

Part 4, Paper 136, Baptism and...orty Days, Midwayer Commission

📅 Sat, Oct 05, 2024 7:47AM 🕒 21:45

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Jesus's mission, spiritual transformation, cosmic event, divine companion, 40 days, temptation period, divine power, superhuman assistance, natural law, inner transformation, human experience, love and compassion, personal transformation, radical love, divine spark

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

J John 00:00
Ever feel like, like maybe we missed a chapter or something when it comes to the whole Jesus story?

S Sarah 00:04
Yeah,

J John 00:05
we're diving into a really fascinating book today. Okay, excerpts from the Urantia Book. Okay, to uncover some surprising details about Jesus's life and mission. Yeah, it's

S Sarah 00:17
really interesting how the Urantia Book kind of challenges our traditional understanding, yeah. It paints this, this cosmic picture of Jesus really highlighting, like, the universal significance of his choices, right? We're not just talking about a man, you know, walking around in Galilee, right? We're talking about decisions that echoed throughout the universe, like, yeah,

J John 00:39
and those choices. That's what really got me. You know, when I was reading through this, like, did you know that? Like, according to the Urantia Book, the Jewish people of that time had, like, some really specific. almost outlandish expectations about their Messiah. absolutely.

S

Sarah 00:53

yeah, they they weren't just looking for like a spiritual leader. They yearned for like a conquering hero who would, who would obliterate Roman rule and just like usher in this era of unimaginable abundance, you know, it's almost as if they, they envisioned, like Moses, with vineyards just just bursting with so much wine that, like a single grape could fill gallons, you know, Wow. Talk about

J

John 01:20

setting the bar high, huh? Great. So they were, they were ready for a prosperity gospel centuries before. It was cool, yeah? But then Jesus arrives on the scene. It's like, he's not about earthly riches or political power, right? Exactly, yeah,

S

Sarah 01:33

the raunchy book, really, it emphasizes how his message, which was so focused on spiritual transformation and love, you know, directly challenge their deeply ingrained desire for material wealth, right, and worldly domination. And it really makes you ponder like, How often do our own desires cloud our ability to truly see and understand like a higher purpose? You know, it's

J

John 01:58

a good question, and it makes you think about, like, you know, how, how we approach spirituality even today, yeah? Like, are we, are we looking for quick fixes, outward blessings, or are we willing to do that, that inner work, that real, heart changing stuff, precisely?

S

Sarah 02:13

Yeah. Now, speaking of of transformative moments, let's, let's talk about Jesus's baptism. Most of us picture, you know, John baptizing Jesus as this, like declaration of him being the Son of God, right, right? But the Urantia Book, yeah,

J

John 02:26

describes something far more, far more profound. What did you say? Oh,

S

Sarah 02:31

yeah, for sure. It wasn't just a dip in the Jordan River. You know what I'm saying? Right from, from what I read, it sounds like heavenly after party, to end all after parties. You know,

J John 02:42

it's described as this, this momentous cosmic event, not merely a symbolic ritual, okay, picture this, okay, heavenly hosts gathering right? A personalized adjuster, which is essentially like Jesus's divine companion, okay, descending upon him, wow. And then a voice booming from the heavens, proclaiming, This is My beloved Son, wow, and who I am, well pleased. Okay,

S Sarah 03:09

now that's, that's an entrance. That's, that's giving me chills just imagining it, you know, yeah, that's, that's way more intense than anything I ever pictured.

J John 03:16

But it emphasizes something crucial, though, right? This wasn't just like a grand gesture for the crowds, exactly. This is a deeply personal and profoundly spiritual experience for Jesus, exactly.

S Sarah 03:28

Yeah, the Urantia Book suggests that during this event, he actually saw a vision of his true self, wow, as the Son of God. This wasn't about anyone else's recognition of him, right? It was about his own self realization, right? You know, it marked the end of his purely human life, okay? And the beginning of his mission. Yeah.

J John 03:50

It's like everything in his life up until that point had been act one, right? Now the curtains rising on Act Two, exactly, yeah, which, speaking of act two, right? Brings us to those infamous 40 days in the wilderness. Yeah, I'll be honest, that always seemed a bit ominous to me. You know, like 40 days alone, tempted by the devil, right, surviving on locusts and honey, yeah. But the Urantia Book presents a different take on this whole ordeal. It does. It challenges

S Sarah 04:17

that traditional view of the 40 days being solely about resisting temptation from the devil, you know, yeah, instead, it frames them as this incredibly intense okay period of reflection, okay and pivotal decision making for Jesus. Think about it, he had just fully grasped his cosmic identity, right, right, his true purpose in the grand scheme of the universe, right? He needed time to process, to plan, right, to commune with the Father on a whole new level. That

J John 04:52

That makes a lot more sense than picturing him out there like. right. arguing with the devil

over, over snacks, right? And

S

Sarah 04:59

power. Were in exchange for his soul, you know? Yeah, yeah. It's, it's a far more nuanced and, frankly, a much more compelling narrative,

J

John 05:07

absolutely, according to the Urantia Book, right? Jesus wasn't grappling with some, some external tempter, right? He was wrestling with the implications of his own divine power. Wow, you know it's, it's almost as if he was standing at a crossroads, right, with the weight of the universe on his shoulders, oh, wow, deciding what kind of Messiah he was going to be, right, and what that would mean, yeah, not just for humanity, but for all of creation.

