

Part 4, Paper 122, Birth and I... of Jesus, Midwayer Commission

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

nativity story, Urantia Book, family commission, Joseph and Mary, diverse ancestry, John the Baptist, Gabriel's vision, Son of David, Bethlehem journey, Herod's paranoia, Massacre of Innocents, Egypt escape, divine intervention, political persecution, radical message

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

- J** John 00:00
We're diving into some familiar territory this time. Huh? The nativity story a tale for the ages, you could say, right. But we're going way beyond the manger scene with this one, deeper than usual. Oh yeah, this is where the Urantia Book perspective really shakes things up. It
- S** Sarah 00:15
definitely challenges some traditional views, to say the least. Okay, so
- J** John 00:19
right off the bat. The Urantia Book says earth wasn't just some randomly chosen backdrop for this whole event. No, it was very intentional, deliberate, like they put some serious thought into choosing Earth as the place, like a
- S** Sarah 00:32
team of cosmic event planners, right? The yontia book actually uses the term family commission.
- J** John 00:38
Okay? Now that's a term I haven't heard before,

S

Sarah 00:41

basically a group of 12 celestial beings, wow, 12 of them tasked with finding the purpose family for, well, you know, for the birth of Jesus, exactly? Can you imagine reviewing countless lineages, spiritual capacities, genetic predispositions? They weren't messing around. That's some

J

John 01:00

serious vetting, yeah? So what made Joseph and Mary the ultimate finalists? Well, according

S

Sarah 01:05

to the book, they had this ideal combination, like their ancestry, yeah?

J

John 01:09

That always gets me. Most folks picture Mary's family tree, as you know, very traditionally Jewish, right?

S

Sarah 01:14

But the book paints a much more, shall we say, colorful. Picture. Definitely colorful.

J

John 01:20

Give us the rundown. Well, it

S

Sarah 01:21

suggests influences from all over Syriac, Hittite, even Egyptian ancestry. Really makes you think about Jesus's message later on, all that emphasis on inclusivity.

J

John 01:31

Wow. Talk about a diverse background. Okay, now on to Joseph. The classic image is the humble carpenter, but the Urantia Book presents a more nuanced perspective, doesn't it?

S

Sarah 01:41

Oh, absolutely, way more than just a carpenter. I mean, he was obviously skilled with his hands, but also a very capable man. He eventually becomes a successful contractor, really.

nands, but also a very capable guy. He eventually becomes a successful contractor, really, yeah. So that image of them being, you know, perpetually poor, right, right? Might need a little adjusting, according to the book, at least fascinating

J John 01:58
and his family tree, talk about a history lesson. Oh, you go way back

S Sarah 02:02
with Joseph. His lineage goes all the way back to Abraham, wow. Then branches out Sumerian ancestors even connects to andon and Fanta. Andon and Fanta, they were these pivotal figures way back, helped humanity develop language and culture like way way back, way back, and Joseph's family tree ties right in.

J John 02:23
It's mind boggling, when you think about it, all these connections, and then you have Joseph and Mary, two totally distinct personalities. Yeah,

S Sarah 02:29
that's one thing the Urantia Book does really well. It highlights their individuality.

J John 02:33
It does paints them as real people, you know, right? Like Joseph, he

S Sarah 02:36
was thoughtful, introspective,

J John 02:38
the quiet, contemplative type? Yeah,

S Sarah 02:41
definitely. And Mary, she had this cheerful, optimistic energy, a force of positivity, exactly. You can almost see how their personalities would have shaped Jesus, can't you? I



John 02:52

know it's fascinating to consider, speaking of fascinating, we've got John the Baptist waiting in the wings. He brings a whole other layer to this, doesn't he? He does.



Sarah 03:00

And it's easy to forget these weren't just figures in a story. They had real lives, real relationships, like, did you know John the Baptist parents in Mary's family? They were related? No way, really. Yeah, distant relatives. But still, it's like this cosmic family reunion.



John 03:16

I love that in Elizabeth's story. Wow. Talk about



Sarah 03:19

a life changing moment Gabriel appearing to her like that. Imagine being told you're gonna have a baby at her age, and that this baby will be the forerunner to, well, to Jesus. Yeah, it's



John 03:31

mind blowing. And the fact that Mary went to visit her, both of them pregnant with these incredible sons, I bet those conversations were something else. One thing that always strikes me about Gabriel rymberg to Mary is it wasn't just a birth announcement, it was like a vision statement, totally like, here's the game plan, exactly. He lays out Jesus's purpose to bring the kingdom of heaven on earth and among men. Those were his words, right, direct quote from the man. And just think about what everyone else was expecting back then, especially in Judea,



Sarah 04:01

oh, they were ready for a political revolution. New King, overthrow, the Romans all that.



