

Part 4, Paper 120, The Bestowa...ichael on, Midwayer Commission

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leadership understanding, bestowal journeys, cosmic authority, experiential knowledge, material sun, human vulnerability, divine empathy, Lucifer rebellion, spiritual liberation, interconnectedness, cosmic education, divine revelation, human potential, universal connection, personal experience

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

S Sarah 00:00

You know, when we think about leadership, we often picture someone with all the answers, calling all the shots, someone at the very top right. But the thing is, the excerpts you brought from the Urantia Book, especially paper 120 they kind of flipped that whole idea on its head. They do.

J John 00:14

The Urantia Book has this really compelling idea that true leadership, especially on a cosmic scale. It's not something you're just handed. You have to earn it, earn it, and the path to earning it, it's all about understanding, really understanding, the experiences of those you're meant to lead.

S Sarah 00:31

So that's where this whole idea of a bestowal comes in, right? We're talking about Michael, a creator, son responsible for an entire universe, a being of well, almost unimaginable power, right? Yet he chooses to go on these incredible journeys. He does to experience life from all these different perspectives, and it all kind of culminates, at least in our corner of the universe, with his arrival on Earth as Jesus. It's pretty mind

J John 00:55

blowing when you really think about it, you know, yeah, being powerful enough to shape galaxies, choosing to learn and grow by experiencing life as his creation.

S

Sarah 01:07

I mean, it makes you question everything you thought you knew about leadership. It really does. It's not about sitting on some distant throne barking orders. It's about getting your hands dirty, about connecting with every single level of existence within your care. It's about empathy,

J

John 01:21

about really understanding what it means to exist within the very fabric of the universe he's meant to lead.

S

Sarah 01:28

And that's where these seven bestowals Come in. Yeah, seven distinct journeys. Each want to deep dive into a different order of being within Nebadon, his universe.

J

John 01:37

Imagine being able to step into the role of a Seraphim, celestial being of pure spirit, you know, wow, soaring through the cosmos. Then, just like that, you transition to experience life as an ascendant mortal, a soul evolving to countless forms, always striving, always reaching towards spiritual perfection. It's

S

Sarah 01:59

like a master class in existence. Each bestow a new lesson, a new layer of understanding it is. But why go through all that? Why not just rule? You know, right? He's a creator son. He's got the power

J

John 02:11

Well, and that's what makes the Urantia books take on all this so fascinating. It's saying that true authority, real sovereignty. It's not something that's just given. It has to be earned,

S

Sarah 02:20

earned through experience, exactly, and not just like reading about it in some celestial textbook. He's out there, living it, embodying it. It has to be experiential, you see. So it's about more than just knowing the rules. It's about understanding how those rules, those cosmic principles, how they actually play out on every level, yes, from the grand cosmic scale down to the intensely personal, like the experience of a human life, absolutely,

J John 02:43

because without that deep experiential knowledge leadership, it becomes distant, out of touch, right by choosing to walk in the shoes of those he's meant to guide, Michael's demonstrating a commitment, a level of compassion that goes way beyond just holding power.

S Sarah 03:03

Okay, now that's a leadership style. I think we could all learn a thing or two from but out of these seven mistols Is there one that really stands out to you, one that truly exemplifies this link between experience and genuine leadership? Well,

J John 03:15

they're all incredible in their own right, but the one that always captures my imagination is Michael's experience as a material sun.

S Sarah 03:21

The material suns, those were the ones who shaped the planets, right? Yes, bringing order to the chaos, at least on a planetary scale.

J John 03:28

Imagine Michael, this being of pure spirit and energy, immersing himself in the raw materials of creation. Wow, shaping mountains, carving out oceans. It's

S Sarah 03:38

like a cosmic construction project, only, instead of blueprints, he's dealing with the fundamental forces of the universe precisely. And it's through that experience that the Urantia Book suggests that Michael gains a profound appreciation, not just for creation itself, but for the immense challenges and triumphs that come with nurturing and sustaining life. He's

J John 03:59

not just reading about it, he's feeling the weight of a world literally in his hands.

