

Part 4, Paper 123, The Early C... of Jesus, Midwayer Commission

Fri, Oct 04, 2024 7:38AM 11:35

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Jesus's childhood, Urantia Book, Nazareth upbringing, family life, educational journey, Greek translation, religious discussions, synagogue school, intellectual curiosity, diverse perspectives, musical talent, nature connection, parental decisions, self-awareness, community impact

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

- S

Sarah 00:00

Okay, so ready to explore a side of history you might not expect. We're diving deep into the childhood of Jesus, and like before, you think another nativity story. We're pulling from a unique source for this one, the Urantia Book. Yeah,
- J

John 00:14

it's really fascinating how this book takes a fresh look at Jesus's early life, offers these like surprisingly relatable details about his upbringing in Nazareth. All right, so
- S

Sarah 00:24

let's unpack this a bit. We're talking about his family life, education, and what was it like to be a kid in that time and place exactly.
- J

John 00:31

We're gonna unearth these details that just paint a more human picture of Jesus, one that I think challenges our traditional assumptions.
- S

Sarah 00:37

Okay, I'm intrigued. Let's dive in now, most narratives jump straight to Nazareth, but like our source material, takes an unexpected detour. First



John 00:45

it does. Yeah, the Urantia Book starts with Mary and Joseph fleeing Bethlehem for Alexandria, Egypt shortly after Jesus is born. Essentially refugees escaping a dangerous situation. Imagine the weight of those decisions, the fear and uncertainty they must have faced. Yeah,



Sarah 01:03

it's a stark contrast to the peaceful imagery we usually associate with the Nativity. It really humanizes the whole experience. And this wasn't just like a quick stop on their journey. No, they actually spent



John 01:13

two years in Alexandria, and it's there that they received a rather significant gift, a complete copy of the Hebrew Scriptures translated into Greek.



Sarah 01:21

Now, why is that so significant? So



John 01:23

this Greek translation, known as the Septuagint, opened up the sacred texts to a wider audience, including those outside the Jewish community. This detail, even if seemingly small, suggests that from a young age, Jesus was exposed to a broader world view, foreshadows how his teachings would later transcend cultural and religious boundaries.



Sarah 01:43

It's amazing to think those early experiences could have had such a lasting impact. So after two years in Alexandria, they eventually make their way to Nazareth. But even that decision, as I understand it, wasn't without its share of debate.



John 01:55

You're right. It's fascinating how the Urantia Book highlights the real world considerations that factored into their choice. Mary, remembering the prophecies, leaned toward Bethlehem, the city of David. Joseph, however, was pragmatic, prioritized their safety and saw better educational opportunities in the more liberal region of Galilee. It



S

Sarah 02:12

sounds like they had a dynamic similar to many parents, balancing tradition and practicality absolutely

J

John 02:19

and that practicality shines through in how they handled young Jesus' insatiable curiosity. The Urantia Book mentions an instance where an earthquake frightened Jesus, prompting a barrage of questions. Interestingly, instead of providing the plastic answers, Joseph acknowledged the limits of his knowledge, encouraging Jesus to grapple with the unknown.

S

Sarah 02:38

I think we can all relate to that moment when we realize our parents don't have all the answers. It's a pivotal step in developing our own critical thinking, exactly

J

John 02:46

and for Jesus, this experience planted the seed for a lifelong pursuit of knowledge and understanding. So

S

Sarah 02:53

we have this picture of Jesus growing up in a home that encouraged both faith and reason, a home where questioning was valued, but they were still raising him within a deeply devout Jewish tradition, correct, yes.

J

John 03:04

And the Urantia Book paints a vivid picture of their home being a hub for religious discussions. People traveled from afar to engage with Joseph and his family, exposing young Jesus to a variety of theological perspectives there at the age of seven, as was customary at the time, Jesus began his formal education at the synagogue school,

S

Sarah 03:23

and how did he handle this transition to formal schooling? I can imagine a mind as curious as his might have been a handful for his teachers.

