

FFWPU Heavenly Korea: Evidence For A Greater Victory

Hwangbo Guk

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Dear brothers and sisters, how have you spent this past week? First, I would like to express my gratitude to Holy Mother Han, the True Mother, the Only Begotten Daughter, for giving me the opportunity to speak here today. I would like to share with you the words of grace entitled "Trials for a Greater Victory."

Let us first read True Parents' words. Our family members are well acquainted with True Mother's message delivered at Cheon Jeong Gung on January 1, 2024, but as we read it as today's main text, let us reflect once more on its meaning:

The Gapjin year, the 12th year of Cheon Il Guk, is the year of the Blue Dragon, in which all impure energies of the past are dispelled. Now, in the upcoming 13th year, a number symbolizing completion, we will hold the entrance ceremony at Cheon Won Gung Cheonil Shrine. During the preparation and completion, there must be no shadows in any aspect. We must proceed in perfect order and organization. I hope that all impure incidents and unresolved issues can be completely clarified before the entrance ceremony at Cheon Won Gung Cheonil Shrine.

Dear family members, the entrance ceremony at Cheon Won Gung Cheonil Shrine on April 13, 2025, was the happiest and most joyful day in human history. It marked the completion of the heavenly providence, the culmination of human history, and a providential turning point. It was the moment of final victory, when the Heavenly Parents' dream was realized through the blood, sweat, and tears of True Parents. It was also a day of celebration for all humanity as we welcomed the new heaven and the new earth. Moreover, it was the fruit of victory, composed of the entirety of True Parents' lives and work. Therefore, our community raised triumphant shouts of victory.

But before the joy of victory could completely dissipate, events erupted that severely tested us. Day after day, negative news about our Family Federation and True Parents was reported in the Korean media, placing a heavy burden on our community. Today, as we celebrate victory at the Cheon Won Gung Cheon Il Shrine Ceremony, let us take time to assess our current reality through the Word - to learn from the history of the people of Israel - and humbly reflect on the path ahead.

Dear family members, the hope given to the people of Israel was clear. They would enter Canaan, the "land flowing with milk and honey." This hope was not merely a geographical achievement. It was the fruit of faith that fulfilled God's promise and restored their identity as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. After suffering in the wilderness for 40 years, God's promise to Israel finally began to be fulfilled.

The Israelites, led by Joshua and Caleb, crossed the Jordan River and began their providential journey to Canaan. The first gate on this journey was the city of Jericho. Jericho was a heavily fortified city, a strategic stronghold in the heart of Canaan. It was known as an impregnable stronghold on Satan's side, one that could never be destroyed. God revealed heavenly strategies and tactics to Joshua. For six days, they were to march around the city once a day, "keeping their mouths shut and marching in silence." The importance of silence is paramount here. And God commanded that on the seventh day, they march around the city seven times, and that when the priests blew their trumpets seven times, everyone shouted aloud.

They marched through the city in silence until the sixth day. Why did God command them to be silent? Those with rational and intelligent minds scoffed, "If we march in silence, how will that bring down the castle?" "We could be completely annihilated without even starting to fight." It was the kind of situation in which people were bound to start making negative comments. Rational minds couldn't understand why God had asked them to do this. Chances were, if people spoke, most of the words that came out of their mouths would be negative.

Yet Joshua did not hesitate for a moment upon hearing the word of the Heavenly Parents. He followed God's Word with absolute faith, or, in our terms, with absolute love and absolute obedience. He added no words of his own. He added no thoughts of his own. He set as his standard the sole command of the Heavenly Parents, and he executed that strategy to the letter.

In the end, the impregnable city of Jericho fell before their absolute faith and obedience. This was not a victory won by human ideas or tactics, but by complete union with the Heavenly Parents. Let's give it up for Joshua. The Israelites, having witnessed this incredible victory, were so overjoyed that they danced and embraced with joy. How happy they must have been! They defeated the city of Jericho with a mighty shout, something they thought utterly impossible. This victory became a clear experience that proved that the Heavenly Parents were alive and leading them. But whenever we hear the word "nevertheless" in a sermon, it means there's a problem. Right?

But... brothers and sisters, what happened to Israel after the fall of Jericho? Before the joy of victory faded, bitter grief overcame them. They attacked a small town and were defeated. This was a great shock to everyone.



