

Part 4, Paper 188, The Time of... the Tomb, Midwayer Commission

Sun, Oct 06, 2024 7:48AM 13:25

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Jesus's crucifixion, resurrection event, Urantia Book, celestial beings, Joseph of Arimathea, Roman soldiers, Jewish burial customs, resurrection hope, grave robbers, Sanhedrin anxiety, cosmic interlude, thought adjuster, Michael Memorial, spiritual learning, divine love

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah



John 00:00

Ever notice how history kind of gets stuck on those big, dramatic moments? Yeah,



00:03

totally.



John 00:04

But then it's often the quieter times in between that really get us thinking,



Sarah 00:09

that's true, what



John 00:10

was really going on? And we're gonna dive into one of those today. Yeah, the 36 hours between when, uh, Jesus was crucified, and then, you know, the whole resurrection event, right, as described in this big one for us, the Urantia Book, absolutely, yeah, we're keying in on paper, 188 specifically, okay, which some listeners I'm sure could recite in their sleep. But for those tuning in, who maybe this is their first foray into the Urantia Book and its perspective, right? We're gonna break down some stuff. That's even for folks who know the broad strokes is pretty fascinating.

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Sarah 00:46

Yeah, and this text is, you know, it refers to itself as a revealed text, right, compiled by celestial beings. Right away, that's a whole other and so whether you take that literally or metaphorically, it does ask you to come at these events with a slightly different

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John 01:03

lens. It colors how you read everything that

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Sarah 01:05

follows. For sure, it does. It does

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John 01:07

so right off the bat, this period right after the crucifixion, the burial itself, yeah, it's described in such a, I don't know, hurried, almost frantic way. Sure you've got the Sabbath coming up. Can't be doing that on the Sabbath, right? Roman soldiers in the mix. Jewish burial customs. This tomb that's sealed up tight when you read that, what's the like? Main takeaway for you about all that activity, I

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Sarah 01:32

think it just highlights the tension surrounding Jesus's death, right? Yeah, because this wasn't just a straightforward execution. There's layers to this. Oh, absolutely. And I think you know, the text reminds us that even in that moment, people like Joseph of Arimathea believed in a resurrection. Really believe while they're preparing a body for burial, wild. So imagine that hope, but also the grief of that moment, right? Yeah,

J

John 01:55

to hold both of those at the same time incredibly powerful, which I guess tees up perfectly what happens next? Because it's not like they just bury him, and that's it, right? You've got, and this is the part that always gets me, not one set of guards at this tomb, but two, you got the Romans and the Jewish guards, like, talk about overkill. What's going on there?

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Sarah 02:16

It seems so comical, right? I mean, a little bit it does, but I think it speaks to this deep anxiety, right? And, you know, the text even kind of connects that to our own modern anxieties about misinformation and things like that. Oh, interesting. Even back then, narratives had power, they

did, yeah, and so the power of a narrative, especially one that could challenge authority, was a serious concern. So it wasn't even just grave robbers. They were worried about, well, I mean, there's that, but the Sanhedrin there, the Jewish Council, they hadn't forgotten Jesus's claims about rising again. Oh, right, right. So the possibility that he could rise, that that could validate his claims and undermine their authority, that was a risk they couldn't take. So

J John 02:56

you've got this incredibly tense atmosphere, all this fear about what might happen if this, you know, if the wrong people find the tomb empty, yeah, but meanwhile, and this is where the Urantia Book takes this turn, you've got all this other stuff going on, but it's out there in the cosmos, right? We're not even talking earthly drama anymore. Celestial councils are meeting. Stuff's happening on other planets. There's even this whole thing about a memorial being built, right? What is going on out there while Jesus's body is just, I guess, chilling in the tomb?

S Sarah 03:27

Well, this is where the Urantia books cosmology gets really fascinating, right? Because it introduces this concept of a thought adjuster, okay, yeah, big which is this fragment of God that resides within each of us. We've all got a little piece of the Divine, exactly. And upon death, the adjuster helps to transition our essence to the next stage of existence, okay? But with Jesus, it's a little more complicated, right? Because he's both human and divine. So

J John 03:51

while the human part's resting, this other part of him, this thought, adjuster, is busy.

S Sarah 03:58

That's one way to think about it, and the text really seems to suggest that even though his human consciousness is asleep, another part of him is very much active,

J John 04:07

wow, engaged in these conversations with other divine beings. Now

S Sarah 04:11

that's what I call multitasking, right? So, like, what were they even talking about during this, I guess, cosmic interlude?

