

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: 90 Years Ago Father Moon Encountered Jesus

Knut Holdhus
April 17, 2025



[Sun Myung Moon](#) in prayer on Wednesday April 17, 1935, when [Jesus appeared](#) to him - Painting by Shigeyoshi Watanabe 1982



[Sun Myung Moon](#)'s birthplace in Chongju, with the Myodu hill in the background

Father Moon's life-changing experience with Jesus during easter 1935 was something God had prepared for in a chosen country

Today, it is 90 years since [Sun Myung Moon](#) had his life-changing [spiritual encounter](#) with Jesus Christ. It happened on 17th April 1935 - the Wednesday before Maudy Thursday - on a hill called Myodu, not far from his home in Chongju (Jeongju), situated in what today is North Korea. The young Korean had gone there to pray. He describes what happened in his autobiography,

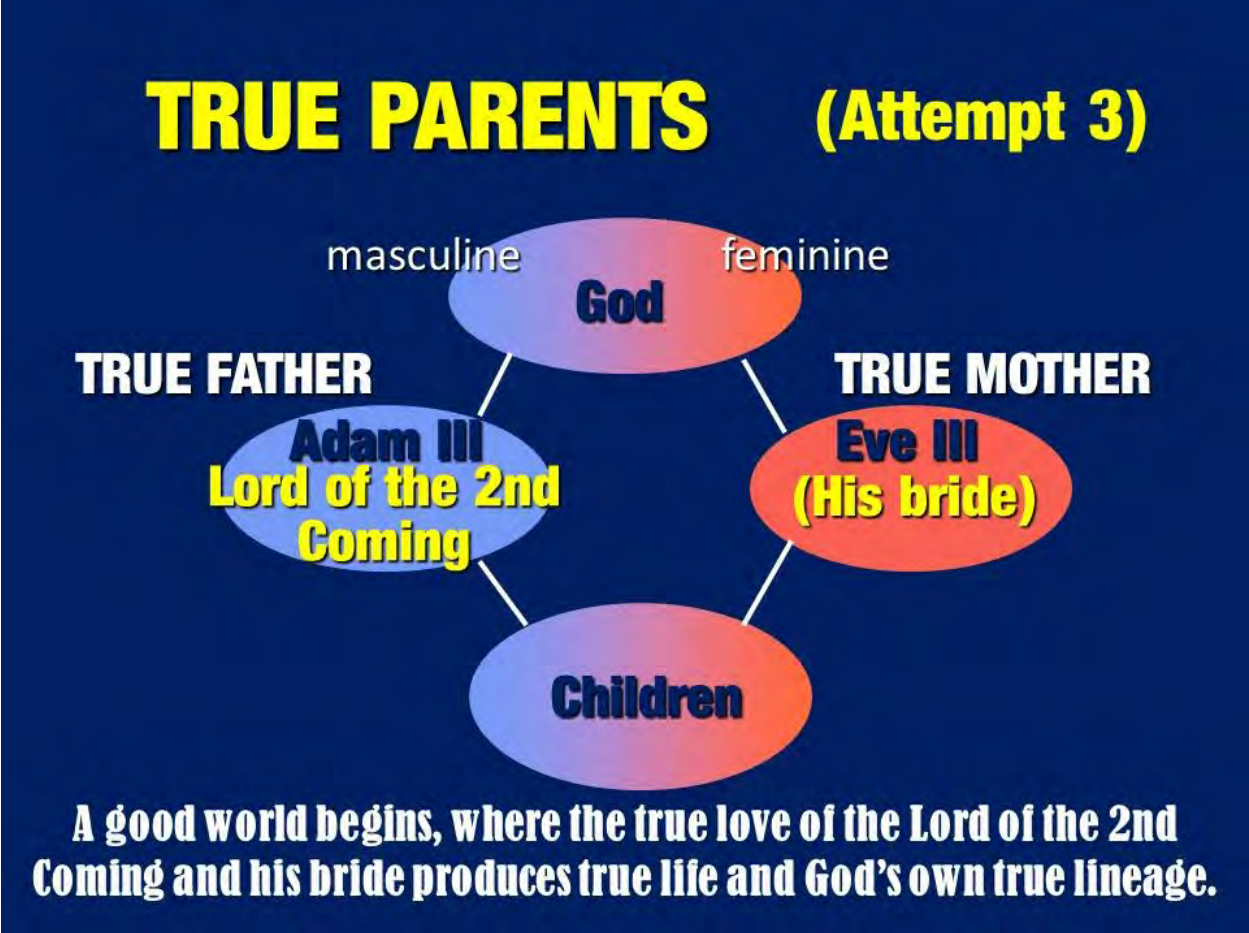
"I was up praying all night without sleeping at all. At dawn that Easter morning, Jesus