John 04:05

But that wasn't Jesus's mission, was it not at all. Gabriel's talking



Sarah 04:09

about something way bigger, internal transformation, love, compassion, forgiveness as the foundation of life itself, radical stuff. And



John 04:18

to wrap their heads around it all, I mean, to grasp that their son would be both fully human and divine, must have been a lot to process. That



Sarah 04:26

had to be a wild ride internally, trying to reconcile all that.



John 04:30

It really puts things into perspective, doesn't it? Yeah, okay, before we get too far ahead, I've got to ask about the son of David lineage. It's so central to the Christmas story we all know, and



Sarah 04:39

it's a great example of how the Urantia Book challenges assumptions, because



John 04:43

most people assume Joseph was a direct descendant of King David, which would make Jesus the heir, exactly.



Sarah 04:49

But the Urantia Book throws a curveball and says, Nope, it was through adoption, like way back 60 generations before Joseph's line connects to David. Davids through adoption, not blood, so



John 05:02

not a direct descendant at all. In fact, the book actually says Mary had a stronger Davidic bloodline than Joseph did, and that's where things get really interesting, right?



Sarah 05:10

Because the Urantia book's perspective is that so many of these Old Testament prophecies, the Messiah coming from David and all that were misinterpreted. It wasn't until after Jesus's life that people really started making those connections, trying to make the story fit in a way, exactly like the whole a virgin shall bear a son, prophecy.



John 05:27



The original said, Maiden, not virgin, a subtle word



Sarah 05:31

change, but huge theological implications. And there are a lot of examples like that. The Urantia Book is really big on context. You know? It



John 05:40

urges you to dig deeper understand the how and the why of those interpretations it



Sarah 05:45

does. And speaking of digging deeper, let's go back to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph's journey there, the book's count is pretty powerful.



John 05:52

Imagine making that journey, no cars, no trains, just a very pregnant Mary



Sarah 05:59

on their single donkey, no less. It really



John 06:01

puts things into perspective. And then they get to Bethlehem, and it's not exactly a welcoming committee, is it?



Sarah 06:08

No room at the end. I mean, we've all heard it, but the Urantia Book really drives home how crowded, how chaotic it must have been. And they end up in a stable, basically grain storage room, to be precise, not exactly the Ritz, but that's



John 06:21

where it happened. Jesus was born in the humblest of settings, and yet, and



Sarah 06:24

 Sarah 06:24

yet, as the Urantia Book makes clear, it was still a miracle. Jesus' birth was like any other human birth in many ways, but also completely extraordinary. It's

 John 06:34

amazing how the book balances those two ideas. Speaking of extraordinary, we can't forget about the priests from er they traveled so far, guided by a dream,

 Sarah 06:43

seeking the light of life. They knew it was coming. They just didn't know where they even went to Herod, which, knowing Herod, oh, that had to go. Well, let's just say Herod was not a fan of prophecies about a newborn King. But anyway, these priests, they didn't see any Star of Bethlehem on their journey, did they?

 John 06:59

That's what's so interesting, right? Because the Urantia Book says the Star of Bethlehem, as beautiful as it is, was more of a later addition to the story, province inspired by that rare conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn,

 Sarah 07:12

a little astronomical embellishment, exactly.

 John 07:15

It makes you wonder how much of history is like that. But we also have to talk about the darker side of the story. I mean, Herod's paranoia had devastating consequences.

 Sarah 07:23

Absolutely, his fear and ruthlessness led to a horrific tragedy, the Massacre of the Innocents when

 John 07:29

he ordered the execution of all those babies in Bethlehem. It's chilling, heartbreaking

 Sarah 07:33

and a stark reminder of the very real danger Jesus and his family faced right right from the start,

J John 07:41

it's a heavy thought to carry, especially during this time of year, it is, and

S Sarah 07:44

it makes you wonder, how did Joseph and Mary escape with Jesus? What happened next?

J John 07:50

Well, for that, you'll have to join us for part two of our deep dive. So last we left off, Joseph and Mary had just experienced the miracle of Jesus's birth amidst, let's just say less than ideal circumstances. Yeah,

S Sarah 08:02

talk about an eventful trip to Bethlehem and then to face that kind of danger. I mean fleeing for your lives with a newborn.

J John 08:09

It really makes you appreciate the gravity of their situation, doesn't it? The Urantia Book doesn't sugarcoat it. No,

S Sarah 08:14

it definitely doesn't. According to the book, they received a tip from someone within Herod's own court. Wow.

J John 08:20

Talk about divine intervention, someone on the inside looking out for them. It makes

S Sarah 08:24

you wonder who that person was, right? What motivated them to risk their own safety to warn Joseph and Mary? The

J John 08:31
book doesn't say, does it? No, it's

S Sarah 08:33
one of those tantalizing details that's left to our imagination. But anyway, they got the warning just in time. Imagine the scramble to pack up, gather their things in the dead of night with a newborn

J John 08:43
baby. I can't even imagine the stress, the fear

S Sarah 08:47
and knowing Herod. They couldn't exactly take any chances. They had to move quickly, quietly. And

J John 08:52
their destination, according to the Urantia Book, was Egypt,

S Sarah 08:55
Alexandria, to be precise. Wow. Egypt.