S Sarah 04:03

It's no wonder he feels this drive to connect so deeply with those he would one day lead.



John 04:08

And that, of course, brings us to his final bestowal, and arguably his most crucial one, his arrival on Earth as Jesus of Nazareth,



Sarah 04:16

which is a lot more than just another stop on this cosmic field trip. Right? This is the culmination of everything he's learned. The ultimate test to prove he's ready to fully step into his role as the sovereign ruler of Nebadon. You're absolutely



John 04:30

right. It is a culmination, but it's also so much more than that. It comes with an entirely different set of challenges,



Sarah 04:36

because this time, he's not just experiencing life as one of his creations. He's choosing to be born as one of us, as a human being, exactly. And with that comes every limitation, every vulnerability that comes with being human.



John 04:49

It's a far more, shall we say, intimate experience than anything he's encountered before.



Sarah 04:54

So so much more vulnerable and understanding



John 04:57

why he chooses that vulnerability. Me. Well, that's key to unlocking the deeper significance of his choice to walk among us as one of us. It really makes you think about the human experience in a whole new light, doesn't it? It does, even for a divine being like Michael, someone who's witnessed epochs unfold, civilizations rise and fall right coming to earth, embracing all the complexities, the contradictions. It's a unique kind of challenge,



Sarah 05:23

because it's not just about observing us from afar, right? Not well, he's fully stepping into the role, becoming one of us, exactly with all the limitations and vulnerabilities that come with the

role, becoming one of us, exactly with all the limitations and vulnerabilities that come with the territory. And

J John 05:35

that's a really important point, this idea that his true nature is veiled during this bestowal? Oh, absolutely, because he's not coming to earth as this conquering hero, right? You know, he's here to experience life as a human with all the uncertainties and doubts that we grapple with every single day.

S Sarah 05:51

So it's a much more well, for lack of a better term, a more vulnerable experience than any of his previous bestowals. And that's what I find so fascinating. It is fascinating. What's the value in that vulnerability?

J John 06:04

That's a question that the Urantia Book really digs into. And what it suggests is that by embracing this vulnerability, okay, by allowing himself to experience the full spectrum of human emotion, right? That's how Michael deepens his connection with creation, with us in a way that simply wouldn't be possible otherwise. So

S Sarah 06:25

it's about empathy, about really getting what it means to feel joy, sorrow, doubt, not just as abstract concepts, but as lived experiences. Absolutely,

J John 06:33

that's a huge part of it. But there's another layer here that I think is really illuminating. Okay, I'm listening before Michael embarks on his human journey, he actually receives counsel from his brother, Emmanuel. Oh,

S Sarah 06:43

right, right. And this

J John 06:46

guidance, this counsel, it's all laid out in paper 120 and it gives us a really unique glimpse into the kind of, well, let's call them ground rules,

S Sarah 06:54
like getting prepped for the ultimate undercover mission, in a way, yes, cosmic instructions before stepping into the human realm. And these instructions,

J John 07:02
they highlight the incredible balance that's being struck here. Right? On the one hand, Michael's being tasked with living a truly human life, right? He's got to rely on his faith in the Universal Father, just like we do. So

S Sarah 07:15
no divine shortcuts, no

J John 07:17
divine shortcuts, no

S Sarah 07:18
calling in favors from cosmic buddies when things get tough, that's the whole point.

J John 07:21
He's meant to walk the path of faith, just like we are, wow, to feel the weight of human existence, uncertainty. And Olo and

S Sarah 07:30
the Urantia Book is saying that's crucial, not just for his own growth, but also for demonstrating the true nature of the relationship between humanity and the divine. You got it. He's living what he preaches exactly, showing us through his own life what it means to navigate this human experience while staying connected to something larger than ourselves, precisely.