S

Sarah 05:35

Okay? So less about fighting off demons with a stick, right? More about grappling with destiny and the fate of the universe Exactly. No pressure there. Jesus, right,

J

John 05:43

exactly. And those choices, they they weren't easy,

S

Sarah 05:47

right? He wasn't just deciding what to have for cosmic breakfast or something. He was, he was making decisions that would, that would reverberate throughout eternity. You know, according to the Urantia Book, there were, there were six key decisions that really shaped the course of his mission, six

J

John 06:06

decisions to change the world, maybe even the universe. Okay, I'm hooked. Let's, let's unpack these, these life altering decisions. Where do we even begin? Let's,

S

Sarah 06:14

let's start with perhaps the most, the most striking one, his decision to forego superhuman assistance. Okay, imagine he had, he had legions of angels right at his beck and call, wow, ready to swoop in and make everything right. You know, he could have, he could have called on

them to overthrow empires, right? Silence. His critics perform miracles on a scale never before imagined. Okay,

J John 06:42

I'll admit, if I had an angel squad on speed dial, I'd probably be using them for way less noble pursuits than than changing the world, right? So why not? Why not use them? What? What was the was the thinking there, according to the Urantia Book, right?

S Sarah 06:55

It's tempting, isn't it? Yeah, but Jesus in his, in his profound wisdom, you know, recognize that true power, you know, wasn't about, wasn't about wielding force or manipulating events. It was about. It was about aligning with his father's will, okay, about walking a path of love and understanding even when it was difficult. You know, yeah, he knew that forcing belief through miracles or or angelic intervention, right? Wouldn't lead to the kind of deep, lasting transformation that he sought.

J John 07:27

So it was about, it was about letting humanity, like, kind of work things out for themselves, even if it meant, like, kind of stumbling along the way, yeah, in a way, yeah. It's like, it's like, tough love Jesus style,

S Sarah 07:39

in a way, yes, but it speaks volumes about his unwavering faith, yeah, in humanity's potential, you know, right? Remember, the Urantia Book really emphasizes that Jesus saw the divine spark within each of us, right? You know, he believed that true growth, yeah, comes from within, you know, from grappling with our own challenges, from making our own choices, both good and bad. You know, he wasn't. He wasn't about quick fixes or shortcuts. He was, he was playing the long game. You could say

J John 08:09

it's, it's interesting, right? Yeah? Because that, that idea that that we're meant to figure things out for ourselves, yeah, we grow through our struggles. It's, it's a pretty common theme right across many spiritual traditions, yeah. So, so no, no angel, air support. What was, what was the next big decision on his, on his cosmic to do list? Well,

S Sarah 08:30

this one, this one really makes you think about the nature of power itself. Okay? Jesus consciously chose to live within the bounds of natural law. Okay. Now, remember, this is the

Urantia book's perspective, right? And it might, might differ from some, some traditional interpretations, right? But, but the book suggests that he could have, he could have easily manipulated the laws of physics, wow. You know, performed, performed, mind blowing miracles at every turn, but, but he chose not to.

J John 09:01

So he's, he's basically saying, like, yeah, I may have, you know, created the, the rules of reality, but I'm gonna, I'm gonna play by him too. Yeah, that's a, that's a pretty powerful statement. It really

S Sarah 09:11

is. It shows that he that he wasn't interested in being worshiped as, as some kind of, you know, magician or deity who, who bends reality to his whim? Right? The Urantia Book, it suggests that that he, he wanted to demonstrate that true power lies in understanding okay and aligning with with divine principles, not in, not in bending them to our will. Right? You know he was, he was showing us a different way, a path of humility and surrender to something greater than ourselves. It

J John 09:43

makes you think about that whole, that whole turn the other cheek philosophy, right, like that's that's not exactly the image of a conquering king, right? That that the Jewish people were were hoping for. It's about, it's about rising above, about choosing love and. Compassion, even in the face of of injustice. It's,

S Sarah 10:03

it's so far removed from that image of a vengeful, powerful Messiah, right? And yet that's, that's what makes his message, right? So, so radical and so enduring. You know, he, he was challenging the very foundations of power as it was understood then, and frankly, as as it's often still understood today, you know, he was, he was saying that that true strength isn't found in dominance or control, but in love, in forgiveness, in the courage to to break free from cycles of violence and retribution, and

J John 10:35

that that kind of radical love, yeah, it's, it's contagious, right? Yeah, it, it has the power to transform not just individuals, right, but entire societies.

