

Part 1, Paper 2, The Nature of God, Divine Counselor

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

God's nature, Urantia Book, divine connection, thought adjuster, down stepping, infinite God, free will, God's emotions, loving parent, divine qualities, truth beauty goodness, divine outreach, everyday actions, divine fingerprints, seeking truth

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah



John 00:00

Ever try like wrapping your head around something so big, so boundless, it's like, makes your brain do backflips.



Sarah 00:05

Yeah,



John 00:06

that's what we're diving into today. Okay, the expansive nature of God, according to the Urantia Book.



Sarah 00:13

And I have to admit, even for someone who spends a lot of time with these concepts, this book always manages to surprise me, right.



John 00:20

It's not your typical religious text. It's like the authors took cosmology, philosophy, yeah, and spirituality, threw them in a blender, and out came this mind bending smoothie of ideas, yeah? Specifically, we're looking at paper two the nature of God, okay, which dives head first into this question. What is God really?

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Sarah 00:41

It's a question humans have wrestled with for ages, and the Urantia Book tackles it head on, okay, starting with the paradox, how can we, with our finite minds, even begin to grasp something infinite?

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John 00:54

It's like trying to fit the entire ocean into a teacup, right? And yet the text says God is both utterly beyond our reach and closer to us than our own heartbeat. Wow. How does that even work? That's

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Sarah 01:08

where things get really interesting. Okay, the book uses this word down, stepping. Okay. Now before you picture God on some cosmic staircase, okay, it's not about him shrinking himself, right? It's about extending parts of his being in a way we can grasp. Okay, I

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John 01:25

need an analogy here, sure, because that still sounds kind of abstract. Think

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Sarah 01:29

of the sun. It's this massive ball of energy, right? You can't get close without getting incinerated, yeah? But we still feel its warmth. It's light every day. That energy reaching us is still part of the sun, even though the sun itself remains this massive, untouchable thing. So it's

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John 01:46

like God is the sun and those rays of light, that warmth, yeah, that's how we experience the divine Exactly. How does that happen? Does everyone feel it? That's

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Sarah 01:56

what I love about this book. It gets even bolder. Okay? The Urantia Book proposes that each of us, no matter who we are or what we believe, has a thought adjuster residing within

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John 02:09

a thought adjuster. Okay, now you have to explain this one like I'm five, okay, like, I've never heard this before. Imagine

heard this before. imagine

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Sarah 02:15

a piece of God, okay, a fragment of that infinite source directly connected to you, not controlling you, but like an inner compass, okay, always pointing you toward your best self, towards deeper truths. So

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John 02:29

it's not some voice booming down commandments, yeah. It's more subtle, yes, like a quiet nudge in the right direction, exactly,

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Sarah 02:35

okay. And the cool thing is, yeah, this down stepping concept means you don't need to be a theologian to tap into this connection. It's already there. So we all have this. We all have this. Even the smallest act of seeking truth, searching for beauty or showing kindness can be a response to that divine outreach. That's

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John 02:56

kind of empowering, actually, it is. It makes those everyday actions feel more significant, yeah, but if everyone has this connection, why do we still feel lost or disconnected sometimes? Right? Why aren't we all walking around feeling enlightened? 24/7, because,

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Sarah 03:10

as the Urantia Book points out, we have something that God doesn't. What's that? free will, and that's where the real journey begins,

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John 03:21

okay? I'm starting to wrap my head around this down stepping thing, like this intimate connection with something infinite, yeah, but the Urantia Book also uses these big, powerful words to describe God, right? Infinite, eternal, changeless, and then it throws in God's feelings, yeah, it even talks about God experiencing joy and sorrow, right? How does that fit with this image of a powerful, unchanging being? It's one

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Sarah 03:47

of those things that can make your brain do a double take, right? Right? We're so used to thinking of God as this stoic, all knowing figure, yeah, but the Urantia Book suggests something much more relatable. okay? It argues that God does have emotions. okay, but not in the

much more relatable, okay? It argues that God does have emotions, okay, but not in the fleeting human way we experience them.

J John 04:04

So not like God's up there having a bad day and taking it out on the universe. Okay, think

S Sarah 04:09

of it more like if you've ever had kids, yeah, you know the kind of love that makes your heart swell with pride one minute, right? And ache with worry the next, that intensity? Yeah, that's closer to what the book is getting at when it talks about God's emotions. So

J John 04:23

it's this deep, abiding love, yeah, but also the capacity to feel sorrow, yes, when things go wrong, right? When we make choices that cause suffering, precisely,

S Sarah 04:33

okay? And this is where the book's concept of God as a loving father really clicks for me,

J John 04:39

right? It uses that analogy a lot, yeah, but how does that change things? Okay, most religions already talk about God as a father figure,

S Sarah 04:47

true, but the Urantia Book takes it a step further. Okay, it's not just about authority or giving us rules to follow. It's about the kind of parent who's deeply invested in our growth. Okay, even when. We mess up even when we rebel,

J John 05:02

so less thunderbolts and damnation, or I'm disappointed in your choices, but I still love you, and we'll get through this together exactly.