J John 07:52
But here's the thing, this commitment to living as a human, it doesn't mean Michael's supposed to shy away from the heavy stuff. In fact, Emmanuel actually instructs Michael to deal with the fallout of the Lucifer rebellion. Wait

S Sarah 08:05
The Lucifer rebellion. The

J John 08:07
Lucifer rebellion. That

S Sarah 08:08
was a whole cosmic coup, right? It

J John 08:10
was a big mess, even for a universe as vast as Nebadon, and Michael's being told to clean it up. Well, not in the way you might think. Because here's the thing, Michael could have easily just squash that whole rebellion right then and there. He's got the power. But instead, he chooses a different path, a more human path, exactly one that reflects the very values he embodies.

S Sarah 08:30
So we're talking about free will, free will, compassion, compassion,

J John 08:34
redemption, those are the guiding principles here.

S Sarah 08:37
So it's not about brute force, it's about something much deeper, something more enduring, and

J John 08:43
that's what Emanuel's getting at when he tells Michael to address the Lucifer rebellion through his life and teachings as the Son of Man.

S Sarah 08:52
It's a powerful message, isn't it? It is that even cosmic betrayal, even something as huge as a rebellion against the Universal Father, can be redeemed through a different kind of power. It's the power of forgiveness, understanding, love, and that message, it weaves its way through

everything Michael does during his time on Earth,

J John 09:11

because it speaks to something that's fundamental to the Urantia book's whole cosmology, this idea of interconnectedness. Interconnectedness. How

S Sarah 09:19

so well, think

J John 09:20

about it, this one act of rebellion, he created ripples that were felt across the universe, right and now, by living as Jesus, Michael's weaving a new thread into that cosmic tapestry, a thread of forgiveness, a thread of understanding, a thread

S Sarah 09:35

that can hopefully begin to heal the wounds of The past

J John 09:39

and ultimately strengthen the fabric of existence itself. It's

S Sarah 09:43

a lot to process. It is, and we're just scratching the surface. Here we are. But one thing's for sure, Michael's mission. It's about so much more than just him. It is. It's about us. It's about the universe. It's about this profound connection that binds us all

J John 09:57

and nowhere is. But interconnectedness more apparent than in Emanuel's instructions regarding Michael's role as a teacher. Okay,

S Sarah 10:07

so less cosmic ruler, more cosmic educator, in a sense, yes, because Emanuel really emphasizes how important is for Michael to focus on the spiritual and intellectual liberation of humanity. That's the heart of it. And he's even told to stay away from politics, economics, all

those systems we get so caught

J John 10:25

up in, right? Those external systems, they're not the focus here. So no starting a new world order. No, this is about something much more internal, much more lasting, empowering

S Sarah 10:34

individuals from the inside out,

J John 10:36

exactly, awakening that spark of divinity that's within us all, which, when

S Sarah 10:40

you really think about it, that's far more revolutionary than any political movement it is. But there's still something that's always kind of bugged me about this whole teaching aspect of Michael's mission.

J John 10:49

What's that? Well, if

S Sarah 10:51

I remember correctly, Michael was specifically told not to leave behind any written teachings, no scriptures, no images, nothing tangible, right? And that always seemed kind of counterintuitive for a teacher. Don't you think it

J John 11:03

does seem a bit strange at first, doesn't it, but when you look at it from the Urantia books perspective,

S Sarah 11:08

it actually makes a lot of sense. Okay, help me understand that?



J John 11:11

Well, think about it. What happens when you have a fixed doctrine, a set of holy scriptures or even physical relics? Right throughout history, we've seen how easily those things can become sources of division, dogma, even violence.

