

Part 4, Paper 189, The Resurrection, Midwayer Commission

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

resurrection concept, morontia state, celestial beings, paradise commission, empty tomb, physical body dissolution, divine transformation, mass resurrection, planetary roll call, spiritual recognition, transcendent understanding, cosmic hierarchy, spiritual transition, eternal life, grander adventure

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

J John 00:00

All right, so today we're, we're really diving into some deep waters with this whole idea of the resurrection, yeah, as it's described in the Urantia Book, specifically, we're looking at paper 189 right, which you brought to the table and, and let me tell you, it's a wild ride. It's a doozy. It really is. Yeah, forget everything you thought you knew about the resurrection, because it's resurrection on a whole other level, totally different

S Sarah 00:24

scale. Yeah, cosmic scale. Yeah. It really challenges. I think that conventional narrative we have, you know that that image we often conjure up when we think about resurrection, you know, this idea of someone coming back in the same physical form? It's not what's happening here, not at all. Instead, the Urantia Book introduces this, really, I think, kind of key concept of morontia, which is essential to understanding its whole perspective on this. Okay,

J John 00:49

so marantia, honestly, it sounds a little sci fi to me. It does.

S Sarah 00:54

It does a bit like, you know, those old pulp fiction novels or something, right? Um, but just try to imagine this, instead of there being like this sudden leap from the physical world to like a purely spiritual realm, like poof, there's this kind of transition phase, okay, that's essentially

what morontia is, a state of existence between the material and the spiritual. So

J John 01:15

not quite here, not quite here, not quite there, but somewhere kind of in between, yeah.

S Sarah 01:19

So if our world is like point A and and heaven, for lack of a better term, is point Z. Moranti is like point Q,

J John 01:28

you got it? Okay? Yeah, it's like this intermediate stage where, at least, according to the Urantia Book, the soul further develops and prepares for these even higher levels of spiritual

S Sarah 01:39

existence. And this is where things get, I think, really interesting with the whole concept of the resurrection. Because in this text, Jesus doesn't just like, you know, come back to life in His earthly body. He transitions to this morontia state. Yeah,

J John 01:54

that's pretty radical when you think about it. And it's not just the concept of morontia that's unusual here. I mean, the text goes on dimension all these other, oh yeah, celestial characters that are involved in this event. I mean, we're talking Gabriel rymbergs. There's even something called a paradise incarnation Commission, which, I mean,

S Sarah 02:11

come on, yeah. I know it sounds like straight out of a fantasy novel or something it does.

J John 02:16

So, who are these guys? So, yeah, think

S Sarah 02:19

of this paradise incarnation commission as this really high level Council, almost within the Urantia books cosmology. We're talking about incredibly advanced spiritual being, okay, seven of them, to be exact, though, seven we're never told exactly who they are, okay. They remain

nameless, but their role is actually pretty awe inspiring when you think about it. They're the ones that oversee this process by which divine beings, like Jesus, take on this physical form and enter into our world. So so

J John 02:51

they're like the cosmic event planners, in a way for divine beings, making sure it all goes making sure it all goes smoothly, runs smoothly. I

S Sarah 02:58

like that. But you know what I find really fascinating is that even with all their power, right? Yeah, the text is very clear that they can't actually interfere with Jesus's resurrection. It's like he has this inherent ability to manage Life and Death granted to him as a creator son. Wow.

J John 03:16

Okay, so if they can't interfere, why even have a meeting to discuss it in the first place. Yeah, what do you think the Urantia Book is trying to say there? It's

S Sarah 03:24

a really interesting question. I think it speaks to this idea that even within this, like, you know, hierarchy of celestial beings that we're talking about here, right, there are still rules. There's still a respect for this natural order of things, even when it comes to something as, I don't know, as momentous as the resurrection of a divine being.

