as well as the True Parents. One needs not to go to Cheonpyeong for that.

At the time of Moses, the Israelites were one people. Even though they had twelve tribes, they all were together. The Tabernacle served them all. Today, now that God's providence has reached a cosmic scale, having one *Cheon Shim Won* is not effective if people have to use it as a beacon of their faith. God's children are spread out all over the world. Hence, there must be *Cheon Shim Wons* all over the world. These *Cheon Shim Wons* represent the *Cheon Won Gung and Cheon Il Sanctum*.

Last but not least, the *Cheon Won Gung and Cheon Il Sanctum* as well as the *Cheon Shim Wons* are not only for Unificationists. They are for everyone who wishes to directly fellowship with God on the foundation that the True Parents have established in this era of *Cheon Il Guk*.

“Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.” (Exodus 25:8-9)