

Life of the Chosen People in the New Era: Living in Kingdom of Heaven on Earth

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July 31, 2026



Weekly Message no. 27 from Rev. Ken Doo, Director-General of the World Mission Headquarters, "Life of the Chosen People in the New Era: Living in the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth", delivered on July 31, 2026

Dear beloved blessed families and members around the world,

I pray that this week you will be able to firmly uphold your identity as chosen blessed families whatever your circumstance and bring joy to True Mother through a life of attending Heavenly Parent in substantial ways.

1. Looking Back on the First Stream: The Beginning of the Two-Stream Strategy

Over the four weeks of July, we have explored why it is good to study The Great Epic of the Chosen Han People of Korea. We discovered that the Epic is both the providential blueprint for humanity and a genealogy of heart. Centering on True Parents, it establishes the identity of the chosen blessed families and leads us to a homecoming - in our hearts - to our original homeland of faith.



We also reflected on how the Korean values of hyo ("filial piety") and jeong ("heart"), cultivated amid the culture of the Korean Han people, are fulfilled in true love. And noting True Father's final prayer in Las

Vegas, we emphasized that these lessons must ultimately be fulfilled by practicing them in our families.

Our four-week study of the Great Epic has enabled us to understand the overall direction and vision of the first stream of the Two-Stream Strategy - which is the providence of the salvation of humanity and the restoration of the world. From this point forward, we will turn our attention to the second stream: living in the kingdom of heaven on earth.

While the first stream presents the grand providential vision for global restoration and salvation, the second stream shows how chosen blessed families should live by attending Heavenly Parent in substantial ways within that providence. This week, as the first step, we will consider together why we must learn and practice the second stream - living in the kingdom of heaven on earth. In my weekly messages to come, we will examine what life in the kingdom of heaven on earth is, and how we can put it into practice.



2. The Lesson to Learn from the Babylonian Exile

Dear brothers and sisters,

Looking back through history, we see that a people's identity has never been forged in times of prosperity alone; rather, it has become most distinct in times of crisis. A representative example is Israel during the Babylonian exile. In 586 BC, the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, the Davidic kingdom came to an end, and the people were taken captive to Babylon. They had lost their nation, lost their Temple, and it even seemed as if hope itself had disappeared. Yet paradoxically, it was in that very time of despair that the people of Israel asked the most important question of all.

"Who are we?"

Rather than clinging to the Temple, they held fast to God's covenant. Rather than their land, they held fast to the Word. Rather than political power, they preserved their faith through family-centered traditions. They kept the Sabbath, taught the Law to their children, and built scattered communities into one community of faith. As a result, Israel's collective identity did not collapse. Instead, it became even clearer, providing the foundation that enabled the Jewish people to preserve both their status as a people and their faith throughout the 2,000 years of the diaspora.

Thus we can see that times of crisis are not when identity is lost; they are when God restores the identity of a chosen people. Today, we stand at such a historic turning point.

3. An Era of Renewing Our Identity

Today, we too are passing through another historic period of transition. In the father nation of Korea, Mother's trial continues, while in the mother nation of Japan we are facing the unimagined reality of corporate dissolution. Outwardly, difficulties and uncertainty seem to persist, and many brothers and sisters are spending each day in deep concern and anxiety.

Yet when we look back upon the history of Heavenly Parent's providence, we find that such periods of transition have never marked an ending, but rather a new beginning. A crisis is not the time when Heaven

abandons the chosen people, but the time when Heaven leads them to restore their essential identity more clearly than ever before. Just as Israel established a renewed identity centered on God's covenant after the Babylonian exile, we too must now engrave more deeply within our hearts the reason for our existence and our mission as blessed families.

We often say with hope, "After a harsh winter, spring will surely come." Yet the winter we face today is not a light reality that can be endured just with poetic words. Only those who persevere through the bitter winter to the very end will ultimately welcome the spring. Therefore, we must not simply let time pass without preparation, simply waiting for spring to arrive. Now is not the time to merely endure the winter; it is the time to actively prepare for the coming spring.

Especially at such a time, our focus must be directed more toward inner transformation than outward circumstances. Rather than asking what we have lost, we should ask what Heavenly Parent now desires us to restore. The answer is a life of substantial attendance of Heavenly Parent, and the original mission of blessed families to build a community of the culture of heart.

Therefore, this is not merely a time for enduring hardship, but a time when we must learn and practice a new way of life as Heaven's chosen people. This is the time when Heaven is calling us to learn this new way of life, and the Two-Stream Strategy will serve as a new signpost pointing the way forward.



4. Why Must We Come to Understand the Second Stream?

The Babylonian exile was a period of more than seventy years during which the people of Israel were without a nation. It was an era of transformation in which God reshaped the identity of the chosen people. The people of Israel abandoned idolatry and restored their faith in God, changing a faith centered on the Temple into a community that practiced God's Word in daily life. Furthermore, rather than clinging to a sense of privilege as God's chosen nation, the people learned a sense of responsibility to live out the covenant and were reborn as a renewed chosen people.

Today, we too are passing through a new period of transition. If we have confirmed, through the Great Epic teachings, the identity of the blessed families as a chosen people, now is the time to complete that identity through our lives. While the First Stream presents the broad direction of our public mission - the salvation of humanity and the restoration of the world - the Second Stream is the concrete path of practicing life in the kingdom of heaven on earth through attending Heavenly Parent in substantial ways. We are not called to practice the Second Stream just to gain new knowledge. Rather, this new era requires that Heaven's chosen people adopt a new way of life. Throughout the ages, Heavenly Parent has renewed the identity of the chosen people. Today Heavenly Parent is calling us to fulfill that identity through living in the kingdom of God on earth. This is precisely why we must learn and apply the Second Stream, living the life of the heavenly kingdom.

5. This Week's Practice: Beginning Life in the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth with Gratitude

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to encourage you to continue the ongoing 40-day special period of devotions with an unwavering heart until the very end. Jeongseong is the steady path of offering up our hearts before

Heavenly Parent each day.



During this coming week, each time you finish your prayer, offer your gratitude to Heavenly Parent. At least once a day please also express that gratitude to someone close to you. Be the first to say, "Thank you," to a family member, a fellow church member, or a colleague at work. When gratitude toward Heaven naturally extends into gratitude toward others, a culture of heart will blossom within our families and communities, and life in the kingdom of heaven on earth will become our daily reality.

I pray that throughout this coming week, the love of Heavenly Parent and the grace of True Mother will embrace each blessed family and fill every one of your homes.

