

Part 4, Paper 142, The Passove...Jerusalem, Midwayer Commission

📅 Sat, Oct 05, 2024 7:47AM ⌚ 9:08

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Passover in Jerusalem, Urantia Book, Jesus' teachings, God's evolution, loving father, spiritual rebirth, Nicodemus' visit, Pharisees' role, seven pillars, divine relationship, spiritual existence, God's love, eternal life, faith journey, inner change

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

- S

Sarah 00:00

Passover in Jerusalem, just that whole energy of faith and history, right? And your excerpt from the Urantia Book, it kind of drops us right into that, yeah, with Jesus at the center, really challenging how people think about God. It's so interesting
- J

John 00:12

how this book, it presents stuff you don't find in the typical Bible stories, like a whole different angle on things, right? Makes you think twice totally.
- S

Sarah 00:21

And we see that right away with this guy, Jacob, successful merchant, travels all the way from Crete, because he's drawn to what Jesus is teaching, but he's wrestling with these huge questions, like he sees how compassionate Jesus is, but it doesn't square with the wrathful God he's always known from Scripture.
- J

John 00:37

Yeah, people have been struggling with that for ages. How can God be loving and vengeful at the same time. The uranti book, it actually has Jesus tackle that head on, saying it's not that God changes, but how we understand him can it's
- S

Sarah 00:50

like how we see our parents as we grow up. I mean, they don't actually change who they are, but we get a way deeper understanding of why they do things more complex Exactly.

J John 00:58

It's like you said, they go from authority figures to people with their own whole history, and that whole idea of us evolving and how we understand God, that's core to the Urantia Book Jesus, at least in this book, he takes his followers on like a historical tour of how Jewish ideas about God have changed. So

S Sarah 01:16

instead of just a fixed idea of God, it's more like he's been understood in all these different ways over time. Yeah,

J John 01:22

exactly starts with Yahweh, the God of those Sinai clans, right? He was seen as this super, powerful protector, but also jealous, wanting total loyalties, like, my God's tougher than yours. Reflecting that whole tribal mindset at the time, seems

S Sarah 01:38

like a very human way to think about God like based on what their world was actually like,

J John 01:43

totally and as their world got bigger, so did their idea of God. You get El Elyon, the most high God who Abraham meets. Now it's a God beyond tribes ruling everything. So

S Sarah 01:53

already it's becoming this more universal idea,

J John 01:56

right? And then there's El Shaddai, that name it connects to being fertile, providing for people shows how ancient folks wove what they needed into their whole concept of God, each name, each idea, it builds on the one before, more details, more layers. It's

S Sarah 02:10

wild. How Jesus, in this book, at least, is like, yeah, that evolution happened. Makes you wonder if how we see God is just one chapter in this huge story. And according

J John 02:18

to the Urantia Book, that story leads right to God as Father in heaven. That was key for Jesus. This is where it goes from a god way up there, to a God of love close to us,

S Sarah 02:27

like the final step in that journey. You're talking about tribal protector too, like the ultimate dad. But what does that even mean for how we live? If God's like a loving father, not some distant ruler, this whole thing about God as a loving father, not just some big boss up there. It really changes things, doesn't it? And it's interesting in your excerpt, it's right around here, that whole BORN AGAIN thing pops up, yeah, Nicodemus,

J John 02:49

right? That part where he talks to Jesus. It's huge. In the book, you've got this Pharisee, one of the Jewish leaders, coming to Jesus at night, wanting answers. It kind of shows you how big a deal these ideas were even back then.

S Sarah 03:01

Okay, for those of us who don't know all the ins and outs of ancient Jewish life, what exactly is a Pharisee? What's their whole

J John 03:07

thing? Think of them like the religious scholars back then, super into interpreting the law, keeping traditions alive. So for someone like Nicodemus, this whole BORN AGAIN idea, it's not just some random thought. It shakes up everything he thinks he knows about faith,

S Sarah 03:21

and that question he asks, like, how can a grown man go back into his mother's womb? It's almost funny, like he's taking it so literally. I

J John 03:27

know, right? But I think it shows how we, like as humans, get hung up on the physical stuff instead of getting the deeper meaning and Jesus. He cuts right through that like he always does. He's not talking about literally being born again, but this inner change, like a whole heart

does. He's not talking about literally being born again, but this inner change, like a whole heart transplant, almost so

S

Sarah 03:44

less about rules and rituals and more about changing how we relate to God, to everything exactly.

J

John 03:49

And that's where this God as Father idea comes in. When we really get that we're children of a God who loves us, not just servants who have to obey. It's huge, like that

S

Sarah 03:59

shift we were talking about earlier, from fear to love, yeah,

J

John 04:02

and this love, this spiritual rebirth. It's not just sitting around waiting the book makes it clear. It's guided by the Spirit of the Father that's inside us ready to wake up.