After the fall of Jericho, the Israelites attacked a smaller city called Ai. "Look, Ai," they said, "Ai is small." They attacked the fortress of Ai. Because Ai was small and weak, Joshua didn't feel the need to send all his troops. He believed they could defeat it with only a few thousand soldiers. Brothers and sisters, the center of your faith had shifted. Instead of centering your faith in the Heavenly Fathers, you began to think in human terms and develop human-centered strategies rather than following the strategies of the Heavenly Fathers. In the Battle of the Small Fortress of Ai, Israel, which had entered the war with human strategies and tactics, was defeated. After the great victory at Jericho, the people became complacent. They entered the next battle with human calculations rather than seeking the will of the Heavenly Fathers.

God, however, didn't see the full extent of the battle. What God saw were people's hearts, what their hearts were focused on. We must always remember that Heavenly Parents look at the center of our hearts and not at external things. I hope that through today's message, you will realize that Heavenly Parents value our hearts, our honesty, and our attitude toward Heaven more than any external success we may have achieved.

After the defeat at the Battle of Ai, the attention of the community of Israel turned to one person. They asked, "What was the cause of this failure?" There were many people in the community, but everyone's attention was focused on one person named Achan.

Dear family members, Achan was a man from the tribe of Judah. We may remember a person named Achan from our Bible study. He must not have been just an ordinary man, as he is mentioned by name in the Bible. He must have been a person in a position of responsibility in the tribe of Judah, managing the tribe's property. But Achan, of the tribe of Judah, disobeyed God's Word. After the destruction of Jericho, God clearly told the Israelites: "This city and everything in it will be dedicated to the Lord. You must not destroy yourselves by taking anything from it." [Joshua 6:17-18] That's what God told them.

However, Achan disobeyed God's word and coveted the spoils of Jericho, secretly hiding some of them. He dug a hole in the ground beneath his tent and hid them there. He hid only three things: a cloak, 200 shekels of silver, and 50 shekels of gold. I calculated how much that would be worth today. I think it would be worth about 15 million won (9,300 euros).

And although Achan was just one person among many Israelites, the Heavenly Parents were furious with all Israel because of Achan's actions. The gravity of Achan's sin went beyond mere greed for material possessions. It was an act that disregarded the sovereignty of the Heavenly Parents.

The Heavenly Parents always look to where our hearts are centered. Where was the center of Achan's heart? Achan lost his conviction in the sovereignty of the Heavenly Parents. He lost the pattern of his heart that maintained faith in the words of the Heavenly Parents. Instead, his heart was captured by material desire. This is not just Achan's story. This is our story. Yes, it is. How much doubt is at the heart of our faith and beliefs? How many people claim to believe in the Heavenly Parents, but in reality, serve material things more than the Heavenly Parents?

What was the result of Achan's action? The Heavenly Fathers could not remain with the Israelites. And Satan seized this opportunity to invade Israel. Joshua attempted to capture the city of Ai, unaware that the clarity and wisdom of heaven had departed from Israel. As a result, the Israelite army was hunted down and ultimately defeated by the small and weak army of Ai. And the result of this defeat at the Battle of Ai was that Joshua became fearful that the Canaanites and all the giants of the land would despise Israel and attack it.

Brothers and sisters, the people of this world are afraid of our Church. Do you know they are afraid of us? Are you aware of it? Joshua tore his clothes and cried out. With his face turned to heaven, he fell on his knees and prayed, "Why did you bring these people across the Jordan to hand us over to the Amorites to destroy us?" [Joshua 7:7] The Heavenly Parents said to Joshua, "Israel has sinned; they have broken my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have seized some of the dedicated things; they have stolen and lied, and have added to their own possessions." [Joshua 7:10-11]

God rebuked Joshua and told him that his people had also been cursed. And God warned Joshua, saying, "I will not be with you any longer unless you destroy everything devoted to destruction among you." [Joshua 7:12] Although it was only one person, Achan, who disobeyed God, the entire community of Israel was in danger because of his actions.

