

Part 4, Paper 161, Further Dis...ith Rodan, Midwayer Commission

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Urantia Book, personal God, Rodan's skepticism, Nathaniel's arguments, Trinity communication, Jesus's divinity, divine personality, God's ultimate destiny, Jesus's experiences, divine love, sinlessness, divine authority, intimate relationship, divine mind, divine mystery

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah



John 00:00

Ever catch yourself really, like really pondering the nature of God? We're doing a deep dive today, looking into the Urantia Book. It's a spiritual text with a unique take on, well, God, Jesus, the whole universe really, specifically we're honing in on paper, 161 okay, it sets up this vivid scene a debate by the shores of Magadan just after Jesus leaves for Jerusalem right



Sarah 00:24

right after. And it's two of his apostles, Nathaniel and Thomas. Now they're going head to head with this Alexandrian philosopher, sharp as a tack named Rodan.



John 00:32

This Rodan fella, he's not like a full on skeptic, yeah, not at all. He



Sarah 00:37

accepts God's out there. Accepts a lot of the core teachings about, you know, God's attributes, but he hits this wall, this idea of a personal God, one you can actually connect



John 00:46

with. So he's good with a higher power, but this whole approachable, relatable god, that's where he stumbles

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Sarah 00:51

exactly see Rodan. He's convinced that being a person, truly a person, means you gotta be able to communicate with equals, okay? And since God's infinite, unlimited, the way Rodin sees it, there's just no one on that level for God to have a real back and forth with. It's a fascinating philosophical pickle, isn't it? It's

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John 01:09

a toughy for sure. So how did the apostles counter that they can't just, poof, conjure up another all powerful being for God to chat with? No

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Sarah 01:18

no magic tricks here, Nathaniel, he takes the lead. He starts picking apart Rodin's logic piece by piece. Five key points he lays out, yeah, first up the Trinity, Father Son, Spirit, Nathaniel saying, Look, God's already got perfect communication going on within himself,

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John 01:34

like a built in dialog system, okay, but I'm guessing that's just the intro. No, there's

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Sarah 01:38

more. And this is where it gets juicy. Nathaniel brings up Jesus, fully God, fully human, right,

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John 01:45

right? So he's saying, If Jesus equal to God, the Father, could walk among us, talk to us, show us his personality. Well, that blows Jordan's theory out of the water. God can communicate on our level. He's not some distant, unknowable force. It's like

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Sarah 01:59

they're using Jesus as the ultimate example of bridging that gap divine to human. Makes you think, huh?

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John 02:05

It really does. And Nathaniel doesn't stop there. He points out both God and humans, they understood Jesus meaning communication between those two realms. It's

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Sarah 02:15

gotta be possible. Okay, two points down, what's next? Now

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John 02:18

he digs into the very meaning of personality. If we humans see it as our highest ideal, something to strive for, then that same quality, it must exist in God. God's the ultimate reality, the source of all that's good, right?

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Sarah 02:30

So we're taking our values, our very essence, and saying it's got to be in God, too bold move and for the grand finale, he reminds Rodin, God's not just the start. He's the finish line, the ultimate destiny of all personality.

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John 02:43

So if we're all aiming for this personhood and God's the end goal, then God must embody it completely, exactly. Well, okay, let's pause with this again. Nathaniel's brought out the big guns here. But did it work? Was Rodin convinced? He

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Sarah 02:56

was impressed even he comes around to this idea of a personal God admits maybe, just maybe, our definition of personality, it needs an upgrade to truly get what God's all about.

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John 03:08

Talk about a mind shift to realize your whole concept of personality needs a rework to encompass the divine. That's big. But this conversation, it doesn't just stop there, does it the Urantia Book, it dives right into another huge question, Jesus' divinity. You're

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Sarah 03:23

spot on now that radon's, you know, more open to this expanded view of God, they shift gears to Jesus and the apostles. They present a case for His divine nature. Okay, Lay it on me. What's their argument? It's really interesting. Actually. They don't get all philosophical and abstract. Instead, they go straight to their experiences with Jesus, eight specific reasons, bam, bam, bam. Why they believe he was well, more than just a man eight.



