

Part 4, Paper 193, Final Appea...Ascension, Midwayer Commission

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Jesus's final days, post-resurrection appearances, marantia concept, spiritual rebirth, living faith, divine spirit fruits, Judas Iscariot, deep isolation, gradual disappearance, Pentecost experience, spiritual energy, ongoing journey, apostles' disagreements, Kingdom of God, evolving understanding

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

J John 00:00

All right, so we're, we're diving into some really fascinating stuff this time around. Oh, yeah, definitely the Urantia Book. And specifically, we're going to be looking at paper 193 okay, and this one is all about Jesus's final days, okay, but not in the, not in the typical way that you think about it, like, not, not the Sunday School version of it, right? We're talking post resurrection appearances, uh huh, 18 of them, in fact. Wow. And a really wild concept that we're gonna get into called marantia. Yeah,

S Sarah 00:29

that's one of the things that I find fascinating about the Urantia Book, is how it uses this concept of marantia to kind of paint this really detailed picture of this transition between the physical and the spiritual. It's not just about Jesus sort of appearing and disappearing. It's trying to give you a framework for understanding how he could interact in this way that kind of defies their understanding of the world, right? Like, for example, imagine him just passing through walls. Okay,

J John 00:55

that's not in the average gospel, I'll grant you that, right? But it wasn't just parallel tricks, right? Yeah, he had some serious things to say in these appearances.

S Sarah 01:03

Oh, absolutely. Take his very first appearance in Jerusalem. Okay? He admonishes his followers, right? He reminds them that hearing his words isn't enough, right? They have to truly

comprehend them. Wow. Think about that. Even those who are closest to him, who walked with Him daily, are being challenged to go deeper, yeah, to move beyond blind faith into true understanding,

J John 01:24

it makes you wonder, doesn't it? How often do we think we understand something but haven't really let it sink in on that deeper level,

S Sarah 01:30

exactly? And the Urantia Book doesn't shy away from this, yeah, later at Jacobs, well, remember his earlier encounter there with the Samaritan woman Alda, where he talks about living water, yeah,

J John 01:41

and now he's back, but this time, he's talking about being born of the eternal spirit. I see what you mean about going deeper. Precisely.

S Sarah 01:48

It's not enough to just believe, right, true eternal life, according to the Urantia Book, comes from this spiritual rebirth, from accepting God's love and actively living it out. So

J John 02:00

it's about internalizing the message, making it a part of who we are, not just something that we believe exactly.

S Sarah 02:05

And this theme of action, of living faith, is so vividly illustrated in his appearance in Tyre.

J John 02:11

Tyre, okay, so he's not just hanging around Jerusalem. Why? Tyre? Well, first of all, it shows

S Sarah 02:16

that his outreach wasn't limited, right? He traveled extensively in this morontia form. But even more importantly, look at what he emphasizes. the fruits of the divine spirit. He's talking about

how true believers demonstrate their faith through their actions,

J John 02:29

not just words, but how we treat each other, how we live our lives, day to day. Exactly.

S Sarah 02:34

He draws this powerful comparison to dead branches for those who don't bear these fruits, right? It's a stark image, reminding us that true faith isn't passive, right? It's about embodying those virtues, compassion, courage, honesty and everything we do.

J John 02:49

It's a high standard, for sure, but it also makes you think about how we sometimes compartmentalize our faith, yeah, like, it's something we believe, but not necessarily something that consistently guides our actions. It's

S Sarah 03:00

a struggle for many, and this is where the story of Judas Iscariot becomes even more poignant. Okay, while Jesus is urging this act of loving faith, right, Judas is grappling with his own inner turmoil, leading him down a very different path,

J John 03:13

yeah, talk about a contrast, right? While Jesus is preparing for ascension, Judas is betraying Him, yeah, but this isn't your typical betrayal narrative. Is it

S Sarah 03:23

not at all? The Urencia book goes beyond those simple explanations like greed or demonic influence. It lays out seven specific factors that contributed to Judas' downfall, framing it as this cautionary tale for all of us, seven

J John 03:37

factors that's a lot more nuanced than I expected, right? So what drives Judas to this? What's the first thing that sends him down this path?

S Sarah 03:44

The Urantia Book highlights his deep isolation. He was a shut in, as the text describes it. Wow. And you know, while solitude can be beneficial in Judas case, it seems to have bred this dangerous disconnect from the community that Jesus was building.

J John 04:01

That's so interesting, because Jesus constantly emphasized love, community, supporting one another, right? And Judas was surrounded by that, but couldn't seem to access it himself, right? It makes you think about the people in our own lives who might be struggling with that same isolation, even if they're physically present.