S Sarah 10:44

Exactly. It's about planting seeds of a different kind of kingdom, a kingdom, right, built on, on love, compassion, yeah, and mutual understanding.

love, compassion, yeah, and mutual understanding

J John 10:54

and that. And that brings us to his, to his next big decision, right, right? The one, the one about miracles, yes, yes, right? If there's one thing that that screams like, look at me on the Messiah, it's the it's the ability to, like, you know, yeah, walk on water and turn water into wine, right? But according to the Urantia Book, yeah, he, he wasn't, he wasn't about that life,

S Sarah 11:14

not at all. The Urantia Book really emphasizes how, how Jesus recognized that that true faith, right isn't about, isn't about being wowed by spectacle. It's, it's not about, you know, blind faith, or being being amazed by by supernatural feats. Yeah, it's about something. It's about something much deeper, much more profound, you know, yeah, it's about an inner transformation, a deep, abiding understanding of of God's love and and a commitment to living that love out in the world. So,

J John 11:48

so less about like parting the Red Sea, more about parting the seas of like, doubt and fear within, within people's hearts. Yeah, exactly. And it makes you think like, if, if he had gone around, you know, yeah, performing like impossible feats, right? Wouldn't people have just become fixated, totally, yeah, on that, on, on wanting, like, right, more and more spectacular displays. Yeah, instead of actually, like, hearing his message,

S Sarah 12:12

it's a, it's a real possibility, isn't it? Yeah, you know it's, it's like those, those stories of spiritual teachers who who deliberately avoid performing miracles because, because they understand that true transformation comes comes from within. You know, imagine if, if, instead of focusing on Jesus's message of of love, right, and compassion, yeah, his followers had just become obsessed with trying to replicate his miracles or demanding more more spectacular displays of power, right?

J John 12:46

It would, it would turn into a whole different kind of movement, totally more about, more about seeking the supernatural show than than embracing the spiritual substance. Exactly. It's almost like he was, he was trying to avoid creating like spiritual groupies, right? Who were just there for the for the encore performance, and not the, not the actual message. Exactly,

S Sarah 13:06

he understood that true faith isn't about seeking the the extraordinary. It's about it's about

he understood that true faith isn't about seeking the extraordinary. It's about it's about finding the extraordinary within the ordinary, right? It's about recognizing the divine spark in ourselves, right and in each other, you know, right and and letting that awareness guide our guide our actions, yeah, our thoughts, our interactions with the world, it's a it's a

J

John 13:31

powerful reminder, especially in in today's world, yeah, where it's so easy to get caught up in the sensation of the flashy, right, The things that that grab our attention, but don't necessarily nourish our souls, you know? It makes

S

Sarah 13:45

you think, doesn't it? Yeah, what if? What if we approached our own lives, right, our own our own spiritual journeys with with that same kind of of intentionality, you know? What if? What if we focus less on on seeking miracles and more on on cultivating the kind of inner transformation, yeah, that allows us to to see the miraculous in every breath, right, every sunrise, every act of kindness. Now,

J

John 14:09

that's a that's a challenge worth, worth embracing, right? But we've, we've only just begun to scratch the surface right of Jesus's momentous choices, haven't we? What? What other profound decisions did he? Did he grapple with during those, those 40 days? Okay, so we've got, we've got Jesus basically saying no thanks to angelic armies, right? Miracle marathons, yeah, and even, and even ruling a physical kingdom, right? What? What other like, kind of earth shattering choices were on his cosmic to do list right during those 40 days? Well, the

S

Sarah 14:45

Urantia Book highlights a decision, yeah, that that might seem a little paradoxical at first, okay, Jesus chose to fully embrace his human experience, okay? And, and this wasn't. This wasn't just about. You know, right appearing human, it was about fully inhabiting his humanity with all of its right limitations and vulnerabilities. Wait so

J

John 15:07

even, even though he He was divine right, he was choosing to to actually live as as one of us, yes, yeah, to experience the full like spectrum of human emotions, the the joys and sorrows, the doubts and fears, everything, exactly,

S

Sarah 15:23

yeah, it wasn't some, some kind of cosmic, you know, play acting, you know, he, he felt the weight of of human emotions, just as we do, right, experienced physical pain, right, exhaustion,

even, even grappled with with uncertainty and doubt.

