

Part 3, Paper 118, Supreme and...ate-Time and, Mighty Messenger

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

deity levels, multiversal hierarchies, Supreme and Ultimate, free will, time perception, omnipresence, ubiquity, divine source, spiritual growth, personal responsibility, interconnected choices, cosmic dance, Providence, creative collaboration, divine purpose

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

S Sarah 00:00
Okay, so ready to dive into something kind of heavy,

J John 00:03
yeah, bring it on.

S Sarah 00:04
We're gonna be tackling the Urantia Book.

J John 00:07
Always a good time. Specifically

S Sarah 00:08
paper 118 Okay, and this one is a doozy, yeah, it's about deity, time, space, free will.

J John 00:18
Oh, boy. All the big ones, you

S Sarah 00:20
know, big topics to tackle. It's

J John 00:22
a tall order, even for a paper as dense as this one is, right? But that's what makes it so fun to, like, dig into exactly

S Sarah 00:28
we're gonna, we're gonna unpack all of that, yeah? And I think it's important to say right up front, okay, this is not your grandma's concept of God,

J John 00:36
unless your grandma was, like, really into multiversal hierarchies, right? Right?

S Sarah 00:40
And in that case, maybe, yeah, maybe. But you know, when we say deity, we're not talking about a single god. Here, this paper

J John 00:46
really emphasizes this idea of levels of deity, right? Like, instead of one God,

S Sarah 00:52
so levels of deity? What does that even mean? So

J John 00:56
it's a framework, right? Yeah, where you start out with familiar terms, like, you know, God, the Father, okay? But then it goes on and it introduces this idea of the Supreme, the ultimate, even the absolute.

S Sarah 01:07
So instead of God as this like single being, it's more like layers upon layers. That's

J John 01:13

a great way to visualize it of existence, yeah. And with each level becoming more and more vast and complex, okay, think about climbing a mountain, right? Okay. As you go higher, your perspective changes, yeah, okay. You see more the landscape. You start to understand the terrain in a new way. Each level of deity kind of represents a grander, a more expansive view of the entire cosmos.

S Sarah 01:36

Okay, so I'm trying to wrap my head around how this changes, how we understand God, because it does seem like on the surface, it makes it way more complicated. It

J John 01:45

definitely adds a layer of complexity. There's no doubt about that, yeah, but I think it also gives us a much richer understanding of what we mean when we even say the word God or the divine in general. You know, okay? Because think about it like levels of government, for example, right? You have your local council, then you have your state government, then you have national all the way up to international bodies, right? Each level has its own area of influence and responsibility, right, but they all work together within this larger system. And so this paper is suggesting that something similar might be happening with deity,

S Sarah 02:22

okay? So we're not saying that there's all these separate gods, but they're all like expressions of the same divine source, like different expressions of this one underlying divine reality.

J John 02:33

And each one has its own specific role to play, a role to play in

S Sarah 02:37

this, you know, grand scheme of things, okay? And, and actually this, this idea of levels. It ties into another really mind bending concept that this paper tackles time. Yeah,

J John 02:47

this is where it gets really wild, because the Urantia Book is saying time as we experience it, yeah, is essentially just like our limited human perception exactly of eternity.

S

Sarah 02:58

It's how we as finite beings perceive this infinite concept of eternity, okay? And it goes even a step further. It proposes that our choices, right? When our choices are aligned with the will of God, they can actually exist outside of time,

J

John 03:13

like imagine your purpose, right? Imagine your life's purpose becoming so fixed, so deeply resonant with the universe itself, that the ticking clock the passage of time, it becomes almost irrelevant. Okay,

S

Sarah 03:28

so our day to day lives are bound by time, but our purpose, our essence, operates on this completely other level.

J

John 03:36

This is the kind of mind blowing idea that this paper is pointing towards, right? Yeah. It requires us to think about cause and effect, about Past, Present Future, in a totally different way.

S

Sarah 03:46

It's not a to b, right? It's like, maybe our choices are woven into this much larger tapestry that is such a beautiful way to put it, and the threads are intertwined,

J

John 03:55

yes, and you know this whole thing about time, it connects to another really important distinction the text makes, okay, but text makes Okay, between om presence, okay, and what it calls ubiquity. I'm gonna be honest

S

Sarah 04:06

with you, I thought Omnipresence meant God was everywhere, right?

