

Part 1, Paper 3, The Attributes of God, Divine Counselor

📅 Wed, Oct 02, 2024 8:25AM ⌚ 12:05

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

omnipresence, omnipotence, light without heat, omniscience, free will, predestination, limitlessness, God's love, suffering explanation, cosmic parent, infinite knowledge, divine counselor, God's plan, human perspective, spiritual growth

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

J John 00:00
Ready to dive into one of the most awe inspiring yet mind bending concepts out there.

S Sarah 00:04
I'm game. If you are, let's do it

J John 00:06
today. We're tackling the idea of God's omnipresence, and trust me, the Urantia Book doesn't hold back. It

S Sarah 00:14
definitely pushes the boundaries of how we typically think about God, that's for sure. Forget

J John 00:18
a god sitting on a throne somewhere up in the clouds. Urantia Book says God is simultaneously everywhere at once,

S Sarah 00:25
everywhere all the time. It's a pretty radical departure from the distant deity we often hear

everywhere all the time. It's a pretty radical departure from the distant deity we often hear about.

J John 00:30

The text even says that the entire universe can't contain him. Now, how can something be infinite and also present everywhere, even within us? That's where my brain starts to melt a little.

S Sarah 00:41

It's a paradox, right? But maybe that's more about the limits of our understanding of space and size than it is about God.

J John 00:46

So are you saying our human brains just can't quite grasp the true nature of God's being? It's

S Sarah 00:51

a possibility. The Urantia Book seems to suggest, yeah, what if God's presence isn't bound by the same rules of physics and dimensions that we experience in our everyday lives.

J John 01:02

Hmm, interesting. So it's not that God is physically crammed into every atom of existence. It's more that our concept of physical space just doesn't quite apply to a being like that

S Sarah 01:14

exactly. It's about recognizing a different kind of presence, one that transcends our typical understanding of being in a particular place. Okay,

J John 01:21

that makes a little more sense. But hold on, it gets even wilder. The Urantia Book doesn't stop at omnipresence. It also talks about God's omnipotence. And we're not just talking about superhuman strength here. We're

S Sarah 01:31

talking about the source of all energy in the cosmos, the force that drives galaxies and gives life to stars

fire to stars.

J John 01:38

And it gets even more interesting when the text describes God as light, that is light without heat. Now

S Sarah 01:43

that is a description that really makes you pause and think, light without heat. What could that mean when we're trying to understand a being as complex as God?

J John 01:53

It's a truly mind bending image, I have to admit. I mean, what would that kind of energy even look like? Is it something we could ever measure or even comprehend with our current understanding of science? It's

S Sarah 02:04

a good question. Maybe this points to forms of energy we haven't even discovered yet, energies that operate outside of our current scientific models and ways of thinking about how the universe works.

J John 02:13

That's a pretty profound thought. But here's the catch. The Text cautions against assuming that we can fully grasp God's actions with our limited human perspective. Can we really judge what we don't understand exactly?

S Sarah 02:27

We tend to project our own ideas of what's fair and just onto how we think God should act in the universe. And then when things happen that don't fit into our limited understanding, we start questioning things

J John 02:37

right? Like, why would a loving God allow this to happen? We've all probably asked that question at some

S Sarah 02:41



Sarah 02:41

point, absolutely. But the Urantia Book challenges us to consider that our understanding of God's actions, of his plan is inherently limited. What might seem random or even cruel from our finite perspective could be part of a much grander, more intricate design that we simply can't grasp with our current level of understanding. It's humbling. When you really think about it, how much is going on behind the scenes that we just don't see, and that actually leads us perfectly into the next big attribute we wanted to explore, Graz, omniscience. Okay,



John 03:13

now we're getting into some seriously mind blowing territory, omniscience, knowing everything, every thought I've ever had every decision past, present, future. I don't know about you, but it makes me question my own free will a little bit. Does it even matter what I choose if God already knows what I'm gonna do?



Sarah 03:31

Now, that is the million dollar question, isn't it, and it's one that's puzzled theologians and philosophers for centuries. What's fascinating is how directly the Urantia Book tackles this head on.