J John 03:45

So it's suggesting that this wasn't just a significant event in like human history, but it also had these ripples throughout these higher realms of existence. It makes you wonder, what other cosmic events have caught their attention over the years? Right? Exactly. It really invites you to think about the scale of what's happening in a completely different way. And it highlights, I think, this really interesting thing about the Urantia Book, in that its concept of the universe is that it's governed by laws. Yeah, you know that there's this intricate design, and that even these incredibly powerful beings, they operate within those parameters,

S Sarah 04:22

interesting. But I want to bring this back down to Earth for a moment, literally back down to a detail that's that's really central to the traditional Resurrection Story, the empty tomb. Right? Right. Now, the Urantia Book doesn't shy away from the empty tomb, no, but it offers a very, very different explanation for why it was empty Absolutely. This is where I think a lot of people who, you know, maybe grew up with a certain understanding of the resurrection might

scratch their heads a little bit, because instead of physical body rising from the dead, you know, which is kind of how we've come to understand it, right? The Urantia Book claims that Jesus's physical form was actually dissolved almost instantly. Ly right? Archangels just gone without a trace.

J John 05:03

I mean, that seems like a rather traumatic measure just for an empty tomb. Yeah. I mean, why go through the trouble if the physical body isn't important? And that's

S Sarah 05:11

where I think this sort of elegant internal logic of the Urantia Book really shines through. Because, remember, this whole narrative hinges on the concept of mirantia, right, right? The physical body is temporary. It's like a vessel. And what really matters is the soul, the consciousness, transitioning to this higher state. So this wrap or disintegration of the physical body almost becomes symbolic, in a way, as if the text is saying, move along, folks. Nothing to see here, right? The real transformation is happening on a whole other level.

J John 05:41

That is an interesting way to look at it. I mean, it really does almost feel like a deliberate challenge to our earthly understanding of life and death. Yeah,

S Sarah 05:49

I would agree. It's pushing us to expand our framework a little bit, to consider the possibility that what we perceive with our senses isn't the entire story, right? That there's this deeper, more intricate reality unfolding beyond what we typically consider possible, you know, and the events surrounding Jesus's death and resurrection, at least, according to this text, are a prime example of that.

J John 06:12

Yeah. Okay, so we've got this mind bending concept of mirantia. We've got this hierarchy of celestial beings that, honestly, we're just starting to wrap our heads around. It's a lot. It is a lot, yeah, but it doesn't stop there. No, it does not. Because the Urantia Book claims that almost 1000 people had encounters with Jesus after the crucifixion, yeah, which is where things start to feel like some supernatural thriller. It

S Sarah 06:39

does pique your curiosity, doesn't it? It does, and it's not just a passing mention, either. The text goes into some detail about these encounters. It wasn't just like these sort of like fleeting

glimpses of a ghostly figure or anything like that. The Urantia Book describes individuals having actual full blown conversations with Jesus, like wow, recognizing Him, even though he was in this, you know, transformed state, which I always found really interesting, that whole idea of recognition, right?

J John 07:07

Because how do you reconcile that in your mind? Right? Like, okay, you know, this person is gone, right? But yet there they are, yeah, standing right in front of you, seemingly like defying all the laws of nature as you understood them

S Sarah 07:18

totally and and the Urantia Book even go so far as to describe Jesus doing things that would have been impossible if he was just a spirit, you know, like eating, for example. Oh, interesting. Just to really, kind of like, demonstrate that he wasn't just this ephemeral present. He

J John 07:37

was present in the material world, in the material world, yeah,

S Sarah 07:40

it makes you really wonder about what it must have been like for those people who actually experienced that firsthand. I

J John 07:47

know how to even process that, right? Like, do you take it literally? Yeah?

S Sarah 07:51

Do you take it literally? Or does it become this kind of allegory, a way to kind of internalize, you know, a deeper spiritual truth, yeah,

J John 07:59

and I think that's a question that still resonates even today, absolutely right. Like, how do we Yeah? How do we reconcile these extraordinary experiences, these things that challenge our understanding of how reality works with our everyday lives,

S Sarah 08:10

S **Saran** 08:13

right? And the Urantia Book seems to be suggesting, at least, I think, that these encounters, you know, as perplexing as they must have been for those who experienced them, were really meant to be instructive, okay, to provide a sense of comfort, and maybe even to, kind of, like, plant these seeds for a new understanding of Jesus's message. You know, it's

J **John** 08:34

like, okay, I know this might look a little different than what you were expecting, right? But I'm still here.

S **Sarah** 08:38

Yeah, it's me, don't worry about it exactly.