J

John 03:32

That's putting it mildly. Picture this. Imagine a young Jesus, already fluent in Aramaic and Greek. Now diving headfirst into Hebrew at the synagogue school, he was like a sponge for

Greek, now diving headfirst into Hebrew at the synagogue school, he was like a sponge for knowledge, soaking up information. But he wasn't just memorizing scriptures. This was a kid who needed to understand the why behind everything.

S

Sarah 03:48

Oh, I can only imagine the questions he must have thrown at his teachers. What were some of the things he was curious about? He

J

John 03:54

would challenge them with questions that connected seemingly like disparate concepts. The Urantia Book gives this example of Jesus asking why Palestine had distinct dry and rainy seasons, or why the temperature varied so drastically between Nazareth and the Jordan Valley. These weren't just like simple questions. They showed a mind that was already trying to unravel the mysteries of the natural world and its connection to something bigger.

S

Sarah 04:20

He was already thinking on a different level, how did his teachers respond to this like constant questioning? You

J

John 04:25

might be surprised to hear that they were actually quite impressed. The Urantia Book mentions that his teacher that shazan, confessed to Joseph that he had learned more from Jesus's probing questions than he could ever hope to teach him speak volumes about the kind of environment that fostered this kind of intellectual curiosity in Jesus, it

S

Sarah 04:43

really does. They recognized and nurtured his thirst for knowledge instead of like stifling it. And we have to remember this wasn't just any synagogue. The Urantia Book points out that the synagogue in Nazareth was known for its progressive stance, right? Exactly.

J

John 04:57

It was a place open to diverse perspective. US, which makes sense considering Nazareth the location, yeah, it

S

Sarah 05:03

was this bustling Crossroads on the caravan route filled with merchants, traders, travelers from all walks of life. So it wasn't just about what was being taught inside the synagogue walls. Jesus

all walks of life. So it wasn't just about what was being taught inside the synagogue walls. Jesus was exposed to this incredible tapestry of cultures and ideas just by living in Nazareth

J John 05:18

precisely imagine the conversations he must have overheard, the story shared by travelers from distant lands. This cost and exposure to different cultures undoubtedly broadened his worldview and nurtured a deep empathy and understanding of human nature. It makes you wonder if this played a role in his ability to connect with people from all walks of life later on. It's

S Sarah 05:38

a fascinating thought, isn't it, we often think about the influence of his formal religious upbringing, but those everyday interactions, that cross cultural pollination of ideas must have been incredibly formative as well. But at the heart of it, he was still a child. Did the Urantia Book mention anything about what he did for fun?

J John 05:56

Believe it or not, young Jesus was quite the harpist. Wait really

S Sarah 06:00

a musically gifted Jesus. That's not something you hear every day. Apparently,

J John 06:04

he had a real knack for it. The Urantia Book even mentions how he would barter dairy products for HARP lessons. Talk about dedication. It shows a different side of him, a child finding joy and expressing himself through music, perhaps even drawing inspiration from the sounds and rhythms of the natural world around him.

S Sarah 06:22

That's a beautiful image a young Jesus finding harmony in both the natural world and the world of music. It speaks to that universal human experience of finding solace and connection through creative expression and this love for nature seemed to run deep, didn't it? Absolutely

J John 06:38

remember those insightful questions about the weather and the seasons. It wasn't just theoretical for Jesus, Joseph would often take him on hikes up a nearby hill overlooking Galilee.
I

S

Sarah 06:48

can only imagine those views breathtaking.

J

John 06:51

Imagine a young Jesus taking in the sweeping vistas, listening as his father shared stories about the prophets and their connection to this very land. The Urantia Book even mentions that they could see Mount Carmel in the distance, a place imbued with religious significance as the site of Elijah's challenge to the priests of Baal. These outings weren't just like Father Son bonding time. They were immersive experiences that nurtured a profound reverence for the natural world in Jesus.