J

John 04:10

That's, that's kind of a common understanding, yeah. But the Urantia Book is saying God isn't just everywhere. That's omnipresence, okay? It's saying that God is present within everything, and that is ubiquity, okay, it's subtle, yeah, but it's a really important difference,

S Sarah 04:25
yeah, give me an example, because this is getting a little too abstract, even for me, okay,

J John 04:30
think about a single ray of sunshine, okay, that single ray contains the energy of the entire sun, right? Okay, it's kind of like ubiquity, right? The Divine is present even within the smallest, most seemingly insignificant parts of all of creation. The sun itself, that vast source of light and energy, would be more akin to omnipresence.

S Sarah 04:54
So God is infinitely vast, but also intimately close at the same time.

J John 04:59
Yeah, and it's this idea of ubiquity, this intimate presence of the divine in all things, that really helps us understand this idea of levels of deity. Okay,

S Sarah 05:10
so each level isn't separate, right? But it's a unique expression this one divine presence.

J John 05:16
It's a pretty mind blowing concept when you really start to think about it, is.

S Sarah 05:20
But it also raises questions about, like, our place in all of this, right? Because if God is in everything, yeah, how much free will do we actually have? That

J John 05:28
is the question, isn't it, right? Like, do we even have a choice in the universe, like that?

S Sarah 05:32
It kind of makes you feel like a cog in a giant machine.

J John 05:37

Yeah, it's a question that's puzzled theologians and philosophers for centuries, right? And the cool thing is, is that the Urantia Book doesn't shy away from that tension at all. If anything, it leans right into it. Yeah. I

S Sarah 05:49

mean, it's a good question, right? If God is in everything, it really makes you wonder, how much free will do we really have, exactly, how

J John 05:58

much agency do we actually have, right? And, and the interesting thing is, the Urantia Book kind of takes this really nuanced approach, right? Okay, it's saying that, yes, we do have genuine freedom of choice, okay, but it's not unlimited. It's not just a free for all. No, not exactly. It's not a free for all, okay, it uses this analogy of a sculptor working with a block of marble, okay? The sculptor has the freedom to shape that marble, right, to bring forth something beautiful, right? But the sculptor can't turn that marble into something it's not right. They have to work within the limitations of the material itself. So

S Sarah 06:34

we're not puppets, right? But we're also not all powerful. Yeah, we're not omnipotent

J John 06:37

beings, right? Right? We do have more agency than we might think, but it's important to recognize that our choices have consequences. Okay? And those consequences ripple outwards. Okay,

S Sarah 06:49

so everything's interconnected. Our choices have these ripple effects, yeah, but does that mean we're not responsible for the outcomes? That's where it gets even more interesting, because it seems like it would be easy to just say, Sure, well, it was all part of the plan anyway, right?

J John 07:03

Like it was meant to be exactly, yeah, and that's where the Urantia Book really emphasizes this idea of personal responsibility, okay? It suggests that our choices matter, not because they're changing some predetermined outcome, okay, but because they reflect who we are at our core

changing some predetermined outcome, okay, but because they reflect who we are at our core. They reveal our alignment or our misalignment with this larger purpose, with this will of God that we were talking about earlier. So it's

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Sarah 07:29

less about trying to control the Universe with our decisions, and more about understanding that our choices are a reflection of something deeper. They're

J

John 07:39

a reflection of our inner state, okay? And that's where this idea of spiritual growth becomes so central to the text's message. So

S

Sarah 07:47

let's talk about spiritual growth, okay? Because I think it's a term that gets thrown around a lot. It definitely does. But what does it actually mean in the context of the Urantia Book? So

J

John 07:57

in the context of the Urantia Book, spiritual growth is all about progressively aligning our will with the will of God. All right, remember how we talked about time perception expanding as we mature? Yes, this paper is suggesting that something similar happens with our spiritual understanding, right? As we grow spiritually, our time unit, so to speak, yeah, it expands as well. So we start to see the bigger picture exactly. We start to see the bigger picture. We start to see beyond just the immediate gratification of our desires, and we start making choices that are more aligned with that larger purpose.