J John 04:18

Well, the iranci book doesn't give us specifics on the conversations themselves. Come on, man, I know, right, but it hints at these conversations being incredibly significant, okay, potentially shaping the spiritual evolution of not just Earth, but other worlds as

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Sarah 04:32

well. So this isn't just like catching up over cosmic coffee. No, this is big picture stuff that's wild. Makes you wonder if a being, as you know, frankly, divine as Jesus, still has this kind of cosmic interlude going on during those 36 hours, yeah, what about us, like, what might our own periods of just rest, reflection? What

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John 04:54

if there's more to it? That's a question worth pondering for sure,

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Sarah 04:57

right? Maybe we're not just resting in those. Moments, but connecting to something much larger, just like Jesus did.

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John 05:05

It's like we always say on here, sometimes the quietest moments, you know, they're the busiest. But behind the

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Sarah 05:10

scenes, it's like that saying, Don't mistake silence for inaction. Good one the Urantia Book really like underlines that it

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John 05:18

does. And speaking of action, there's this whole bit about a Michael Memorial being constructed, and it's on the first mansion world, which already those two terms alone, sure, sure got my ears perked up, like, what is the significance of this thing and what is a mansion world to even begin with? Yeah,

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Sarah 05:36

good questions. So mansion worlds, think of those as these realms of spiritual learning that souls encounter after death, okay, not like a physical place the way we think of it, but like spheres of progressive education and growth, you know? So

J John 05:52

this memorial is being built on a spiritual plane, not like we're gonna go find it in the desert somewhere, right? Exactly. Okay, got it. And remember

S Sarah 05:59

Michael is what the Urantia Book uses as the divine self of Jesus, right? That's his whole other name, exactly. So this isn't just a monument in the traditional sense. It's more like this testament to the lasting impact of his teachings, okay, even on other worlds.

J John 06:15

So this is spreading out. It's not even just an earth thing, no,

S Sarah 06:18

no. This is big. That's huge, yeah? And it's

J John 06:21

not even just the memorial, right? There's all this other cosmic stuff happening in these 36 hours. Well,

S Sarah 06:26

yeah, it really highlights how interconnected everything is. So you've got while Jesus's body's in the tomb, yeah, you've got the Supreme Council on salvington, which is like the headquarters of the universe. They're having a whole executive meeting about Earth. No way, really the ancients of days, which are these incredibly wise ancient beings they're communicating with? Michael, Oh, wow. There's even talk of finding a replacement for caligasia, who was that fallen planetary prince who had caused so much trouble on Earth? Right, right? Yeah. So it's like this whole chain of events gets set in motion during this little window, and those 36 hours become this pivotal point in cosmic history.

J John 07:07

That's wild. It makes you think about time differently, doesn't it? It really does, which seems like a pause to us. Yeah, could be buzzing with activity somewhere else, exactly, exactly. It makes me wonder, though, because if Jesus's like human consciousness is asleep, which the book says,

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Sarah 07:23

Why is he having these cosmic chats? I can't even chat to someone who's actually asleep. Well, and that's

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John 07:29

where the Urantia Book, you know, it asks us to stretch our understanding of consciousness a little bit. Okay, sure, because Jesus wasn't just a human being, right? He was this divine being too. He was this Michael consciousness, right, right? So while his human mind and body were resting, this other aspect of him, the divine aspect, right? Could be fully active and engaged on these other levels of reality. So

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Sarah 07:53

it's like his team is still working, even when he's quote, unquote out of office. It's

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John 07:58

an interesting way to picture it. It is because it reminds us that reality is way more complex and multi dimensional than we often realize,

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Sarah 08:05

than our little brains can handle most days. Probably, probably it does

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John 08:09

make you think like those times in our lives when we're in a holding pattern, yeah, like waiting for something to happen totally what if we're actually more connected then than we realize, like, Jesus was

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Sarah 08:22

a powerful image, isn't it? It is. It's like those periods of waiting and uncertainty aren't just empty spaces, right? There are opportunities for growth and transformation on levels we can't even fathom. I

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John 08:34

love that, like stillness isn't just our bodies resting, it's our souls catching up to something bigger, exactly.

S Sarah 08:40

Yeah. And that kind of leads us to another important point that the Urantia Book makes, which is this idea that Jesus's death wasn't a punishment for our sins, right?

