



DANGER: SHINCHEONJI



Shincheonji Church of Jesus, the Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony (SCJ) • New Heaven & New Earth Church (NHNE)

**A spiritually dangerous Korean sect has come to Africa.
Its mission: “harvesting” converts from Christian churches.**



Its elderly leader is Lee Man-hee, who claims he is the one specially chosen by God and Jesus to “reign over the nations” and unlock the secrets of the Book of Revelation.

FIVE DANGEROUS DECEPTIONS

- ❶ **LEE MAN-HEE** (“the Promised Pastor,” “the Advocate,” “the one who overcomes”)
- Claims that he is “the son of God who will inherit the kingdom as promised”
 - Says that “people who fail to follow the one promised pastor sent by Jesus do not really believe in Jesus”

- ❷ **GOD AND JESUS**
- Shincheonji denies and distorts the biblical doctrine of the Trinity
 - Shincheonji distorts the Bible’s teaching on the bodily resurrection of Jesus

- ❸ **THE ONLY TRUE CHURCH**
- Shincheonji claims to be the only church “created according to Jesus’ commands”
 - Shincheonji claims to be “The only denomination acknowledged by God,” and “it should be obvious that anyone who breaks away from us and opposes us is Satan”

- ❹ **SALVATION**
- Shincheonji claims that “It is only when a person believes in the promised pastor and keeps the words of his testimony that he or she can attain salvation”

- ❺ **RECRUITING**
- Beware of the group’s free online “Equipped Bible Course” and “Zion Truth Bible Center.”** Numerous ex-members around the world testify that deception is actively used to bring in new converts. Those who attempt to leave Shincheonji are labeled “betrayers.”

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!” (Galatians 1:8)

LEARN MORE:

GOT QUESTIONS

gotquestions.org/Shincheonji.html

WATCHMAN FELLOWSHIP

watchman.org/Shincheonji_Profile.pdf

APOLOGETICS INDEX

apologeticsindex.org/shincheonji

EXAMINING THE SHINCHEONJI CHURCH

examiningthescj.com

REACHOUT TRUST

reachouttrust.org/shincheonji

DOES SHINCHEONJI HAVE THE MARKS OF A CULT?

Lee Man-hee shares characteristics with famous false prophets like...



- ▶ **Joseph Smith** (founding prophet of Mormonism)
- ▶ **William Marrion Branham** (founding prophet of the “Message church” movement)

*The same types of **background claims***

- The founder was allegedly a simple, uneducated person before starting the group
- God set the founder apart through encounters with Jesus and other heavenly beings

*The same types of **claims to divine authority***

- “God chose me to be His unique, indispensable end-time messenger”
- “I alone have special knowledge from God to correctly understand the Bible today”
- “Everyone must accept and obey what I reveal”
- “God has placed my church above all other churches”
- “Everyone must leave their false/corrupt churches and join my church—or face judgment”

Shincheonji is also like other cultic groups from Korea, such as...

- **World Mission Society Church of God** (Ahn Sahng-hong)
 - **JMS / Providence** (Jung Myung-seok)
 - **FFWPU / Unification Church** (Sun Myung Moon)
 - **Manmin Central Church** (Jaerock Lee)
- ▶ **The group presents itself as an especially unique or exclusive form of Christianity**
 - ▶ **The group claims to have doctrinal insights or deep truths that...**
 - were previously hidden
 - are not available anywhere else
 - ▶ **The group is God’s main vehicle of salvation in the world today**
 - ▶ **The group’s main leader is uniquely important in God’s worldwide plan**
 - ▶ **The group portrays Korea as a kind of spiritual “promised land”**
 - ▶ **The group uses dubious and deceptive recruitment practices, including...**
 - aggressively targeting vulnerable young adults
 - not disclosing the group’s official (or most commonly known) name; instead, various misleading “front” names/identities used
 - presenting introductory indoctrination sessions as “Bible studies”
 - offering young people travel to international conferences/camps sponsored by the group—sometimes packaged as educational or service-oriented experiences
 - discouraging potential converts from discussing the group with their friends and family, or seeking background information on the group from non-approved sources (such as blogs and online news reports)
 - strong emotional/peer pressure is applied to visitors to make them convert as quickly as possible, and in some cases abandon (or drastically reduce) time with their families and their university studies so they can serve the group
 - strong pressure to leave their current churches, which are called “apostate” or “corrupt”
 - extreme pressure on converts to stay in the group—even when they have serious doubts