S Sarah 11:26

Yeah, it's true. The message can get whoa distorted, right, exactly, and

J John 11:30

it seems that's what the Urantia Book is suggesting. Michael, as Jesus, was trying to avoid

S Sarah 11:34

by leaving no physical teachings behind, by

J John 11:37

not leaving anything concrete, he ensures the focus stays on the living spirit. Of his message on that direct personal connection between each individual and the divine,

S Sarah 11:48

instead of getting caught up in interpretations or dogma or well, even worshiping objects Exactly.

J John 11:53

It's about fostering a personal, experiential understanding of spirituality,

S Sarah 11:58

something you can't just write down or capture in any physical form exactly. It's interesting, even radical, when you think about how much emphasis so many belief systems place on established traditions and doctrines. It

J John 12:11

is radical, and yet there's a certain beauty to it, this emphasis on direct experience, right? It transcends cultural boundaries and historical context. So

 Sarah 12:21

it speaks to something universal within us. Exactly. It reminds us it's not just about the destination. It's about the journey, absolutely. But it does leave us with a pretty significant question, doesn't it? And what's that? If Michael's mission isn't about establishing a religion or handing down a set of rules, then what's it all for? That's

 John 12:39

the million dollar question, and the Urantia Book actually offers a multifaceted answer. Okay? On one level, as we've been discussing, it's about Michael demonstrating he's ready to fully embrace his role as sovereign ruler of Nebadon, right? He's proving he understands deeply, understands the universe he's meant to guide. But

 Sarah 12:58

it goes beyond that, doesn't it? It does. There's something much bigger at play here, something with huge implications for us, for how we see ourselves in the grand scheme of things. You're

 John 13:08

right. You see the Urantia Book suggests Michael's journey. It isn't just about his own growth. It's about revealing something profound about the Universal Father to humanity. So

 Sarah 13:19

it's like a cosmic PR campaign, but instead of billboards and slogans, you have a human life lived in service to a higher purpose. It's a powerful way to put it, but it goes deeper than just spreading a message, right? It does by living as Jesus. Michael isn't just telling us about God, he's embodying the universal Father's love, compassion, mercy, in a way we can actually grasp. He's

 John 13:42

making the divine, tangible, relatable, accessible. It's

 Sarah 13:47

like if these qualities are possible in him, maybe, just maybe, they're attainable for us too,

 John 13:52

 John 13:32

exactly. And there's one more layer to all of this, one that I find particularly moving. What's that the Urantia Book also tells us that Michael's life, it was a revelation of humanity to God.

 Sarah 14:04

Now that's a fascinating concept. It is, isn't it? Because you would think God, being all knowing, wouldn't need us to teach him about being human.

 John 14:11

It's not about informing God, not in the way we typically think about it. It's more about highlighting the incredible potential that resides within the human experience, okay, even on a cosmic scale, even to the Universal Father, human life, it's precious. We have this incredible capacity for spiritual growth, for connection. So by

 Sarah 14:30

going through it all the joy, the sorrow, the relationships, the challenges, even death, Michael's showing us, and maybe even God, something essential about what it means to be human Exactly.

 John 14:40

He's demonstrating that even within the limits of our finite existence, we have this incredible ability to love, to grow, to connect with something larger than ourselves.

 Sarah 14:50

And through his journey, through his willingness to embrace his own humanity, he not only fulfills his destiny, He illuminates our own. That's

 John 14:58

the beauty of the Urantia Book's cosmology. It's a story of interconnectedness and how one being's journey can awaken the potential within us all.

 Sarah 15:07

We've certainly been on a journey ourselves today, haven't we, from the vastness of a universe to the intimacy of a single human heart, all to try to grasp what it meant for Michael to choose this path we



John 15:18

have. And what really strikes me is how this story from the Urantia Book, it makes us reconsider our own place in everything.



Sarah 15:26

It begs the question, what does it mean to really live, to embrace our humanity, but also to recognize that potential for connection, that spark of the divine within us all? That's a question we're sitting with. It is and that brings us to the end of our deep dive. But the conversation, just like the mysteries we've been exploring, it continues. Do.