J

John 15:40

You know, I have to admit, like, I've, I've never really considered the idea of Jesus, like wrestling with doubt, yeah, right? We always, we always picture him as this, this, like, unshakable figure, Yeah, completely sure of himself and his purpose, right? But, but thinking about him, like experiencing those very human struggles. It makes him feel, yeah, much more, I don't know, relatable, yeah, wouldn't you say absolutely? It makes his, it makes his whole story feel, yeah, more accessible, right? More more human. Absolutely,

S

Sarah 16:11

yeah. It really dismantles that, that distant, untouchable image that many, many have of him, you know, right, right? He wasn't some, some some remote deity, like, you know, looking down on us, right? He was right there with us, you know, in the trenches of the of the human experience, right? And that's a, that's a really powerful message, because it, it means that his, his example, his life, yeah, isn't, isn't some, some unattainable ideal, right? It's, it's something we can all we can all aspire to, something we can all learn from so,

J

John 16:46

so, in a way, by embracing his own humanity, yeah, he was showing us how to, how to embrace ours, how to how to find the the divine Yeah, within the the messy, complicated reality of of being human. You know,

S

Sarah 17:00

precisely, yeah, and that, that leads us to another crucial decision, highlighted in the Urantia Book, okay, how to, how to actually go about establishing his kingdom, right? He had all these options on the table, right, right? Force, spectacle, worldly power, yeah, but he had, he had already rejected them. All right, right. So, so what did, what did that leave him with? Well,

J

John 17:23

based on what we've what we've been discussing, it, it sounds like he was left with the, the most radical and and revolutionary force of all, love,

S

Sarah 17:32

exactly, but, but not just, not just any love. The Urantia Book really emphasizes, yeah, that it was, it was a love expressed through teaching, through through healing, from compassionate service to to

J John 17:46

others. But let's, let's be real for a second here, right? Like Love and and compassion while, while beautiful and all. Yeah, don't exactly scream regime change, you know, right? How, how is, how is that going to topple empires and usher in this, this new world order that he kept, he kept talking about, right, right? It seems like a pretty tall order, even, even for someone like, like Jesus, that's,

S Sarah 18:10

that's the incredible thing about, about his approach, though, okay, the Urantia Book, it suggests that that Jesus understood that true revolution, right, lasting change, you know, doesn't come doesn't come from the top down, right? It doesn't come from from force or coercion, right? It starts in the hearts and minds of individuals, you know. Right? It begins with personal transformation, right? With with embracing a radically different way of living based on okay? Love, forgiveness, right? Service to others. So,

J John 18:43

so, less about, like, storming the castle gate, right, right. More about rebuilding the the world, one heart at a time. Yes, yeah. It's about, it's about planting those, those seeds, right, of love and compassion and trusting that, that they'll eventually blossom into something, something truly transformative.

S Sarah 19:01

You got it, he knew that that lasting change, you know, the kind that that really matters, right? Happens, happens organically, yeah, from the the inside out, right. It's not about imposing his will, yeah, but about about inspiring others to to embrace right, a new way of being, you know, a path of of love and understanding. It's

J John 19:24

an incredibly powerful, powerful message, yeah, one that that feels just as relevant today as it, as it was, you know, back then, really, yeah, you know, this, this whole, this whole deep dive, has been like a master class, right in, in challenging our, our assumptions. Yeah, about about Jesus and his and his mission. It's made me realize just how how radical and revolutionary, yeah, his his message truly was and and how his example can still, you know, inspire us, yeah, to live differently, to choose. Love over fear, right? Compassion Over judgment and service over self interest. You know, it's

S Sarah 20:06

amazing, isn't it, how these ancient teachings, yeah, can still speak to us, yeah, so powerfully

across across millennia.

J John 20:15

It really is Yeah. And as we, as we wrap up our deep dive into the Urantia books perspective on Jesus, right? Is there a final, provocative thought you think we, we should leave our listeners with

S Sarah 20:27

the Urantia Book reminds us that we, we might not possess Jesus's cosmic power, but the the choices he made, those those six pivotal decisions, yeah, they, they serve as a, as a blueprint for, for our own lives. You know, we all face choices big and small, right? That shape our character, influence those around us and and contribute to the kind of of world we're creating.

J John 20:55

So it's, it's like, it's like, he's saying, Yeah, okay, I've, I've shown you the way right now. Now it's your turn. What? What will you? What will you do with with this,

S Sarah 21:04

this precious life, exactly,

J John 21:06

what? What choices will you make? Yes,

S Sarah 21:07

precisely, will, will we? Will we get caught up in, in the pursuit of of power, right, succumb to the to the allure of of spectacle, or will we? Will we choose a different, a different path, will we? Will we embrace the more challenging, but, but ultimately, more more fulfilling path of of love, compassion and service? That's, that's the question that that the Urantia Book, I think, leaves us with talking

J John 21:34

about food for thought, right? This is, this is one deep dive. I have a feeling we'll all be unpacking for, a long, long time. Great Thanks for Thanks for joining us. Thanks

S Sarah 21:42



Saran 21:43

for having me bye.