S

Sarah 07:18

It's remarkable how the Urantia Book weaves together these details, the scholar, the artist, the nature lover. Painting such a multifaceted portrait of the young Jesus, it challenges us to see beyond the traditional, often one dimensional representations and recognize the depth and complexity of his character. But amidst all this growth and exploration, a pivotal moment arrives that really puts his developing sense of self to the test. You talk about Nahor's visit, right? Exactly, the teacher from Jerusalem who came to assess the young Jesus, at the behest of Zechariah John, the baptist's father,

J

John 07:51

a meeting that would lead to a life altering proposition, right? Nahor,

S

Sarah 07:55

recognizing Jesus's potential, urged Mary and Joseph to allow him to take Jesus back to Jerusalem for Advanced Studies. It was an incredible opportunity to learn from the best at a prestigious Academy. Imagine the pressure they must have felt to like follow a traditional path or trust their son's unique journey. What an impossible decision to make.

J

John 08:15

Absolutely it's easy to look back with historical hindsight, but in that moment, it was anything but clear cut. Mary, ever mindful of his destiny, grappled with the weight of prophecy. Joseph, however, remained grounded in the practicalities of life, concerned about the potential dangers of sending His Son away to Jerusalem. It's

S

S

Sarah 08:31

like a timeless parental dilemma, balancing your aspirations for your child with what you believe is truly in their best interest. So how did they navigate this crossroads?

J

John 08:43

What's remarkable is that, instead of imposing their will, they entrusted Jesus with the decision. The Urantia Book describes how young Jesus, even at that age, carefully considered like every angle, he sought out counsel from his parents, his friend Jacob, and most importantly, he spent time in prayer and reflection, seeking guidance from within. What a

S

Sarah 09:03

powerful lesson in trusting the inner wisdom of even the youngest among us. So what did he decide? He chose to stay in Nazareth. He chose the familiar over the extraordinary, a decision that speaks volumes about the deep connection he had with his family and community. What was his reasoning? How do you explain turning down an opportunity that most would consider life changing. His

J

John 09:22

response to nehor was simple yet profound. He expressed that after careful consideration, he felt that those who loved him most, his parents, were better equipped to guide him at that stage in his life than strangers who might judge him solely on outward appearances.

S

Sarah 09:37

That's incredible, such maturity and self awareness from someone so young. And for Mary and Joseph, what a testament to the kind of environment they'd cultivated, one where their son felt empowered to make such a momentous decision, makes you wonder how this choice, this act of trusting his own inner compass, shaped the trajectory of his life.

J

John 09:56

It's a fascinating question, isn't it? Well, we can't know for sure what. He gleaned from the Urantia book's account is that Nazareth played a vital role in shaping the man Jesus would become. It was there, within the context of his loving family, his diverse community and his relentless pursuit of knowledge, that the seeds of His ministry were sown. It

S

Sarah 10:14

really underscores the idea that there's often more to the story than meets the eye. We often focus on the extraordinary aspects of Jesus's life, but here we see the power of the ordinary, the impact of family, the importance of community and the freedom to discover one's own path

J John 10:30

exactly. And for me, that's what makes the Urantia book's perspective on Jesus's childhood so compelling. Yeah, it reminds us that even the most influential figures in history, those we might place on a pedestal began their journey as children shaped by experiences that mirror our own. It's a

S Sarah 10:47

reminder that the seeds of greatness are often sown in the most unexpected places, and those formative experiences, those moments of questioning, the relationships we forge, the values instilled in us, they all play a role in shaping who we become absolutely

J John 11:00

it's a reminder that resonates deeply with all of us, regardless of our beliefs. It's

S Sarah 11:04

been a fascinating, deep dive into the Urantia book's perspective on the childhood of Jesus. And as we wrap up, I'm left with this thought provoking question, How might our own understanding of ourselves and the world around us shift if we were to approach our lives with the same kind of open minded curiosity and thirst for knowledge that Jesus embodied as a child. It's a question worth pondering, and on that note, we'll leave you to continue your own exploration until next time. Keep asking those big questions and keep diving deep.