S

Sarah 08:33

So we're playing the long game even if we can't see the finish line precisely.

J

John 08:38

It's about playing the long game even when we can't see the finish line, okay? And as we become more conscious of that larger purpose, as we strive to make choices that are not just self serving, okay, but also life giving, love, affirming, truth seeking, that's when we start to really align ourselves with the will of God, as this text describes it.

S

Sarah 08:58

That makes sense. But how do we actually do that? How does that play out in our daily lives? It still feels kind of abstract. It's easy to say, you know, make choices for the greater good, but

John feels kind of abstract. It's easy to say, you know, make choices for the greater good, but like life is messy, exactly. So what does that actually look

J John 09:12

like? It's not about like flipping a switch and suddenly becoming, you know, morally perfect. Yeah. The Urantia Book really emphasizes that spiritual growth is a process, okay? Like any journey, it happens one step at

S Sarah 09:25

a time. So, baby steps, Hey, baby steps, what would be a good first step in aligning our will like that? Well, you know,

J John 09:31

it's interesting because the text highlights something that's actually pretty simple, okay, and that is expanding our sphere of care, so starting to become more conscious of the impact of our choices, not just on ourselves, but on the people around us.

S Sarah 09:46

So shifting from like a me centered to a we centered perspective exactly,

J John 09:50

it's about recognizing that we're not these isolated individuals where we're part of this web of relationships, families, communities, the. Planet itself, right? And as our awareness of that interconnectedness grows, yeah, so too does our sense of responsibility, kind of like those ripples we were talking about exactly our actions have impact, a lasting impact, even in small ways. So as we become more attuned to those ripples, we naturally start making different choices, right?

S Sarah 10:19

And we start asking ourselves, like, what kind of impact do I want to have on the world around me?

J John 10:24

So bringing that awareness, yeah, into our everyday decision making, exactly,

—

S

Sarah 10:27

exactly and and as we do that, the Urantia Book suggests that something really remarkable happens start to tap into a different kind of power, a power

J

John 10:38

that's not about, you know, dominance or control, but about creativity, compassion, connection,

S

Sarah 10:45

so less about conquering the world, more about just contributing to it. Exactly,

J

John 10:50

remember that feeling of being a cog in a machine? Yeah, this is where things start to shift. Right? We begin to see ourselves less as cogs and more as active participants in this, you know, this grand cosmic dance. Okay,

S

Sarah 11:04

yeah, I like that at cosmic dance. But how does this all connect back to Providence? Okay? Because if we're actively shaping our choices, where does the predetermined plan come in?

J

John 11:19

That's the million dollar question, isn't it, right? And this is where it gets really interesting, because the Urantia Book suggests that Providence isn't about this fixed path, okay, that's already laid out for us, but rather, it's about a framework of possibilities within which we have the freedom to choose.

S

Sarah 11:36

Okay, so it's not so much a script, right, as it's like a creative collaboration.

J

John 11:40

That's a beautiful way to put it. Okay, it's this idea that there is this benevolent force, this cosmic artistry that's guiding us and supporting us, but our task is to stay open to that guidance, okay, to keep making choices that are aligned with our highest understanding of truth, beauty, goodness, all of those things, we're



Sarah 12:00

invited to be co creators. Absolutely. That's pretty amazing, when you think about it.



John 12:04

It's a pretty empowering way to think about our place in the universe, isn't it? It is, yeah, instead of just being passive recipients of fate, yeah, just along for the ride, just along for the ride.



Sarah 12:15

But we actually get to have a say in how things unfold. Exactly. I like that. I



John 12:20

think that's a message we can all get behind. I



Sarah 12:22

think so too. And on that note, yeah, I think that's gonna do it for this deep dive, okay, into the Urantia Book, at least this part of it, there's always more to explore, always more to explore. But we're gonna leave you with this final thought, okay, from the Urantia Book, something to kind of ponder. I like it as you continue on your own journey. The greatest adventure in life is the discovery of your divine purpose. Love it until next time. Keep seeking, keep questioning and keep exploring all those infinite possibilities that are within you and all around you. Beautifully said, All right, see you next time, see you later.