John 03:49

That's like a full on bliss. All right? What convinced them so deeply? It's



Sarah 03:54

a real mix from super personal stuff to honestly things that like almost supernatural. You know? Yeah, okay, I'm intrigued. They start by saying, straight up, Jesus himself said he was divine. Of course, anyone can say that, right? But they're saying, given everything else, his words just hit different. It's



John 04:10

gotta be more than words, right? Like actions speak louder, exactly. And that



Sarah 04:14

leads right into their second point. They're saying, Jesus's life, it was like a walking, talking example of love and of friendship beyond anything humanly possible. His compassion, forgiveness always there for the outcasts, the downtrodden. So



John 04:28

they're saying his whole being just radiated this Divine Love, powerful stuff. But were there like concrete examples, or was it more of a feeling? Oh,



Sarah 04:37

they get specific their third argument, it's about Jesus's sinlessness. They're very aware of their own flaws, their temptations, you know, being human. And they marvel at how perfectly Jesus aligned with God's will, like a connection on a whole other level. Like



John 04:51

they're drawing a line, right? We're flawed. He was, yeah, different, pure. Did they see this in his personality, too, absolutely.



Sarah 04:57

And that's argument number four, they talk about. His character, this blend of justice and mercy, but always in control and

- J** John 05:03
not some distant, untouchable being. They said he felt human emotions, right, exactly,
- S** Sarah 05:07
but always seemed to act with this wisdom compassion that ran deep. And this is where it gets a little out there. The fifth reason, it's Jesus's ability to know what others were thinking, even, and this is wild, communicate with celestial beings.
- J** John 05:24
Okay, now we're venturing into like Twilight Zone territory. What else did they bring up his
- S** Sarah 05:29
authority? That's number six, not just his teachings, but how he wasn't afraid to challenge those in charge the religious dogma of the day, like he had this divine right to shake things up.
- J** John 05:39
Takes guts, for sure, especially back then. What about his relationship with God? They must have talked about
- S** Sarah 05:43
that. Oh yeah, big time. It's the heart of their seventh argument. They were convinced when Jesus called Godfather, it wasn't just a figure of speech. This was deep, intimate, shared purpose, way beyond anything they could grasp,
- J** John 05:55
like not just teacher student, more like partners in mission. Okay. Last one was number eight. This
- S** Sarah 06:00
one might be the most intriguing. They point to Jesus's prayer life, but it wasn't just how he prayed. It was the results, direct guidance, even knowing what was coming, premonitions for them, that sealed the deal on his divine connection.

J John 06:15

Okay, we've covered the arguments for Jesus's divinity, but it's this two minds thing that really gets me human mind, divine mind, all in one person that's wild, right then, according

S Sarah 06:25

to this text, Jesus could, like, choose which one to use, experience the world as a human, or tap into this whole other level of awareness. You could shift

J John 06:33

between them, feel everything we feel, but also access this, this divine knowing whenever he needed Exactly. And

S Sarah 06:40

they're saying that explains a lot of the the seeming contradictions about him. You know, totally

J John 06:45

like he could be so relatable. One minute, angry, sad, even doubtful, then bam, next minute, he's doing miracles, reading minds, talking about God, like, like he wrote the book himself.

S Sarah 06:56

That's it. So the Urantia Book, it's saying when Jesus seemed surprised, caught off guard that was the human side, but the miracles, the deep insights, the authority that was the divine mind shining through makes

J John 07:09

sense. But if he could switch back and forth, did anyone know like which one they were dealing with at

S Sarah 07:14

the time? That's the kicker. It seems, even those closest the disciples, even his family, they couldn't always tell. It's like this mystery at the heart of who he was,

J John 07:22

trying to wrap your head around that it's got to be impossible, trying to fit this, this infinite being into our limited understanding. It just it breaks down. And

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Sarah 07:30

I think that's the point the Urantia Book is trying to make. It's not about some neat, tidy definition of Jesus. It's about wrestling with the mystery, accepting that we can't fully grasp it, but staying open to the possibility that that divinity, it can show up in ways we don't expect. So if

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John 07:47

divinity can be veiled like that, like we see with Jesus here, how should that change how we see, well, ourselves, the world, everything,

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Sarah 07:55

it's like a call to look deeper. Every interaction, every act of love, every time we feel truly connected. Maybe there's a spark of the divine in that maybe divine means more than we think.

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John 08:05

It's about staying curious right, open to that mystery. Who knows what we might find if we do and that, my friends, wraps up our deep dive into the Urantia Book, God, Jesus, the divine within us all. It's a lot to ponder until next time.