S Sarah 04:17

It's a poignant observation, and one worth exploring further, but before we delve into the other factors that contributed to Judas downfall, we need to shift our focus slightly. It's a bit of a jarring transition. But while Judas is grappling with these internal struggles, Jesus is preparing his disciples for his departure in a way that challenged their very understanding of His presence. You know, he doesn't simply ascend into heaven, like those traditional narratives might have us believe, right? Instead, his departure is described less like this grand exit, and more like a fading away, okay, which is interesting because it's consistent with his other transitions in and out of this morontia state.

J John 04:56

So not a lightning bolt from the sky kind

S Sarah 04:58

of deal, not quite the Iran. Tia book describes it more like a gradual disappearance, almost as if he's slipping between dimensions. It

J John 05:05

must have been mind blowing for those who witnessed it. No dramatic farewell to her, just poof gone.

S Sarah 05:10

It really underscores the idea that Jesus's existence transcended their earthly understanding, even after all they'd seen and experienced alongside him, right? But the story doesn't end there, does it? Right? Because



John 05:23

you've got to wonder, what do the disciples do next? I mean, talk about your world being turned upside down, right? Their leader, teacher, friend, suddenly gone, and in such a strange way,



Sarah 05:36

the book describes the scene of uncertainty, yeah. Of the disciples gathering, waiting, probably replaying everything Jesus had taught them, trying to make sense of it all.



John 05:47

Okay, but they're not just sitting around twiddling their thumbs right this whole time they've been following Jesus's instruction to stay put in Jerusalem, waiting for this promised gift of the Spirit of Truth. Yeah, it's gotta be where Pentecost comes in, doesn't it? It



Sarah 06:01

does. And the Urantia book's account of Pentecost is fascinating, okay, because it doesn't depict it as this massive spectacle you might imagine, no parting of the heavens or anything, not exactly. Instead, it emphasizes a subtler form of spiritual energy descending upon them. It's more about an internal experience of profound connection, rather than this external display of power. So



John 06:23

what are we talking like? A collective meditation session? A bunch of first century folks finding their inner Zen?



Sarah 06:29

Well, it is described as this shared experience of divine energy, but manifesting in unique ways for each person present, okay? Some experienced visions. Others heard music. Still others felt this overwhelming sense of peace. It's



John 06:43

interesting how the book highlights that diversity of experience, even within this group of people who had all been so deeply impacted by Jesus, exactly,



Sarah 06:52

and it's not just about what they felt in that moment. Okay, the Urantia Book emphasizes that

and it's not just about what they felt in that moment. Okay, the Urantia Book emphasizes that this outpouring of the Spirit wasn't a one time event. It marked the beginning of a new era, a new dispensation of spiritual awareness available to all humanity. So

J John 07:07

it's not just about a select few being privy to this spiritual awakening, right? This opens the door for everyone,

S Sarah 07:14

right? Exactly. It suggests that the same spirit that empowered the disciples is accessible to everyone, regardless of background or belief. Wow. It's a message of hope, of empowerment. It's

J John 07:26

also a call to action, don't you think, Oh, absolutely. I mean, the disciples didn't just sit around basking in the glow of Pentecost, right? They went out and shared Jesus's message with the world. Yeah, it's like this outpouring of the Spirit wasn't just for their benefit, it was to equip them to carry out their mission Absolutely.

S Sarah 07:43

And that mission wasn't without its challenges, disagreements, even arguments. Remember, these were individuals with their own personalities, backgrounds and interpretations of what they had learned from Jesus, which

J John 07:55

is where things get really interesting, right? Yes, because the Urantia Book doesn't shy away from the fact that even after Pentecost, there were still differences of opinion among Jesus's closest followers. Oh,

S Sarah 08:08

exactly. Take Simon zilades, for example. Okay, here's a man who was deeply committed to the liberation of Judea from Roman rule. Right after Pentecost, he goes into this period of intense reflection, okay, almost like he's trying to reconcile his previous zeal for political revolution with Jesus's message of a spiritual kingdom. Talk

J John 08:28

about a clash of ideologies. It makes it think about how often we encounter similar situations

about a clash of ideologies. It makes it think about how often we encounter similar situations today, right where people are trying to integrate their face with their political beliefs, their cultural context, their own personal values. It's rarely a simple equation,

S

Sarah 08:42

precisely. And then there's Thomas, right, often remembered for his initial skepticism about Jesus's resurrection,

J

John 08:49

right? Doubting Thomas,

S

Sarah 08:50

the Urantia Book, though, portrays him with a lot more nuance,

J

John 08:54

so he's not just relegated to the role of doubting Thomas.

S

Sarah 08:58

Exactly. The book highlights his intellectual honesty, his need for evidence, and how Jesus, instead of condemning him, actually engages with Thomas's doubts, offering him proof.

J

John 09:09

But even after seeing is believing, Thomas still wrestles with his understanding of it, all

S

Sarah 09:13

he does. And I think that's such an important aspect of the book's message, okay, it's okay to have doubts, yeah, to ask questions to not have all the answers figured out, sure. In fact, those doubts and questions can be catalysts for deeper understanding.