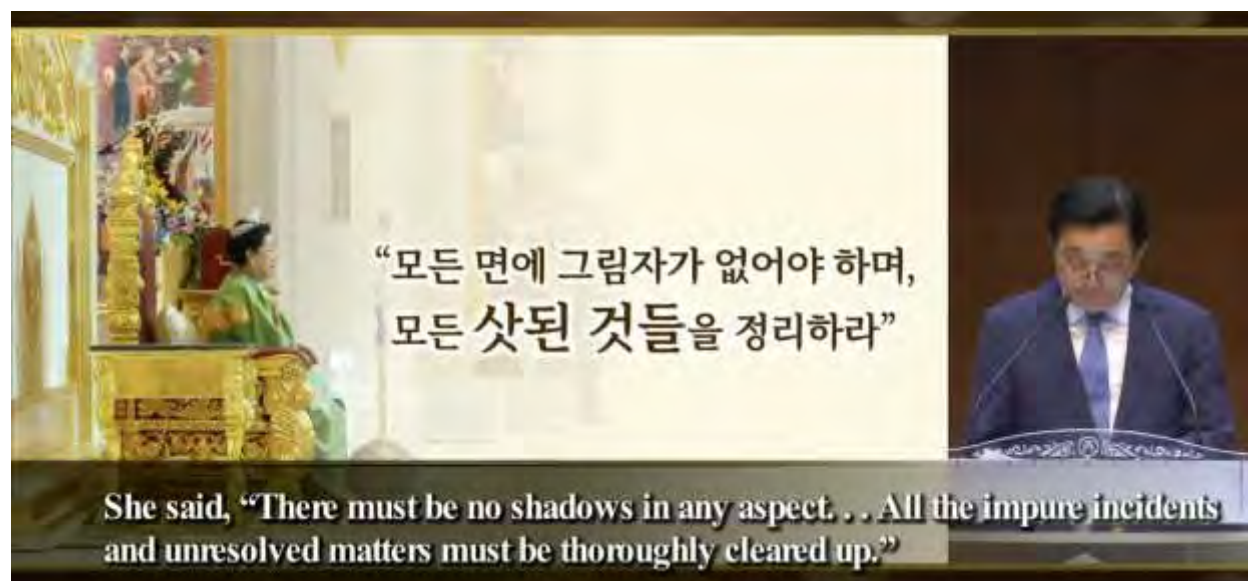
However, let us remember that Heavenly Parents are loving and forgiving Parents. As Joshua poured out his heart in prayer, Heavenly Parents turned to him to comfort him, saying, "Get up! What are you doing standing there with your face down?... Go and consecrate the people. Tell them, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow!'" [Joshua 7:10, 13]

Even when we make mistakes and sin, Heavenly Parents never abandon us. Through opportunities for repentance, Heaven prepares even greater blessings. God warned that if there was anything impure in Israel, they would not be able to resist their enemies until everything impure was eliminated. However, Achan hid his crime until the end. God called the Israelites who had sinned to confess and repent. But Achan did not repent and hid his sin until the end.

The Heavenly Parents had Joshua find Achan and take him to the valley for judgment. The guilt fell on only one person, Achan, but the judgment didn't fall on Achan alone. Achan's family - his son, his daughter, his sheep, and all his possessions - were burned. Then stones were heaped on him so the Israelites would never forget the weight and consequences of their sins. The Bible records that God's wrath against the Israelites did not cease until Achan and his family were punished. This place is called the Valley of Achor. You've probably heard of it. The Hebrew word "Achor" means "pain." To this day, the Jewish people make pilgrimages to Achor to purify their hearts, remembering the pain and confusion all Israel suffered because of Achan's disobedience. Joshua and all the people repented as a community in the Valley of Achor after Achan's sin was removed, according to the command of the Heavenly Parents, and the community was reborn under the leadership of the Heavenly Parents. This is crucial.

Subsequently, Heaven commanded another battle against Ai. In the second battle of Ai, Israel achieved a complete victory. And God allowed them to continue to win afterward. By allowing them to conquer all the strongholds of Canaan, Heaven created a powerful story for Israel when they defeated 31 Canaanite kings. There may be times in our lives when we encounter unexpected failures, hidden sins, or difficulties in fellowship. But even in such situations, the Heavenly Parents always keep the door open for repentance. We must remember that a path to even greater spiritual victory is provided for those who pass through this door. Achan's crimes and Israel's failure at Ai were not the end. We must remember that they were part of the process of preparing for Israel's true sanctification as the chosen people of the Heavenly Parents, capable of occupying the Promised Land.

Beloved family members! Based on this story, we should take a moment to reflect on the state of our own community. Thirteen months before the Entrance Ceremony, True Mother spoke to us sincerely, telling us to ensure that all preparations were well organized and everything was in order. She said, "There must be no shadows in any aspect. All impure incidents and unresolved matters must be completely clarified."



She clearly told us that everyone, without exception, should eliminate all wrongdoing and dark shadows. She said everyone should separate themselves from all impure things and become pure enough to receive direct guidance from the Heavenly Parents. Before the Entrance Ceremony, we offered devotion every day in a state of desperate yearning, like Joshua's army before the Battle of Jericho. Every day, we gathered our hearts and minds in one place, the Cheonshim Won, to establish a foundation of devotion and achieve complete union with the Heavenly Parents.

