

Part 3, Paper 103, The Reality of Religious, Melchizedek

📅 Thu, Oct 03, 2024 8:50PM ⌚ 9:10

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

faith and belief, religious experience, God fragment, inner compass, divine connection, spiritual growth, theological debates, shared values, religious rituals, atonement concept, unconditional love, science and religion, spiritual evolution, eternal beings, yearning for meaning

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

- J

John 00:00

All right, buckle up, because we are diving deep today, folks, into some seriously thought provoking stuff about faith and belief. Yeah,
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Sarah 00:07

get ready. We're tackling this excerpt from the Urantia Book,
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John 00:11

specifically paper 103,
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Sarah 00:12

the reality of religious experience. No easy read, definitely
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John 00:17

not for the faint of heart, but wow, does it make you think? It
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Sarah 00:21

really grabs you and makes you re examine what you think you know about religion.

- J** John 00:26
It throws out all those preconceived notions. Right from the start, it's like, boom, true religious experience comes from within, not some rule book,
- S** Sarah 00:33
exactly. It's about this connection we have to, well, something bigger than ourselves, that
- J** John 00:37
God fragment the book talks about, right? Like a piece of the Divine is actually within each of us, and it's not
- S** Sarah 00:42
just sitting there quietly, either. It shapes who we are, like our sense of right and wrong. You mean,
- J** John 00:47
even before we really understand those concepts, like as little kids, think about it,
- S** Sarah 00:52
even young children, they have this sense of fairness, this urge to be kind, help out. The book says that comes from this god fragment guiding us towards something higher That's
- J** John 01:03
wild. So like even as kids, we're already dealing with this inner battle between wanting to be selfish and this pull towards something greater. Exactly
- S** Sarah 01:11
that struggle between what we want and what we know is right. That's where this God consciousness can first appear. The book says, Hmm.
- J** John 01:19
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So it's not some big mystical thing, but those little everyday choices where we choose to be better. Think

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Sarah 01:24

about a kid sharing a toy when they really don't want to. That's not always just about avoiding a time out. It's deeper than that.

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John 01:31

It's like that feeling deep down that tells you to help someone, even if it's a pain, you just know it's the right thing to do,

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Sarah 01:37

right and the Urantia Book calls that drive to be kind, to be selfless, that's linked to this god fragment inside us. It

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John 01:47

keeps coming back to this god fragment and thought adjuster. It's central to the whole thing. So we're not talking about some vague higher power, but an actual force that interacts with our minds. It's a pretty radical idea. Definitely makes you think about things differently.

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Sarah 01:59

What I find fascinating is how the book acknowledges that we all experience this divine connection in our own way. We've all got this god fragment, but how we express that is gonna be different for everyone. Well, yeah, we've

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John 02:12

all got different backgrounds, experiences, upbringings, all that shapes our views Exactly.

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Sarah 02:16

And get this, the book even mentions that theologians have come up with over 500 definitions of religion, 500

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John 02:22

tackle a lot of

S Sarah 02:24
opinions. It just goes to show that even though we might all have this interconnection to the Divine, how that looks on the outside can vary wildly.

J John 02:32
Makes you rethink all those theological debates that have been raging on for centuries, right?

S Sarah 02:37
Like, what if we're all tapping into the same source, but interpreting it through our own unique lens. No wonder there's so much variety.

J John 02:44
Instead of getting bogged down by those differences, maybe finding that common ground is key exactly

S Sarah 02:49
shared values. That's where we can connect. Like striving

J John 02:52
to be better, more compassionate, wanting to make the world a better place, that kind of

S Sarah 02:57
thing. It's less about rigid dogma and more about that personal search for meaning guided by that inner God fragment.

J John 03:04
So we've got this inner compass, this god fragment, guiding us towards what's right. But what about all the rituals and stuff we associate with religion? The Urantia Book definitely doesn't shy away from that whole thing. It's

S Sarah 03:15

interesting, right? Even in early religions, the book talks about how sharing a meal wasn't just about, you know, filling your belly more

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John 03:23

than just a dinner party,

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Sarah 03:24

huh? Exactly. It was about connecting, about community, like hitting pause on that constant battle between me, myself and I, and remembering

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John 03:33

we're all in this together, a reminder that we're part of something bigger,

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Sarah 03:37

right, a shared experience that goes beyond those differences, beyond the ego,

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John 03:42

and that ties into this whole concept of atonement, something that's had theologians scratching their heads for centuries. The book talks about how those early rituals, the sacrifices and such, they came from this deep desire to fix that broken connection with the Divine. It's like

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Sarah 03:56

we feel this guilt, the separation, and those rituals were an attempt to bridge that

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John 04:01

gap. Makes sense. That feeling you get when you know you could have been better, more kind, more forgiving, it eats at you,

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Sarah 04:07

and the book suggests that this feeling of being disconnected, of sin, if you will, it can actually be a good thing for spiritual growth. It's in those moments where we see our shortcomings that we start searching for a deeper connection, a realignment with those values. So



John 04:22

it's not just about wallowing in guilt, but using it as fuel to become better, more aligned with that God fragment, exactly.