J John 08:50

Which is something people, even outside the Urantia Book, talk about, Oh, absolutely, we're so used to that idea that the crucifixion is about atonement, that he's taking on the punishment we deserve or whatever? Yeah,

S Sarah 09:01

and the Urantia Book really pushes back on that. It does. It argues that God doesn't demand a blood sacrifice, like a loving father wouldn't require that kind of

J John 09:10

thing. So if it wasn't to appease some angry god, what was the point? According to the Book of Jesus's suffering and the death, that's

S Sarah 09:16

the question, isn't it? And the answer, in essence, is love. It's the ultimate act of love, really a demonstration of God's unconditional love for humanity.

J John 09:27

So less about the suffering itself, and more about the love that shines through it exactly.

S Sarah 09:31

It's recognizing that even in the face of hatred, violence, death, God's love is still present, still active, still working to redeem and heal. Man, that's

J John 09:42

kind of what we need to hear these days, isn't it? It

S Sarah 09:45

really is, and it reminds us that we have a choice in how we respond to suffering. We do. We can meet it with fear, anger, despair, yeah, that's easy to do these days. It is. Or we can choose to respond with love, compassion, forgiveness, just like Jesus did. So

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John 09:59

it's not just. To 2000 year old story. It's about how we live now exactly

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Sarah 10:03

the Urantia Book wants us to tap into that Divine Spark, the thing that allowed Jesus to face the cross with courage, compassion, right? And to remember that even in our own deaths, whether literal or metaphorical, good point, there's potential for resurrection, for renewal, for deeper connection to the divine really makes

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John 10:22

you think about the impact, right? Yeah, like one person's life, yeah? And in this case, we're not even talking just an Earth impact, right? Exactly, the Urantia Book suggesting this is way bigger. Oh, absolutely. We've been in the cosmic weeds here. But for folks listening who are like, Okay, but what does that mean for my Tuesday, right? Right. What's the connection back to, you know, our regular lives? Well,

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Sarah 10:44

I think it reminds us that even when things seem really ordinary, something extraordinary might be unfolding on a different level. Ooh, I like that. It's like we're all part of this grand cosmic tapestry, okay? And our choices, our actions, they have these ripples that extend far beyond what we can actually see. It's got secret

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John 11:03

mission we're all on kind of, yeah, but it's less about being secretive, more, like, we just don't have the security clearance to know the whole plan yet,

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Sarah 11:11

exactly. And I think that's where that Urantia Book emphasis on love is so important, you know, okay, yeah, it's not just this fluffy feeling. It's an act of force. So

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John 11:20

how do we tap into that? Like, how do we take these cosmic events and bring them down to

how do we tap into that? Like, how do we take these cosmic events and bring them down to earth into how we live day to day? Well,

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Sarah 11:27

the Urantia Book suggests it starts with recognizing that divine spark within ourselves and in others. Got it, choosing compassion over judgment, forgiveness over resentment. Tough ones, though they are, they are, but choosing love over fear, especially when things are difficult, because

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John 11:48

it's easy to get caught up in like those little deaths, right? Not even talking literally, but just the losses, the grief, the disappointments, absolutely and thinking that's the end of it. But like you were saying with the crucifixion itself, yeah? Urantia Book saying no, that led to something way bigger, exactly. So maybe our own deaths do the same, just in a different way.

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Sarah 12:09

And remember, we don't have to have it all figured out, right? Oh, thank goodness. Even the Urantia Book, it leaves us with more questions than answers. Oh, for sure, it's not about having this rigid set of beliefs. It's more about cultivating this sense of wonder, this willingness to explore, ask those big questions, and trust the process, even

J

John 12:33

when it's like, where's the instruction manual for this part, exactly, exactly. So as we kind of wrap up here this whole deep dive on the Urantia Book in these 36 hours. Yeah, what's the like? One big takeaway you hope folks are left with

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Sarah 12:47

approach life and death, with curiosity, with an open heart and a deep trust in that love that connects us all,

J

John 12:54

that's beautiful. And I think that's what I love about these deep dives, you know? Yeah, it's that sense of wonder, that connection we find by really digging in. It's always there. It really is. And for everyone listening like, don't stop digging. Keep asking those big questions. Keep seeking that connection to you, know, something bigger than ourselves, absolutely, whether it's in you, out there, in the universe, whatever speaks to you, it's

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 Sarah 13:14
out there.

 John 13:15
This has been the deep dive until next time. Keep learning, keep growing and keep diving deep.