

Beware of the

WORLD MISSION SOCIETY CHURCH OF GOD

A Korean Cult that Worships Two Gods

Have you been approached by people talking about “God the Mother?” This strange teaching comes from a Korean group called the World Mission Society Church of God (WMSCOG). Their missionaries are often found on university campuses or city streets, seeking potential converts.

The WMSCOG is *not* a Christian Church. It’s a deceptive cult that distorts and denies essential doctrines of the Christian faith as taught by Scripture. Its members are aggressive and determined to convince you, your family, and friends that you have no hope of eternal life outside of their church and its teachings. **To protect yourself and your church, you need to be on guard against their conversion tactics and Scripture-twisting about God and salvation.**

Background

In 1918 a man named Ahnsahnghong (or Ahn Sahng-hong) was born in Myeongdeok-ri, Korea. In 1948 he converted to Seventh-day Adventism, but was excommunicated 14 years later. In 1964 he founded his own group, which split into two opposing factions after his death in 1985. In 1997 the larger faction adopted the name “World Mission Society Church of God” (WMSCOG). It claims to be “the only true church,” and teaches that...

- ▶ “Christ Ahnsahnghong” is God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit—and **must be worshipped**
- ▶ a Korean woman named Zahng Gil-jah is “God the Mother”—and **should *also* be worshipped!**



The WMSCOG follows seven “Truth Books,” six of which were written by Ahnsahnghong, who they claim “has restored the truths of salvation.” They consider all seven of these books as equal to the Bible in authority.

FOUR KEY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THIS SPIRITUALLY DANGEROUS GROUP

1 ▶ Is Ahnsanghong Really God?

CLAIM: The WMSCOG falsely claims that it “firmly believes in the Trinity, the core doctrine of Christianity.” But they distort and deny what the Bible teaches about the Trinity, saying that “God divided His plan of salvation into three ages—the age of the Father, the age of the Son and the age of the Holy Spirit.” For each age, God “appears as the Savior with a different name.” So in the Old Testament, he was God the Father (named “Jehovah”), in the New Testament he was the God the Son (named “Jesus”), and in our age he has come as God the Holy Spirit (named Ahnsahnghong).

RESPONSE: This is a very ancient error called **modalism**. The biblical doctrine of the Trinity is that the one true God has always existed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. At the same time, the Bible is clear that the Father is neither the Son nor the Holy Spirit. For example, Jesus says in John 20:21 that the Father sent Him. *This cannot be true if Jesus is the Father.* Jesus also promises in John 15:26 to send the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father. Does this mean that Jesus will send Himself and that He proceeds from Himself? No! The simple understanding is to accept that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are distinct persons in one God (Isa. 43:10, Deut. 6:4).

2 ▶ Was Ahnsahnghong Really “the Second Coming of Christ?”

CLAIM: True Christians have always believed Jesus’ promise to visibly return to earth “with power and great glory” (Matt. 24:30). But the WMSCOG says that Jesus already came—and left again! Since they believe that Ahnsahnghong is Jesus, they teach that his life *was* the second coming of Christ, and often call him “Christ Ahnsahnghong.” Though they acknowledge that the Bible says Jesus will “come on the clouds” (Dan. 7:13–14, Mark 14:62, Acts 1:9–11), they insist that this is a metaphor for coming in human flesh, stating that “The Bible compares human beings to clouds” (Jude 12, Prov. 25:14).

RESPONSE: First, the Bible doesn’t say that “coming on the clouds” means coming in human flesh. They have failed to demonstrate this. For example, the verses they cite (Jude 12 and Prov. 25:14) compare wicked people with waterless

clouds that produce no rain. This illustration of wicked people cannot be applied to the second coming of Jesus, because there is no connection. Second, Revelation 1:7 and other Bible passages contradict the WMSCOG. “Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and *every eye will see Him*, even those who pierced Him, and *all tribes of the earth* will wail on account of Him.” Therefore, when Jesus returns **everyone will see Him**; He will not be hidden!

3 ► Is Zahng Gil-jah Really “God the Mother?”

CLAIM: The WMSCOG teaches that we have both a heavenly Mother and a heavenly Father (Jehovah). They refer to these two gods as “Elohim God.” Elohim is a plural Hebrew word for God, which they claim must be understood as two gods—and they say God the Mother is *an elderly Korean widow named Zahng Gil-jah* (b. 1943) who resides in Korea. The WMSCOG attempts to prove its “God the Mother” teaching by misusing Scripture. For example, they often cite Genesis 1:26–27: “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness...in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.’” The WMSCOG emphasizes that Elohim God said “let *us*” and “in *our* image, after *our* likeness.” They insist this means that Ahnsahnghong must have been speaking to Zahng Gil-jah. The WMSCOG points to Revelation 21:9–10 where they say “God the Mother” is called “the bride, the wife of the lamb” (v. 9) and described as the “holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven” (v. 10). They also turn to Galatians 4:26, “But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.”

RESPONSE: We can be sure that there is only one true God because of many clear verses in Scripture where God Himself tells us this. For instance, “Thus says the LORD [Jehovah]...besides Me there is no God [Elohim]...Is there a God [Elohim] besides Me?” (Isaiah 44:6, 8). How can *Jehovah* say that there is no *Elohim* beside Him? If there’s a Heavenly Mother next to Him, why doesn’t He know it? (Answer: Because there isn’t any—there is no other God besides Him!) Also, Isaiah 44:24 plainly says: “I am the LORD [Jehovah], who made all things, who **alone** stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth **by Myself**.” The work of creation was the work of one God, not two!

In Galatians 4:22–31, the Apostle Paul uses an illustration to explain the Old and New Covenants (v. 24). He compares the two covenants with Abraham’s sons, “one by a slave woman, and one by a free woman” (v. 22). The difference between the two women is that Hagar is a slave and Sarah is free. Which covenant do you want? One that is like Hagar in bondage, or like Sarah who is the free woman represented by a Jerusalem from above? Paul isn’t saying there’s an actual city in heaven named “Jerusalem.” This is merely an illustration—or as Paul says, an allegory (v. 25) to highlight the difference between the Old and New Covenants. He is also not saying that there is a “God the Mother.” This would make no sense in the context of Paul’s message. What about the verses in Revelation? We can agree that Revelation 21 depicts a marriage in which Jesus is the groom. But will His wife be God the Mother? No! As Paul explains in 2 Corinthians 11:2, *the church* (made up of all true believers) is betrothed to Christ.

4 ► Is There No Salvation Outside the WMSCOG?

CLAIM: The WMSCOG insists that Ahnsahnghong is the savior of our current age and that everyone must pray in his name and be his witnesses. They claim that “salvation will never be given” to anyone who rejects Ahnsahnghong, doesn’t believe that Zahng Gil-jah is “God the Mother,” or doesn’t celebrate the group’s “New Covenant Passover.”

RESPONSE: In contrast, Jesus said, “Truly, truly I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgement, but has passed from death to life” (John 5:24). According to Jesus, we obtain eternal life based on trusting in Him for forgiveness—**not church membership and Passover celebrations.**

The Bottom Line

The Apostle John explains that if you “believe in the name of the Son of God,” you can “know [*present tense*] that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:10–13). This means you can know right now that you are saved, and this hope comes only through repenting and placing your trust in the true Jesus of the Bible as your Savior. There’s no other name you must learn, no Korean “Gods” you need to worship, no exclusive church you need to join. *Come to Jesus and trust in Him alone for your salvation—and reject all counterfeits!*

BE PREPARED! LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS CULT AT
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