S Sarah 05:10

Wow. And that changes everything, because if God is like this unconditionally loving parent, then justice isn't about punishment, okay, but about helping us learn from our mistakes, it's like



John 05:23

when you let a kid touch a hot stove, right? Maybe under very, very controlled circumstances, right? Not to be cruel, but because sometimes the best lessons are the ones learned through experience, exactly



Sarah 05:35

and mercy. Yeah, it's not something we have to beg for, okay? It becomes a given, because that's what good parents do. Okay, offer second chances. We



John 05:43

see the potential for good even when we don't see it in ourselves. Okay? So



Sarah 05:47

if that's the case, how does this fatherly love lens change how we've used sin? Okay? Because the text definitely doesn't shy away from the concept of sin, right? And



John 05:59

this is where it gets really nuanced. Okay, sin isn't just about breaking rules, okay. It's about anything that separates us from that connection with our loving parent, from the guidance of that thought adjuster within okay. It's choosing paths, yeah, that lead us away from our true potential, away from experiencing that deep, abiding joy the book talks about, okay,



Sarah 06:20

so we've got this infinite yet personal God who's, like, deeply invested in our growth, like most loving parent imaginable, yeah? But then the Urantia Book throws us a curveball. It does. It starts talking about truth, beauty and goodness, yeah, almost like



John 06:35

they're these, like, divine ingredients baked into the universe, yeah. What's the connection to everything else we've been unpacking about God.



Sarah 06:42

Well, it's one of those things that seems kind of out there at first, but the more you sit with it,

yeah, the more profound it becomes. Okay? See, the book argues that truth, beauty and goodness aren't just abstract ideals, okay, they're inseparable qualities, okay? And God embodies them.

J John 07:00

Perfume, inseparable. So it's like a cosmic three for one deal. I like

S Sarah 07:05

that. Okay, here's the really mind blowing part. Okay? Whenever we experience true beauty, whether it's a sunset, a piece of music or an act of human kindness, okay, we're getting a taste of that Divine unity, that essence of God that permeates everything. Wait, so

J John 07:21

you're saying, if I'm moved by like a beautiful song, or I see someone do something incredibly selfless, yeah, I'm actually getting a glimpse of the Divine. That's

S Sarah 07:30

exactly what the book is suggesting. Wow. It's like those qualities, truth, beauty, goodness, are fingerprints of the Divine left on the fabric of creation. Okay,

J John 07:41

that's starting to click. Go ahead, but then the book gets a little judgy. When you say a little bit yeah, it seems to imply that, like some religions, missed the mark by focusing too much on rules and rituals, yeah, and not enough on experiencing these qualities in everyday life. It's

S Sarah 07:59

true, the Urantia Book doesn't pull any punches. Yeah, it even uses the ancient Hebrew religion as an example, saying they got so caught up in God's laws and commandments that they missed the forest for the trees. They forgot to look for the divine in the beauty of the natural world, in the pursuit of knowledge, in the simple act of showing compassion.

J John 08:21

It's like being handed the most amazing multi course meal, right? And only eating the parsley garnishes. You

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Sarah 08:28

got it, okay? And that's what makes this part of the text so practical. Okay? So actionable. Yeah, it's a call to engage all of our senses, okay, all aspects of our being in our search for the divine.

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John 08:40

So it's not enough to just think about God, right? We have to actively seek out experiences of truth, beauty and goodness, precisely,

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Sarah 08:49

wow, and those experiences can be found everywhere, yeah, in the most ordinary moments, if we know what to look for, it could be as simple as having an honest conversation with someone you love, or finally grasping a concept that's been eluding you, right? Or even just taking the time to appreciate a beautiful sunset, yeah, these are all ways of connecting with that divine spark within ourselves and the world around us. That's a

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John 09:17

beautiful thought to end on. It is this deep dive has been quite a journey, yeah, from like wrapping our heads around the vastness of God to like finding those divine fingerprints in the everyday, right? It makes you want to look at the world, yeah, and your place in it with fresh eyes, it certainly does. And for anyone who's curious to learn more, yeah, I highly recommend diving into the Urantia Book itself, absolutely, it's a wellspring of fascinating ideas. It is and profound insights. Absolutely. And on that note, we'll leave you with this okay, if, as this text suggests, we're all connected to this infinite source of truth, beauty and goodness, how can you reflect those qualities more? Brightly in your own life. That's a great question until next time. Keep seeking, keep exploring, yeah, and keep those aha moments coming. Blah.