J John 08:59
That's a long way from Bethlehem. It was

S Sarah 09:01
a journey into the unknown. For sure, they didn't know anyone there, didn't speak the language. They were completely reliant on their faith to guide them and on each other. Absolutely, it must have been terrifying, exhilarating, heartbreaking, all at the same time, leaving their home, their families, everything they knew behind, but they did it to protect Jesus,

J John 09:19
because they knew he was destined for something greater, exactly.

S Sarah 09:23

It's a powerful reminder that even amidst the most extraordinary circumstances life goes on, there's still laundry to be done, meals to be cooked, babies to be cared for, even when you're facing cosmic steaks. And

J John 09:38

speaking of cosmic steaks, I wanted to circle back to something we touched on earlier, the whole Son of David lineage, right,

S Sarah 09:44

right. It's one of those details that often gets overlooked or misinterpreted, because

J John 09:48

the Urantia Book is pretty clear on the fact that Joseph's connection to King David was through adoption, not blood,

S Sarah 09:53

six generations back, no less. It's like a genealogical footnote that got blown way out of proportion. We. Which

J John 10:00

makes you wonder, why is that detail so emphasized in the traditional nativity story?

S Sarah 10:05

It's all about context, right? The Urantia Book suggests that many of the Old Testament prophecies, especially the ones about the Messiah coming from the line of David, were interpreted very differently back then.

J John 10:16

So it's not that those prophecies were wrong, it's that they were often misunderstood or well misused Exactly.

S Sarah 10:24
They were often applied to Jesus after the fact as a way of validating his claim as the Messiah, trying to

J John 10:31
make the story fit a certain narrative Exactly.

S Sarah 10:33
And the Urantia Book encourages us to look beyond those later interpretations, to dig deeper into the original context, the true meaning of those ancient texts.

J John 10:42
It's about understanding the evolution of a story, how it changes and adapts over time. And

S Sarah 10:47
sometimes those changes, those adaptations, they can obscure the original message. You know,

J John 10:52
it's like playing a game of telephone, but with spiritual truths Exactly.

S Sarah 10:56
And that's why it's so important to go back to the source to examine the evidence for ourselves and to be open to new interpretations. This is exactly what we're trying to do here, right? Absolutely, we're taking a deep dive exploring the historical, cultural, even the spiritual context of Jesus's birth. And I think that's what makes the Urantia book's perspective so valuable. It challenges us to think critically, to question assumptions, to engage with the story in a whole new way, and

J John 11:22
that's what makes it so exciting, because it's not just about memorizing facts and figures. It's about grappling with big questions, exploring different perspectives and allowing ourselves to be transformed by what we discover. And on that note, I think we've earned a little break. Don't go anywhere, folks. We'll be right back. Okay, so last time we were talking about Joseph, Mary and Jesus fleeing to Egypt, it really highlights the danger they faced, even as a young family.

S Sarah 11:49
It does. It's a stark contrast to those peaceful, idyllic nativity scenes we often see, isn't it

J John 11:55
for sure, in the Urantia Book account, they're refugees, basically escaping political persecution, exactly,

S Sarah 12:00
and it reminds us that this story, it's not just some feel good fairy tale. It's rooted in the realities of human history. We're talking about power struggles, violence, very real threats.

J John 12:10
It makes you appreciate how revolutionary Jesus's message really was coming out of that kind of environment to preach love and compassion and forgiveness in a world like that. It's radical,

S Sarah 12:21
and I think that's why it's so important to understand this historical and cultural context. It adds so much depth to the story. You know, it's not just about the miraculous events, but also the human drama unfolding alongside

J John 12:33
Absolutely it's about these very real people navigating extraordinary circumstances. It makes the whole thing so much more relatable, right?

S Sarah 12:41
It's not some distant, untouchable narrative. This is a story about resilience, about faith, about the power of love in the face of fear,

J John 12:49
powerful stuff, and it makes you think about how this story, even 1000s of years old, still speaks to us today.

 Sarah 12:55

Oh, absolutely. Because, let's face it, the world today isn't that different, is it? We still have conflict, we still have suffering. We're still searching for those same answers Exactly.

 John 13:04

So maybe by digging into these ancient stories, by understanding the context, we can find some guidance for our own lives.

 Sarah 13:12

I think so the Urethiu book encourages us to do just that, to engage with this story, not just as passive observers, but as active participants, to let it challenge our assumptions, to inspire us to action, to help us build a better world.

 John 13:26

Beautifully put and I think that's the perfect note to end on. It's not just about remembering the story. It's about letting it transform us. Couldn't have said it better myself. Well, this has been an incredible deep dive. Thanks to everyone for joining us as we explore the Urantia book's perspective on the Nativity in.