John 03:43

It doesn't shy away from the tough questions, that's for sure, not



Sarah 03:45

at all. In fact, it even poses the question, Does God choose to foreknow our sins? It makes you think about what choice and free will even mean to a being with infinite knowledge experiencing time in a way we can barely even fathom. So



John 03:58

are we talking predestination? Then? Like is our entire life already written out, and we're just acting out a script. It's a bit unsettling if you dwell on it too long, right?



Sarah 04:07

It can feel that way, but I appreciate that the Urantia Book doesn't give a simple answer to a question that complex. It doesn't say yes or no to predestination outright, which



John 04:18

Urantia Book: The Story of Jesus, Chapter 18, Verse 18

is probably more realistic honestly, if our human minds could grasp that, I think we'd be in trouble Exactly.

S

Sarah 04:23

But what it does do is encourage us to think about God's knowledge not as something that negates our choices, but as something that transcends our linear way of experiencing time altogether. Okay, I'm

J

John 04:35

gonna need you to unpack that a little for me, because that one's a bit of a head scratcher. How do you know something and not know it at the same time.

S

Sarah 04:42

Think of it this way. Imagine you're watching a football game, and you already know the final score. Okay, I can picture that go on just because you know the outcome doesn't mean the players on the field aren't making real choices in each and every moment of the game, right? Their actions still matter. They still determine how the game unfolds. Even if you're aware of the ending,

J

John 05:02

that's a really good analogy. Actually. It's like knowing the ending of a book or a movie doesn't make the character's decisions any less meaningful as you're experiencing the story unfold

S

Sarah 05:12

exactly and according to the Urantia Book, those choices matter deeply, both to us and to God. But it definitely challenges us to stretch our understanding of what knowing the future really means when we're talking about a being outside of time as we know it.

J

John 05:26

It's a lot to ponder, for sure, but just when you think it can't get any more complex, the Urantia Book hits us with this concept of God's limitlessness. And that's a whole other level. And

S

Sarah 05:38

this is where we really start to see how different the God of the Urantia Book is from how God is often portrayed. So

J John 05:44
we've talked about God being everywhere at once, knowing everything. But what does it actually mean for God to be limitless? How is that different from, say, just being really, really, really big?

S Sarah 05:56
It's a difference in kind, not just in scale. Think about it when we as humans share information or energy with someone, we have less of it ourselves, right? That's just the nature of a finite being. But the Urantia Book makes a radical claim about God. Okay, I'm

J John 06:11
intrigued. Lay it on me. It states

S Sarah 06:13
that even though God pours his mind and spirit into all of creation without holding anything back, his own wisdom and power remain completely undiminished. Hold

J John 06:22
on. So it's not like a pie, where if you give away half of it, you're left with less, not at

S Sarah 06:25
all. It's more like, how about this a flame? Think about a single flame that can light 1000 other candles without ever losing any of its own fire. Ah, I

J John 06:37
see what you're getting at. Yeah. So God's essence, his being isn't something that gets divided up or depleted even when it's poured out into creation. Precisely.

S Sarah 06:46
It's a profoundly different way of thinking about God, one that emphasizes abundance and limitlessness at the very core of his being, limitless, overflowing, constantly giving of himself and yet completely whole and complete in himself at the same time. It's a tough concept to wrap your head around. It

J John 07:04

really is, and it makes you wonder, if God is all that, if he's this infinite wellspring of love and goodness, then how do we explain all the suffering in the world? I mean, that's a question that's been haunting humanity for as long as we've been

S Sarah 07:15

around. No doubt about it, it's the age old question, isn't it? If God is all powerful and all loving. Why do bad things happen? Why is there so much pain, so much injustice, so much suffering in the world,

J John 07:25

especially when we're talking about a God who's supposed to be limitless, you'd think compassion and intervention would be limitless too, right? It's hard to square that circle. Sometimes you

S Sarah 07:36

said it. It's a real head scratcher. And to its credit, the Urantia Book doesn't shy away from the tough questions, even when they make us uncomfortable.