manifested himself before me. Like a gust of wind, Jesus appeared and said, 'Because of the sufferings of humankind, [God](#) has a broken heart. That is why he asks you to take on a special mission in [God](#)'s work on earth.'

That day I saw the sorrowful face of Jesus clearly and heard his voice distinctly. Seeing Jesus manifest made my body tremble violently, like an aspen leaf. Then and there I was seized with an awe so great that I thought I was going to die, and at the same time carried away by emotions so strong that I thought I was going to explode. Right in front of me, Jesus clearly explained to me what I had to do. In an incredible way, he told me that I should save a humanity that was suffering and in pain, and bring joy to [God](#)." (From [Sun Myung Moon](#)'s autobiography, chapter 2, section 1, translated from the Korean original.)

The young Korean - only 15 at the time - later said that it was there Jesus gave him a divine mission. Jesus told [Moon](#) that his own (Jesus's) work had been left unfinished and that [Moon](#) was being called to

complete the work of building the [Kingdom of Heaven](#) on earth. [Moon](#) resisted at first, feeling unworthy and overwhelmed by the responsibility. However, after several hours of inner struggle and prayer, he accepted the call.



The establishment of [True Parents](#), an essential part of [Sun Myung Moon](#)'s mission

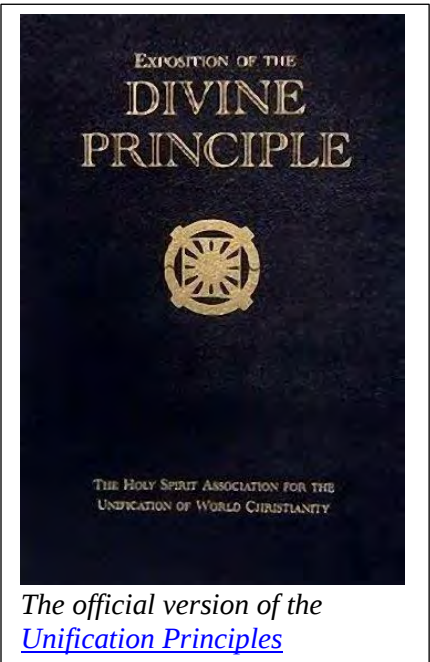
This event is considered foundational to [Father Moon](#)'s messianic mission and the teachings of the [Family Federation](#). Jesus entrusted him with the task of:

Completing the work of salvation that Jesus could not finish due to his crucifixion.

Establishing "[True Parents](#)" on Earth - an ideal man and woman who would lead humankind back to [God](#) by overcoming original sin and creating a lineage free from it.

Uniting all religions, races, and nations under one global family rooted in [God](#)'s love.

The [Family Federation](#) teaches that Jesus' crucifixion was not the original plan of [God](#), and that [Father Moon](#)'s mission was to fulfill what Jesus intended: a physical, earthly restoration of [God](#)'s Kingdom through restoring families, societies, nations, and the world. The Messiah's role is not just to save souls, but to create a restored human family that fulfills [God's original ideal](#).