J

John 09:27

So it's less about blind faith and more about embracing the messy, often confusing process of seeking truth,

S

Sarah 09:34

exactly. And that process, as the Urantia Book suggests, doesn't end with a single event, even one as powerful as Pentecost, okay? It's an ongoing journey, right? And the disciples experiences after Jesus's ascension illustrate this beautifully. It's

J

John 09:50

like we've been talking about this whole time, right? Just because you have this incredible spiritual experience doesn't mean you're suddenly immune to doubts, right, disagreements or even just plain old confusion, right? Right? And the Urantia Book really drives that point home in its depiction of the apostles after Pentecost.

S

Sarah 10:07

It's almost as if their individual journeys become even more pronounced after this shared experience. You know, it's not a matter of everyone suddenly getting on the same page and speaking with one voice. It's messier than that, more human,

J

John 10:19

which, let's be honest, makes a lot more sense, doesn't it? I mean, these are people who dedicated their lives to following Jesus, right, witnessing his miracles, hearing his teachings firsthand. And even they didn't just magically achieve perfect understanding overnight, exactly.

S

Sarah 10:34

And the Urantia Book doesn't shy away from those ongoing struggles, right? Remember how we talked about Simon zelodes wrestling with his political ideals? Yeah, the book tells us that he eventually found a way to reconcile his zeal for a liberated Judea with Jesus's vision of a spiritual kingdom. Okay, but it wasn't a simple or immediate process. So it's not

J

John 10:57

about abandoning your convictions, but more about finding a way to integrate them with this new understanding of what it means to follow Jesus's teachings precisely,

S

Sarah 11:05

and it's a process that many of us can relate to, wouldn't you say, trying to find that balance between our existing beliefs and this evolving understanding of our faith. But it's not just about individual struggles. Is it right? The Urantia Book also highlights some pretty significant disagreements among the apostles themselves. Oh, right, yeah,



John 11:25

like that whole debate between Peter and Nathaniel Exactly. Wasn't that about how to best spread Jesus's message.



Sarah 11:31

It was, and it gets to the heart of some pretty fundamental questions about Christianity Peter being the more traditionalist one, right? Believe they should focus on proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah, which



John 11:43

makes sense, right? I mean, that's pretty standard Christian theology, it is. But



Sarah 11:47

Nathaniel had a different perspective, okay? He argued that they should continue emphasizing the broader message of the Kingdom of God the same way Jesus did during his ministry. So more



John 11:57

about the universal message of love, compassion and social justice exactly those core teachings that transcended any one religion or culture, exactly.



Sarah 12:06

And what's fascinating is that the Urantia Book doesn't present one perspective as right and the other as wrong right. It's more about acknowledging that even within this group of people who knew Jesus intimately, yeah, there were different interpretations, different approaches to sharing his teachings,



John 12:23

and if they couldn't agree on a single interpretation, what does that tell us? It suggests that maybe there isn't one definitive answer, right, one right way to understand or practice Christianity. Perhaps it's more about engaging in that ongoing process of seeking, questioning and evolving in our understanding,



Sarah 12:42

... ..

which honestly feels a lot more true to life, doesn't it? It does. I mean, faith isn't a destination, it's a journey, and like any journey, it's bound to have detours, roadblocks and moments of uncertainty. And that's

J John 12:55

where the true beauty of a text like the Urantia Book lies. I think, I think so too. It doesn't shy away from those complexities, those uncertainties. It encourages us to embrace the messy, often contradictory nature of faith and to find our own path

S Sarah 13:10

within it, which is a pretty amazing takeaway when you think about it, it is we started this deep dive looking at Jesus's final days as depicted in the Urantia Book, right? We explored these extraordinary concepts like morontia and this unique perspective on Judas betrayal, right?

J John 13:27

And we delved into the events of Pentecost, that incredible outpouring of spiritual energy, and how it impacted not just the disciples, but all of humanity. And

S Sarah 13:36

through it all, we've seen how the Urantia Book challenges us to go beyond surface level understandings, to ask difficult questions and to embrace the ongoing journey of faith. It's

J John 13:46

a journey that requires us to be both humble and courageous, yes, open to new perspectives while also holding on to our own truths.

S Sarah 13:55

It's not always easy, but as the Urantia Book so powerfully demonstrates, it's a journey worth taking. Beautifully

J John 14:01

said, and on that note, we'll have to wrap up this deep dive into the Urantia Book. But this is just the beginning, isn't it? There's so much more to explore within its pages, absolutely

S Sarah 14:00



Saran 14:09

so keep seeking, keep questioning, and keep opening your heart and mind to the infinite possibilities of faith. Who knows what profound truths you might uncover along the way. You.