J **John** 08:41

And the Urantia Book even talks about how some of Jesus's followers really struggled to recognize him in this transformed state, right? Because

S **Sarah** 08:51

they were going to the tomb expecting to find a physical body, you know, right? Just like you know, some of the more traditional interpretations would lead you to believe. And this is where I think the text is really pushing us to ask ourselves, what if the limitations aren't really inherent in the event itself, but in our perception of it? Hmm,

J **John** 09:14

that's kind of a powerful idea when you think about it, right? It is like our senses, yeah, our preconceived notions of how things work can actually limit our ability to grasp holy what's really going on, especially when it comes to something as profound as life and death, right?

S **Sarah** 09:29

It's a very humbling thought, for sure, but I want to, like shift gears a little bit here. Okay? Because if you thought the idea of Jesus transitioning into this Meranti estate was a little out there. It's a lot the Urantia Book. It doesn't stop there, okay, it also describes something called a dispensational resurrection that's happening like, at the same time as all of this. Okay,

J **John** 09:51

so this is where I feel like I need to buckle up. What is a dispensational resurrection, and how

does that even fit into everything else that we've been talking about? No, so

S

Sarah 10:00

get this, okay, okay, according to the Urantia Book, this event involves everyone who has ever died on Earth since Adam and Eve. Whoa. We're talking a mass resurrection here. Okay, all of them transitioning into this mirantiist state of existence. Wow.

J

John 10:15

So not just a resurrection, like a cosmic family reunion. I mean, that's incredible. But what would be the purpose of something like that? Right? It's not like they all just end up in some giant waiting room somewhere. It's

S

Sarah 10:26

the big question, isn't it, and while I you know, I don't think the Urantia Book really goes into a ton of detail about what happens after this mass resurrection. Okay, if we look at the bigger picture, the cosmology that it presents, it suggests that this event, it was inherently tied to the significance of Jesus's own transition, okay? You know, it's not just about one man. It's about this pivotal moment for humanity within this larger cosmic drama, okay? And seemingly it's not even like a unique event. This isn't the only time it's happened. Oh, what do you mean? The Urantia Book refers to this as the third planetary roll call, meaning there have been at least two other times in their telling where this kind of mass resurrection has occurred again in conjunction with other major events in human history. So

J

John 11:18

we're talking timelines that go

o

11:19

back to way back, yeah, like to the dawn of humanity. Wow. Okay,

J

John 11:25

so it's like someone's hitting the reset button every once in a while, yeah? But on this, just like, unimaginable scale, yeah, it makes you wonder what kind of cosmic criteria have to be met. I know for a dispensational resurrection to occur, right? That's wild, right? But you know, to bring it back to Jesus for a minute, this whole idea of a moron to your resurrection, it really does seem to contradict about how a lot of other texts, and especially the Bible, portray this event, right? Yeah. So how do we even begin to reconcile those different viewpoints? That's

S

Sarah 11:53

a really good question. You know, I think, on the one hand, you have, you know, the Bible in which very much focuses on this idea of a physical resurrection, right, right? And then you have the Urantia Book presenting this, you know, different kind of narrative. And I think rather than get bogged down in trying to decide, like, which version is right or wrong, yeah, I think it's more about recognizing that these multiple interpretations can coexist.

J

John 12:17

So instead of a this or that kind of approach, it's more of a it's

S

Sarah 12:20

a yes and yes. And I like that, you

J

John 12:23

know? I think the real value is in kind of like exploring those nuances, right? Those inconsistencies even, yeah, because I think by doing that, it allows those differing perspectives to maybe even deepen our understanding, even if it means kind of like questioning some of our long held beliefs about things. It's almost like you've got all these different puzzle boxes right, right? And they've all got different pictures on top, right, but inside, they've all got pieces to the same puzzle Exactly. And sometimes you need to look at those different pieces, those different pictures, even, to figure out what the full puzzle is supposed to look like. You know, absolutely. But, you know, speaking of different perspectives, I keep coming back to this idea that almost 1000 people encountered Jesus right after the crucifixion, according to the urantia book, at least. Yeah, and that's not just like, you know, a throwaway line, that's a pretty bold claim.

S

Sarah 13:15

No, it is.

