

Part 1, Paper 4, God's Relatio...the Universe, Divine Counselor

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Urantia Book, cosmic truths, multi-layered reality, divine sorrow, nature's manifestation, free will, co-creators, divine absolutes, spiritual growth, faith reframe, interconnectedness, cosmic canvas, seeking answers, embracing mystery, cosmic journey

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

J John 00:00
All right, so get ready, because today we're diving into the Urantia Book. And let me tell you this one's a doozy. It really is. It claims to reveal some, shall we say, interesting cosmic truths. We'll be focusing on paper four God's relation to the universe.

S Sarah 00:18
That's a big one. So

J John 00:19
if you're curious about, you know, the big guy upstairs. How did we get here? What's it all about? Well, you're in for a wild ride. It's

S Sarah 00:25
funny, you should put it that way, because one thing about the Urantia Book is that it does not shy away from complexity, like at all. Oh, really, yeah. It's like multi layered reality, mind blowing stuff. Okay, so

J John 00:37
break it down for me. What kind of layers are we talking about here?

S

Sarah 00:40

Okay, so imagine this. It's not just us little humans down here and God way up in the heavens. There are hierarchies, right? Like angels have their own jobs and everything. And then there's this place called havona, yeah, it's this perfect Central Universe. And get this, the book says it exists basically for the joy of creation, to please the creators. Hold

J

John 00:59

on to please the creators. I've never thought about it that way before. So where do we fit in humans? I mean, in this whole cosmic ladder, that's what

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Sarah 01:07

the book tries to explain. But here's the thing, even those celestial beings, the angels, they don't get the whole picture of God's plan. They don't. No, it's like a mystery that's too big even for them to comprehend. Talk

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John 01:20

about humbling we spend our life trying to figure things out, and they're saying even the most advanced beings are still scratching their heads Exactly Okay, then, so how are we supposed to wrap our heads around God and all this? Well,

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Sarah 01:32

the book talks about these absolutes. Think of them like cosmic forces, but even more fundamental than matter or spirit,

J

John 01:40

absolutely. Okay. Now you're just messing with me, right? No,

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Sarah 01:42

seriously, it's deep stuffing. No, imagine, yeah, we think of physics, the laws of the universe, as, like, the bedrock, right, right? But it's like those absolutes are even deeper than that. They're what the laws are painted on. If that makes sense,

J

John 01:57

okay, I think I'm kind of getting it. But if those absolutes are the foundation. How does God actually do anything like interact?

actually do anything like interact.

S

Sarah 02:04

Well, the Urantia Book has some pretty different ideas about that, compared to, you know, traditional stuff, like what? For example, it's very clear that God is unchanging, not jealous, and definitely not the angry type,

J

John 02:17

really. So no smiting and whatnot. No. In fact, the book straight up calls

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Sarah 02:21

the whole appeasing God with blood thing barbaric, and says higher beings find that repulsive. Wow.

J

John 02:26

Okay, so no more burnt offerings, not in

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Sarah 02:29

this cosmology. The book is saying those ideas come from, well, us, our limited human view of things. So it's

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John 02:36

like we project our own fears and stuff onto what we don't understand. But if God's not busy being angry, what about all the bad stuff that happens, you know, suffering in the world, how does the book square that circle?

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Sarah 02:48

That is where it gets really interesting. They talk about something called divine sorrow. Divine

J

John 02:52

sorrow. But how can God, who we just said, isn't really capable of human emotions, feel sorrow. It's

S Sarah 02:59
subtle, right? What it seems to be saying is this God isn't reacting to us the way we might think, no anger, no punishment, but our choices, those can cause like a cosmic sadness. Think of a loving parent watching their kid making bad choices, you know, right? They're not gonna disown their kid, but it hurts to watch exactly it's not about God being mad. It's more about, I don't know, the natural fallout of our actions. Rickles on a huge scale. You know, that's a

J John 03:25
really different way to look at things. So it's less about sin and more about just consequences, kind

S Sarah 03:30
of, yeah. And this leads into another fascinating concept, nature is God's physical habit, as they put it, a physical

J John 03:37
have. What in the world does that even mean? So

S Sarah 03:40
nature itself isn't literally god, okay, but it's a manifestation of God's actions. Imagine it like this. You, maybe you have a habit of jogging every morning,

J John 03:50
right? Can't say that. I

S Sarah 03:51
do, but go on. So the jogging isn't you exactly, but it reflects something about you routine, maybe taking care of your health.