J John 07:44

So how does it address this whole issue of suffering? Does it try to explain it away or just say it's all part of God's mysterious plan? It

S Sarah 07:50

actually tackles it head on, suggesting that maybe, just maybe, challenges and even tragedies aren't inherently opposed to God's love or his plan for us. Okay,

J John 07:59

so it's more nuanced than just saying God causes suffering or that he's indifferent to it. But how does that work? Exactly? How can something bad, like real, serious suffering be part of a good plan? Well,

S Sarah 08:12

think about it this way. Have you ever gone through a really difficult experience, something

that truly challenged you to your core and then come out the other side, stronger, wiser, more compassionate than you were before.

J John 08:24

Sure, I think most of us have had those kinds of experiences. When you look back, you realize you learned something valuable, even if it was painful at the time,

S Sarah 08:32

exactly, and that's kind of the point the Urantia Book is making. It argues that challenges, even tragedies, can actually play a crucial role in our development, both individually and as a species.

J John 08:43

So it's like facing hardship can force us to grow in ways we wouldn't if everything was always easy and comfortable. Can see that right think

S Sarah 08:51

about qualities like resilience, empathy, gratitude for the good things we often take for granted. Those things often blossom in the face of adversity. It's like when we're pushed to our limits, that's when we discover a hidden strength and resilience we never knew we had. Okay,

J John 09:06

that makes sense on a personal level, I guess. But what about suffering on a larger scale, things like natural disasters, pandemics, wars? Where's the growth or the purpose in that? That's

S Sarah 09:18

where the Urantia Book brings in this idea of God's primacy, this concept of God is the ultimate guiding force in the universe, orchestrating everything according to a much larger plan. So

J John 09:28

even when it seems like things are happening randomly or for no reason, even when it feels senseless and cruel, the Urantia Book is saying there's a higher purpose behind it all.



S

Sarah 09:37

It's a lot to take in, and it's definitely not an easy pill to swallow, especially when you're in the midst of suffering or witnessing it firsthand,

J

John 09:46

it makes you think about the bigger picture, doesn't it like maybe we just can't grasp the reasons behind everything that happens from our limited human perspective,

S

Sarah 09:55

precisely. And the Urantia Book uses an interesting analogy. To try and explain this idea of God's primacy. Oh, I love a good analogy. Lay it on me. Think about a parent setting limits for their child, maybe giving them rules that the child doesn't fully understand. The child might see those rules as restrictive as keeping them from doing what they want, but the parent sets those boundaries out of love, right,

J

John 10:17

right, to guide them, keep them safe, help them grow into responsible adults,

S

Sarah 10:21

exactly, and it's not that the child always appreciates it at the time. They might even resent the rules or feel like their freedom is being limited, but the parent has the bigger picture in mind, the child's long term well being.

J

John 10:33

So you're saying the Urantia Book presents God as kind of a cosmic parent, setting the stage for our growth, even if that means allowing for some bumps and bruises along the way.

S

Sarah 10:43

It's an interesting way to think about it, isn't it. We've gone from this idea of God being present everywhere at once to His infinite knowledge, to this concept of his limitless nature and his hand guiding the course of events in the universe.

J

John 10:57

It's a lot to process, for sure, but I have to say, diving into these complex attributes of God in the Urantia Book has definitely given me a lot to think about.

S

Sarah 11:05

Me too. It challenges us to expand our understanding of who God is and how he operates in the universe.

J

John 11:11

And on that note, as we wrap up this deep dive, we want to leave you with a final thought provoking question to ponder straight from the pages of the Urantia Book ready for it hit me with it. The text asks, If experiencing the fullness of God's love is limited by our capacity to love in return, what can we do to expand that capacity within ourselves? Oh,

S

Sarah 11:32

now that's a question that really makes you stop and search your soul a bit. It's a call to action, isn't it? It

J

John 11:37

really is. It's a challenge to look inward, to examine our own hearts and minds and see how we can become more open, more compassionate, more loving beings, and maybe,

S

Sarah 11:46

just maybe, in doing so, we open ourselves up to experiencing a greater measure of that limitless love that the Urantia Book describes so beautifully, well

J

John 11:54

said, and on that note, we'll leave you to ponder those profound words. Thanks for joining us on this deep dive until next time. Keep those questions coming, keep seeking and keep exploring.