S

Sarah 04:12

It reminds me of how Jesus was always having to bring his disciples back to the point they'd get so caught up in the details of this coming kingdom, like, who gets what? What are the rules? They miss the big picture,

J

John 04:23

right? Just like Thomas asking about life in this new kingdom, should they give up all their stuff? Will there be different laws so practical when Jesus was talking about something way deeper,

S

Sarah 04:34

and don't we still do that? We focus so much on the outer stuff of religion that we forget about the interchange, the being born again part that Jesus said really matters all

J

John 04:44

the time. And here's what the auntie book, it does something really different. Instead of just giving a list of rules, Jesus uses this example like a perfect family to show what our relationship with God could be

with God could be.

S

Sarah 04:56

So instead of a king and his subjects, it's more like parents and kids. Yeah. Exactly,

J

John 05:00

way closer, more personal, and he breaks it down into seven parts, seven, I guess you call them pillars of this divine relationship. Okay, I'm

S

Sarah 05:08

listening. Let's hear about these pillars, because I think there might be some real wisdom in there. What's the first one? Seven Pillars? That's like serious foundation building. So what's the first one? What's pillar number one?

J

John 05:19

Existence itself. No, like, just like a kid, they exist because their parents do right our spiritual existence, it starts with God. We're literally his kids, in a way. We get certain things from him, potential. You know, it's that connection.

S

Sarah 05:33

We were talking about, being part of something way bigger, exactly,

J

John 05:36

and that leads to number two, security and even pleasure. Think about good parents, right? They love giving their kids what they need, making them happy. The Urantia Book says that's God too. He doesn't want us scared and struggling. He wants us to have lots to be joyful. It's

S

Sarah 05:54

kind of the opposite of that mad, punishing God you sometimes hear about. This is a whole different relationship, totally.

J

John 06:00

And when kids grow up, they need guidance, teaching. That's pillar three smart parents, they give their kids tools for what's ahead spiritually, maybe that means tough times aren't

punishment, but chances to learn like someone's got our back while it happens. So

S Sarah 06:15
even when we get the tough love treatment, it's part of some bigger plan to help us grow right

J John 06:20
on and with growing, you gotta have boundaries. Discipline, pillar number four, not being mean, but loving. Correction. You know, helping us be our best. It's like when parents set limits, it's not to be controlling, it's for the kid's own good.

S Sarah 06:35
Makes you think about the rules of religion, huh? Are they about blindly doing what you're told, or are they due to help us connect to something bigger, something good?

J John 06:44
That's the million dollar question. And through all of it, you've got your parent there, that constant presence, support, loyalty, pillar five good parents. They're with their kid every step of the way. They listen, they celebrate the wins, kind of like this idea of guard always being there even when we don't feel it.

S Sarah 06:59
There's something really nice about that, that image, especially when we feel alone, lost, you know. And then there's

J John 07:07
love and mercy, of course. Number six, the core of being a parent, right? Forgiving everything, accepting, no matter what says a lot about how the Urantia Book sees God's love. It's limitless, not

S Sarah 07:18
like we got to earn it. We are loved, just because, same as a parent, loves their kid

J John 07:22
Exactly. And finally, pillar seven providing for the future parents they might leave an

inheritance. But spiritually, this is like eternal life, that journey that keeps going after we're gone, knowing we're part of something that lasts.

S

Sarah 07:37

Wow. So it's this incredible gift, this spiritual inheritance, connecting us back to that source, the divine parent. But all this about God as a loving father, it makes me wonder. The Urantia Book shows Jesus like so close to the Father, so connected. We don't experience that the same way, do we? So does that make us? I don't know, less than just because we don't have that same direct line.

J

John 07:58

That's where that BORN AGAIN idea circles back, it's not about being some perfect spiritual superstar. It's about waking up to the relationship that's already there. Remember Jesus told godimas, the Spirit of the Father in heaven, is already living inside you, that connection. It's in us. We've got it.

S

Sarah 08:16

So it's not like earning a spot. It's more like we got to figure out how to find it, how to let it grow. That's

J

John 08:22

it. And these seven pillars we've been talking about, they're not just ideas. They show us how to live that relationship, how to feel that love, that guidance from God, like practically, it's changing how we see things, seeing our lives through that connection,

S

Sarah 08:36

like we've been given this treasure chest, but we're still figuring out the lock. Huh?

J

John 08:39

Maybe that's what faith is all about, figuring out what being God's kid really means. And the Urantia Book with how it shows Jesus, it's like an invitation to go deeper, ask those big questions, and really open ourselves to that fatherly love in everything we do. And maybe when

S

Sarah 08:57

we really feel that love, it starts to show in our lives. You know, something pretty amazing to think about.



John 09:02

It really is Yeah, and hey, sometimes that's all we need, right? Something to get us thinking, get us searching.