J John 03:58
Got it so nature, with all its laws and everything that's like God's jog. It reflects the divine, but it's not God itself. You got it.

S Sarah 04:05

S Sarah 04:05

And just like our habits sometimes have, you know, unintended consequences. The book says nature is both majestic and marred, marred.

J John 04:13

So are we saying the flaws we see, those are like flawed habits. Whose flaws are we even talking about here, though, God's flaws. That's what's so

S Sarah 04:21

interesting. What it seems to be saying is those flaws aren't gods, but they're introduced through, well, free will. Free Will the actions of beings in creation that includes us, by the way God sets the stage, the basic rules, but how the play goes that's influenced by everyone on stage. Whoa. So

J John 04:39

we're like CO creators, then that's a lot of pressure it is, isn't

S Sarah 04:42

it, and it makes you wonder about free will consequences. All of it really makes you think my

J John 04:47

brain is already full, and I feel like we're just getting started. This is incredible. We'll be right back after a quick break to dive even deeper into these mind bending concepts from the Urantia Book. Stay with us. Yeah, Okay, we're back. That whole nature is God's habit thing still with me.

S Sarah 05:06

It's a Mind Bender, isn't it? This idea that we can, like, see how God works through nature, but also that, well, we have a hand in things, too. It's almost

J John 05:15

like, I don't know, imagine a giant tapestry. You could see the patterns the design, like the big picture, God's hand in it. I like that. But then you realize it's still being woven. Each thread is a choice, you know, from someone or something, right?



Sarah 05:30

And the Iran two book uses that kind of imagery to explain why there's both good and bad, order and chaos. It's not that God's up there controlling every little thing. It's more like free will is baked in from the start.



John 05:43

So it's not a spectator sport this universe thing, we're actually, I don't know, stitching away.



Sarah 05:47

We're stitching. We're adding our own flair. Makes you think twice about those choices we make, huh? For sure.



John 05:52

Because if every little thing matters, every act of kindness, or, you know, the opposite, that's a lot of weight on our shoulders. It's both exhilarating and kind of terrifying. Absolutely,



Sarah 06:03

it makes those everyday decisions feel different. We like to think we're small, but we're part of something much bigger,



John 06:09

which reminds me, speaking of big pictures, if we're all doing our thing, what about God's plan? Is there still room for that idea in all of this? That's



Sarah 06:19

where those absolutes come back in remember those, the fundamental forces we were talking about, right? The deeper than physics stuff exactly. It's like those absolutes. They're not just about the material world. They influence minds, spirits. So



John 06:32

even with free will, there's still like a nudge in a certain direction for the universe, even for us, in a



S

Sarah 06:38

way. Yeah, God provides the canvas, the paint, but we get to paint the picture, but those colors we choose how we make those brush strokes, there's something guiding that process towards something greater. Okay,

J

John 06:48

I think I get that, but it still makes you wonder, right? If those absolutes are so powerful, do we really have a choice? Are we really free if we're being influenced by these, well, cosmic forces we can't even see

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Sarah 07:03

that is the million dollar question, isn't it? And the Urantia Book, it acknowledges that question, but it doesn't pretend to have all the answers. So

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John 07:11

are they saying we're stuck? Not at

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Sarah 07:13

all. It's more like we're limited. Our human brains, they can only grasp so much about God, about these absolutes, about what's really real. It's like trying to understand the ocean by looking at a single drop of water. That's

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John 07:24

a good analogy,

S

Sarah 07:25

but that doesn't mean looking at that drop is pointless. The Urantia Book actually says it's through seeking, questioning that we grow spiritually, you know, push the boundaries, even if we never know everything.

J

John 07:37

So it's more about the journey than the destination. Exactly. We're

S

Sarah 07:40

 Sarah 07:10
not going to solve the universe today, and that's okay, all right, then.

 John 07:44
So if we can't really grasp those forces or God's big plan, what are we supposed to do with our lives? How do we make sense of any of this? That's

 Sarah 07:54
where faith comes in, but not the way we usually think about it. It's not about blind belief or following rules. It's about trusting the process, trusting that growth, evolution, it's happening all around us and within us. So instead

 John 08:07
of fearing what we don't know, we should what lean into it. That's different from how a lot of religions talk about faith.