The official version of the [Unification Principles](#)

Jesus came to establish the [Kingdom of Heaven](#) on earth - not just spiritually. His death on the cross was a secondary course, not [God](#)'s original plan. Jesus' crucifixion meant that the "marriage of the Lamb" (from Revelation) never happened, and the ideal of [True Parents](#) was postponed.

[Moon](#)'s vision is seen as the moment when Jesus personally passed the unfinished mission to someone capable of completing it on Earth - [Sun Myung Moon](#). He became the Third Adam - the first being Adam in the [Garden of Eden](#), the second being Jesus.

The [Unification Principles](#) present a complex theory of historical parallels and restoration periods, suggesting that history unfolds in predictable cycles based on biblical figures and events. The teachings identify the early 20th century as the [providential](#) time for the new Messiah to appear. Korea is positioned as the "Third Israel," the prepared nation for the Second Coming.

In many ways [Sun Myung Moon](#)'s spiritual [encounter with Jesus](#) in

1935 was similar to other religious callings. Like Muhammad receiving the Qur'an from the angel Gabriel, or Moses encountering [God](#) in the burning bush, [Father Moon](#)'s encounter was a direct spiritual confrontation with the divine. Resistance, awe, and eventual submission are classic themes in most prophetic traditions.

[Sun Myung Moon](#) was alone on a mountainside, deeply in prayer - just like Jesus in the wilderness, or the Buddha under the Bodhi tree. These "sacred moments of calling" often happen in isolation. Many prophets express doubt or fear at first (e.g., Jeremiah saying "I am only a child", or Muhammad thinking he was going mad. [Moon](#), too, reportedly resisted, feeling unworthy.

But there also key differences that set [Father Moon](#)'s [experience with Jesus](#) apart. In most religions, the divine figure or angel delivers a new message or revelation. But in [Moon](#)'s case, Jesus, a central figure of another major world religion, appears to personally appoint [Sun Myung Moon](#) as his successor. This isn't just [God](#) calling someone new - it's Jesus saying: "You must finish what I couldn't." That's radically different from, say, Muhammad or Joseph Smith, who each claimed to receive independent revelation, not delegated mission from the founder of another religion.

Unification theology doesn't frame [Father Moon](#) as just a prophet (like Isaiah or Muhammad) but as the Messiah - the Lord of the Second Advent. Most prophets are messengers of the Word. [Moon](#) is said to be the embodiment of the Word, like Christ in Christian theology. He is to complete salvation by establishing [True Parents](#), not just preach about it. That puts his role more on par with Jesus himself, not Moses or Elijah.



The [Marriage Blessing](#) - the way to create a [lineage](#) free from the original sin. Here, the exchange of [Marriage Blessing](#) rings 12th April 12, 2025

Traditional prophets typically bring a text, law, or moral teaching: the Torah, the Qur'an, the Sutras. [Moon](#)'s mission is about building a [new lineage](#), physically starting a family free of the original sin inherited from Adam and Eve, a family that is to redeem all humanity. This is a huge departure - it moves from spiritual truth to physical restoration. A prophet teaches; the Messiah marries and multiplies.

Also, most prophetic traditions emerge from a specific people or nation (Hebrews, Arabs, Indians). [Father Moon](#)'s message, from the start, had a global, interreligious aim: uniting all faiths, races, and nations into one heavenly family.

This reflects a post-World War II global spirituality, which sets it apart from more regionally focused prophecies of ancient times.

Text: Knut Holdhus

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Grand Opening Of Cheonwon Temple Marks New Era

- April 15, 2025
- Knut Holdhus

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The Cheonwon Temple during the entrance ceremony 13th April 2025.
Photo: Screenshot from live transmission by Peace TV.

Monument to peace: Entrance into Cheonwon Temple celebrated as “culmination of 6,000 Years of providential history”

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On 13th April, a spectacular event took place in Gapyeong, South Korea which according to the [Family Federation](#) carries profound spiritual meaning and represents a significant milestone for the movement. It was the entrance ceremony into the Cheonil Sanctum at the Cheonwon Temple, which will be the central temple of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (formerly known as the Unification Church).