J

John 13:16

So how should we really understand that in the context of everything else we've talked about today. Well, one thing

S

Sarah 13:21

that strikes me is that the text doesn't just kind of, like, drop that bombshell and then move on. It really leans into this human element of it, you know, like, it gives us these glimpses into those encounters, right? And it suggests that they weren't just symbolic, you know, or like, visionary experiences. So more than just a feeling, right? More than just, oh, I sensed a

presence. The Urantia Book talks about individuals having conversations with Jesus, okay, hearing his teachings, you know, witnessing actions that solidify his presence, I think, in a way that really transcended just the purely spiritual. It makes

 John 13:59

you wonder if you were one of those people who encountered him, right? What would that have been like?

 Sarah 14:05

What would that do to your understanding, to interact with someone who'd undergone this profound transformation,

 John 14:11

right, who seemingly just walked right through the door of life and death, defied all expectations. I mean, it would turn your world upside down, right, absolutely. And

 Sarah 14:19

it makes you wonder, if those encounters, you know, those firsthand accounts, did they in some way shape how their resurrection was understood, you know, by those early believers, even if those interpretations eventually evolved into something more, you know, maybe concrete or doctrinal, right? Because, if

 John 14:37

you think about it, even in the absence of, like, written texts and things, yeah, those stories, those firsthand accounts,

 Sarah 14:43

right? They get passed down totally. It's oral history, right?

 John 14:47

And as they get passed down, yeah, they change. They do. So. Is it possible that the Urantia Book, in some ways, is preserving a more, I don't know, a more primal under. Understanding of what the resurrection was.



 Sarah 15:01

It's an interesting thought. It's like this game of telephone, almost, right, exactly, but with, you know, way

 John 15:06

higher stakes, right, eternity on the line. Yeah, exactly. And, you know, even the Urantia Book itself acknowledges this, right, this struggle, right, yeah, to reconcile the familiar with this completely unknown thing totally.

 Sarah 15:18

And it even recounts like how some of Jesus's followers, they didn't recognize him at first. It's true. They were expecting to see. They were expecting the physical body, the physical body, because that's what they were familiar with, right? That's all the and so they were looking for it, even when it wasn't what was right in front of them

 John 15:37

exactly. They're blinded almost by their expectations, right?

 Sarah 15:40

It makes you think about all the other ways that our expectations, our preconceived notions, can prevent us from seeing things

 John 15:49

absolutely. Yeah, we get so attached to what we think we know, right, that we miss what's actually right there in front of us exactly. And when it comes to something like the resurrection, you know, something that's inherently about transcending our earthly limitations, right? It makes you wonder, you know, are we even capable of fully grasping it? It's the

 Sarah 16:09

question, isn't it? And the Urantia Book with this whole idea of morontia, it really does push us to the edge of our understanding. It really does, like, how do we even begin to wrap our minds around a state of being that's beyond, you know, our typical categories of life and death. But even with all of that, even with these extraordinary events, the Urantia Book does make it clear that this morontia form, it wasn't meant to be permanent. Okay, after 40 days, Jesus, He bids farewell to his followers, and he ascends to a higher realm of existence. So even





John 16:40

in this transformed state, his time on Earth was finite, right?



Sarah 16:44

It was a transition, stepping stone to something else, to a higher level of being. And maybe, just maybe, that's something we can all kind of carry with us as we, you know, try to wrestle with these concepts that the Urantia Book, it's not presenting this idea of resurrection as a triumphant return to, you know, earthly life as we know it, right? It's more about transformation. It's about this progression into a state of existence that just completely defies our earthly understanding. And who knows, maybe it's not even meant to be understood in the way that we typically try to understand things.



John 17:20

That's true. It's like it's asking us to kind of let go of our need to have all the answers right,



Sarah 17:25

to embrace the mystery of it all, yeah, to be comfortable with the unknown. Well,



John 17:29

you've definitely given us a lot to think about today, the Urantia books version of the resurrection. It's definitely not your average Sunday school lesson, definitely



Sarah 17:37

not, not unless your Sunday School is particularly adventurous. Oh, it's more, yeah.



John 17:42

But it really does challenge us to expand our thinking about life and death and what might possibly lie beyond. You know, it does. It



Sarah 17:51

pushes us beyond that sort of binary thinking, right?



John 17:54

And you know if the Urantia Book were to be believed yeah what we think of his death might

And, you know, if the Grand Book were to be believed, yeah, what we think of his death might just be the beginning, the beginning of a much grander adventure, of a much grander adventure, exactly. And if that's not a mind blowing thought to leave our listeners with, I don't know what is.