There is something we need to understand. True Parents opened the gates of Heaven, the gates to the Kingdom of Heaven in Cheon Il Guk. However, if we cannot separate ourselves from what is impure or unrighteous, if we silently tolerate these things, we will not be able to enter the new era. Even if the gates of Heaven are open, we will not be able to enter. Just as all the Israelites were punished by Heaven for Achan's transgressions, we too may end up in the same situation. We all need to reflect on what True Mother said when she asked us to cleanse all impure things. What our community needs to reflect deeply now are the words the Heavenly Parents gave to Joshua: "Arise... Go and consecrate the people. Say to them, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow!'" [Joshua 7:10, 13]

And just as Israel in the past received judgment for following the wrong energy and direction, we must rigorously identify and separate ourselves from any impure energies or dishonest actions that are spreading in our community and in our hearts. In this age, we should not seek someone like Achan. Instead, Achan lurks in the heart of each of us. There is the Achan of greed, who desires material things; the Achan of covetousness, who seeks to possess people; and the Achan of unbelief, who disregards the word of heaven and spreads false information. All of them lurk within us. Under the right conditions, these Achans will spring into action at any moment.

We now find ourselves at a critical juncture where we need to reflect on whether we are practicing faith with center and a clear conscience. We must resolutely establish in our hearts the standard by which we determine whether words and actions that are not centered on Heaven and that undermine the reputation of True Parents can be considered appropriate or permissible. If we lack this kind of clear discernment about which path is in accordance with Heaven's will, wrong words and actions can take root within us.

We must not be content with an ambiguous or indifferent attitude.

We need an attitude that allows our conscience to clearly distinguish between right and wrong before Heaven. If we remain silent in the face of disrespectful behavior, if we reject it as acceptable, we risk creating an atmosphere that tolerates actions that are on the wrong path. Amid this trend, we must never underestimate the rise of slander and opposition against True Parents. We must remain vigilant to protect True Parents' reputation and well-being.

A devoted attitude toward Heaven, along with true loyalty and filial piety to True Parents, will arise from the courage to speak out and refuse to turn a blind eye when false allegations and actions arise. At this time, protecting Heaven's order and the Center of Love is more important than anything else. If we all turn a blind eye to the unjust circumstances arising around us, perhaps Heaven needs to give us a warning. Therefore, I believe this is the time when our entire community must unite, establish an immaculate center before Heaven, and walk together with loyalty and sincere devotion to True Parents.

Dear brothers and sisters, we need to reflect on the profound meaning behind the suffering currently plaguing our community. Let us understand that the Heavenly Parents seek to purify and renew us. Since we were unable to purify and acknowledge all the impurities and dark energies before the entrance ceremony into the Cheonil Sanctuary, Heaven is using trials to help us recognize and expose the misguided energy that has penetrated our community and is also working to mold us to be worthy of the era of the Heavenly Parents' direct rule. We must use the history of the people of Israel as a mirror and guard against repeating history's mistakes.



Now that we have achieved victory at the Entrance Ceremony at Cheon Won Gung, we may be facing our own test at Cheon Il Guk, the "Castle of Ai." Just as Satan invaded and Israel suffered defeat at Ai shortly after their victory and glory at Jericho, we must guard against spiritual pride and complacency that can endanger our church.

Now, we must awaken and pray with even greater vigilance. We must maintain a firm attitude of faith that protects us and recognizes all impure influences, according to Heaven's will. We must be reborn as a holy and immaculate community that truly invites the presence of the Heavenly Parents. I believe that our families must become living sanctuaries, temples where the Heavenly Parents can dwell, and that our entire community must be reborn so that we can stand as a pure and chosen people under the direct rule of the Heavenly Parents. Can I hear an "Ayu!"?

Now is the time to act boldly and wield the sword of the Word to eradicate the Achan that lurks within us. Even though it is painful and difficult now, we must remove the Achans from our hearts for the sake of the new era governed by the Heavenly Parents and future generations. We must find the impure influences and judge them with the Word of Heaven, burning them with the fire of the Holy Spirit so that we can all be reborn together as a Sacred Community. We are now at the door of a new hope. Hosea 2:15 says, "I will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope." We have been called as missionaries for the new era, and we must be those who open this door of hope.

Beloved family members, the trials we face today are not the end. Now, Heaven is preparing an even greater victory, strengthening our inner standards and training us to purify and sanctify all that is impure. Then, under Heaven's presence and guidance, we will be able to accomplish the marvelous work of restoring this nation.

Let us take this time to examine our community and our own faith and become people who keep our hearts firmly focused on heaven.

Thanks.