 Sarah 08:14
It is different, and it's part of what makes the Urantia Book so interesting to talk about. It's like we're all part of this huge play, but no one has the whole script. We're writing it as we go. And those choices we make, they're all part of the performance.

 John 08:27
Wow, I like that. So we're all actors, then that's a cool way to think about it, right? And

 Sarah 08:32
every performance needs each person to bring their own thing, but also work together, right? Our choices matter, but so do our relationships, what we build together?

 John 08:42
You know? It makes you realize that maybe it's okay to not have all the answers, like the searching, the questioning. That's part of it too,

 Sarah 08:50
beautifully said, and honestly, I think that's at the heart of the Urantia Book. It's not a book of

answers. It's a book that makes you ask better questions. It's

J John 08:58
about looking at things in a new way, right? And maybe living a better life because of it, more compassion, more understanding. Couldn't

S Sarah 09:05
have said it better myself. So

J John 09:06
we've been through a lot, and I gotta say, this year under you book, it really makes you think about things in a whole new light. It

S Sarah 09:13
does, doesn't it? It's not every day you come across a text that manages to be both like intellectually stimulating and spiritually resonant at the same time,

J John 09:22
totally and one thing that really struck me is how it reframes the whole idea of faith. You know, it's not about checking boxes or blindly accepting what you're told. It's about embracing the unknown. It's

S Sarah 09:34
funny you say that, because for me, that's one of the most liberating aspects of this whole cosmology. We're constantly reminded that we're part of something so much bigger than ourselves, something that's always growing, changing, and, yeah, we don't have all the answers, but we get to be part of the unfolding. That's

J John 09:50
a really beautiful way to put it. It's both empowering and humbling at the same time, right? Right? Like knowing that our choices have this ripple effect throughout the cosmos, absolutely

S Sarah 09:58
and it makes you can. Consider the implications of those choices, doesn't it? It's not just about

our own little corner of the universe anymore. It's about recognizing our interconnectedness with everything.

J John 10:08

We're all in this together for better or worse, precisely.

S Sarah 10:11

And that brings us to, I think, the heart of the Urantia books message, which is this, it's not about achieving some kind of like cosmic perfection or having all the answers. It's about embracing the journey, about striving to live in a way that reflects the highest ideals, love, compassion, understanding those kinds of things. So it's

J John 10:33

not about the destination. It's about how we travel, so to speak, exactly.

S Sarah 10:37

And it's about trusting that even when we stumble or make mistakes, we're still part of this incredible tapestry of existence.

J John 10:46

I love that it's a very hopeful message, don't

S Sarah 10:48

you think incredibly hopeful, and it's one that I think we could all use a little more these days.

J John 10:53

Couldn't agree more. So if we were to, like, sum up everything we've talked about, yeah, what would you say are the biggest takeaways for our listeners, the things they should really remember from the Urantia Book and this whole idea of God's relation to the universe.

S Sarah 11:07

Well, for starters, I think it challenges us to rethink our preconceived notions about God. We're not talking about a judgmental, vengeful deity here, but rather a loving, unchanging presence that permeates everything,

J John 11:20
right? More cosmic parent, less vengeful

S Sarah 11:23
overlords, exactly, and flowing from that, this idea that our choices, our actions, they really do matter. We're not just along for the ride. We're co creators with the divine, shaping the universe in ways we may not even fully comprehend. It's almost

J John 11:36
like we're all artists adding our own brushstrokes to this grand, cosmic canvas.

S Sarah 11:42
I love that analogy. And lastly, but perhaps most importantly, I think the Urantia Book reminds us of the importance of seeking, of questioning, of never being afraid to dive deep into the mysteries of existence, because it's in that pursuit, that exploration, that we truly discover who we are and what our place is in the grand scheme of things, it's

J John 12:01
about embracing the mystery and realizing that the journey itself is just as important as whatever destination we might think we're heading towards.

S Sarah 12:09
Beautifully said. And on that note, I think it's time for us to wrap up this incredible deep dive. It

J John 12:15
is, sadly, but what a journey it's been to our amazing listeners. Thank you so much for joining us on this exploration of the Urantia Book. It's a text that's filled with so much to ponder, so much to challenge our assumptions, and so much to inspire. We hope this deep dive has sparked your curiosity and maybe even left you with more questions than answers, and that's okay. Keep seeking, keep questioning, and keep your minds open to the infinite possibilities that exist within you and all around you. Until next time, stay curious.