Sarah 04:28

And the interesting thing is, the book brings up Jesus as a pivotal figure in reframing this whole



John 04:36

atonement thing. So not about adding new rituals or anything, right? It's about



Sarah 04:40

changing how we see our relationship with the divine, not a king and his subjects, but like a parent and their child. So it's



John 04:47

not about proving our worth through elaborate rituals, but recognizing that we already loved and accepted warts and all.



Sarah 04:54

Exactly, the Urantia Book suggests that this realization, this unconditional love, frees us. Needing to earn God's approval. Wow, that's a weight off. It allows us to focus on cultivating those good qualities, love, compassion, forgiveness, not because we're afraid of punishment, but because we genuinely want to embody them. We want to be better. Now



John 05:16

that is a powerful shift in perspective. It's like the book is saying the real heart of religious experience isn't about rigid rules or ceremonies, but that inner connection with the god fragment letting that guide us. It's



Sarah 05:29

about that relationship, that inner journey. But the



John 05:32

book also dives into the relationship between religion and science, right? Those two seem like they're always at odds,



Sarah 05:38

it does, and it's surprisingly balanced. Instead of seeing them as opposites, the Urantia Book presents them as two sides of the same coin, two ways of looking at the same universe Exactly. Science explores the how, the mechanics, while religion seeks the why, the meaning behind it all. So instead



John 05:52

of pitting them against each other, it's about finding that middle ground.



Sarah 05:56

The book suggests that philosophy, especially when informed by revelation bridges that gap between the scientific and the spiritual Revelation.



John 06:05

Now there's a loaded term, so we're talking about using both logic and intuition to get a



Sarah 06:10

fuller picture. It's about acknowledging that both science and religion, even philosophy, have their limitations. Blind faith in any one of them is not the answer.



John 06:20

So being open to new information, questioning everything, even our own long held beliefs,



Sarah 06:25

it takes courage, but that's where real growth happens. It's



John 06:29

like the book is saying, hey, become an explorer of your own beliefs, your own understanding. Use those tools, reason, wisdom, faith, to really dig deep.



Sarah 06:38

And just like an explorer, you gotta be ready for the unexpected. You can't make discoveries if you're sticking to the same old paths. Easier



John 06:45

said than done, though, right questioning everything, especially beliefs you've held onto for a long time. That's tough.



Sarah 06:51

It takes guts, no doubt. But the book suggests that the payoff is huge. When we cling too tightly to what we think we know. We block ourselves from growing, from seeing new perspectives, so



John 07:02

not about throwing out our beliefs, but being brave enough to really look at them, see if they still hold up as we change and learn exactly



Sarah 07:09

and this whole growth thing, the Urantia Book suggests it doesn't just stop when we die. It talks about this amazing journey that keeps going, a spiritual evolution that continues long after we leave this physical world behind. Hold



John 07:23

on. So it's not like reaching some final destination after death. We keep growing, keep learning. That's



Sarah 07:28

what it says. Death isn't an end, but a transition. The book describes this vast universe teeming with life, where we continue to evolve, to get closer and



John 07:38

closer to the divine. That's a far cry from the old Heaven and Hell. Idea.

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Sarah 07:42

It makes you rethink things for sure, and it really highlights this core message of the Urantia Book. We are eternal beings, always evolving, always striving for greater understanding, a deeper connection with the source of everything. It's a

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John 07:55

pretty mind blowing concept. When you really sit

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Sarah 07:57

with it, it is to think this life with all its ups and downs. It's just one chapter in a much larger story,

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John 08:03

and that story, according to the book, is ultimately one of hope. It's about progress, about our individual journeys, weeding together all moving toward that ultimate goal of union with the Divine. Wow, this deep dive into the Urantia Book has been quite the journey. We've explored the nature of belief, how religious thought evolves, what it really means to have a religious experience, even touched on life after death. It's definitely

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Sarah 08:27

challenged us to broaden our perspective on these big questions, to think outside the box of traditional definitions and explore a more expansive view of spirituality. And at

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John 08:37

the core of it all, that innate yearning within each of us, that desire for connection, for meaning, for something bigger than ourselves,

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Sarah 08:44

and that yearning, it's what you needs us despite our differences in beliefs or backgrounds. It's the common thread that weaves us together in this grand tapestry of existence. So

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John 08:53

as we wrap up our deep dive, I'm left with this question for you, our listener, where do you sense that yearning for something greater within yourself. How does it influence how you

sense that yearning for something greater within yourself. How does it influence how you interact with the world around you, whether it be something you carry with you as you continue your own journey of exploration and discovery?