The [federation](#) founded in 1996 by [Father Moon](#) and [Mother Han](#) has described the event as the “culmination of 6,000 years of [providential](#) history” and the realization of the “ideal of one human family under our Heavenly Parent.”



From the entrance ceremony in the Cheonil Sanctum inside Cheonwon Temple 13th April 2025. Photo: Screenshot from live transmission by Peace TV.

Towards the end of the ceremony, [Holy Mother Han](#) read a proclamation, announcing the opening of a new era and new history,

“Our Creator, the Owner of the heavens and Earth, our Heavenly Parent, for you to be able to usher in and welcome this day – due to the fall of humankind – for 6,000 years you endured and waited for this one day.

Oh, Heavenly Parent, thank you very much! Thank you very much, and I am very sorry as well.

However, you are the true Owner of this earth. Through the [True Parents](#), many [blessed](#) families emerged, and many second and third generation “pure waters” could be born. In order to reveal and demonstrate the [Kingdom of Heaven](#) on earth to all people, they’re all advancing forward. So, from today on, dearest Heavenly Parent, please embrace your children to your heart-felt desire.

Now this world is under your sovereignty, your dominion, and as every aspect of this world comes to order, all people will become one big family under you, and this will come to realization.

And in Holy Mother Han’s name the door to [Cheonil-guk](#), to the [Kingdom of Heaven](#) on earth has opened wide. And I proclaim this to all peoples of the world.” (From simultaneous translation)

MBN News [published on 14th April](#) an article produced by its culture desk, headlined, “Opening of ‘Cheonwon-gung Museum’ – ‘Realizing an Ideal World of Peace Through Love’.”



The news outlet described the grand building as “equipped with a multipurpose hall, museum, and art gallery. It is presented as a cultural space that transcends religion and aims to share universal love and human tradition.”

YTN News [reported 13th April](#),

“The Cheonwon-gung Museum was built on a land area of approximately 56,200 square meters, with a total floor area of 90,400 square meters, and consists of four stories above ground and four below.”



The Segye Ilbo (세계일보) writes in an in-depth [report 13th April](#),

“Built as a ‘one-of-a-kind architectural symbol of a peaceful world’, the museum is a domed rectangular structure inspired by Renaissance architectural styles.”



The paper reports that Cheong-woo Lee, a spokesperson for the [Family Federation](#), states that the large temple will “serve as the central office of [Cheonil-guk](#) (a peaceful ideal world where the Creator’s vision is realized) and become a sanctum of education for all humanity.”

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The regional daily Joongdo Ilbo (중도일보) reports 15th April that [Hak Ja Han](#), the co-founder and head of the [Family Federation](#), said at the solemn ceremony,



"This world is now being brought into order, and a world of one human family through [true love](#) will surely unfold. [...] The gates of heaven, the gates of [Cheonil-guk](#), have now been flung wide open for all to see."



From the Cheonil Sanctum inside Cheonwon Temple 13th April 2025.
Photo: Screenshot from live transmission by Peace TV.

The paper describes "[Cheonil-guk](#)" as "an ideal, peaceful world where the purpose of creation is fulfilled."

In a brief video message from the temple in South Korea straight after the opening ceremony, Dr. Michael Balcomb, President of the [Family Federation](#) in Europe and the Middle East, described the historical event,

"That was amazing [...], very solemn, very beautiful. [True Mother](#) was giving to [God](#) the 'authority of ruling over the world', whatever that means. I hope it means a time of peace is really coming!"

Text: Knut Holdhus

Featured image above: [Holy Mother Han](#) during the entrance ceremony of the Cheonwon Temple and the Cheonil Sanctum 13th April 2025. Photo: Screenshot from live transmission by Peace TV.

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