

Part 3, Paper 59, The Marine-Life Era on Urantia, Life Carrier

📅 Thu, Oct 03, 2024 9:50AM ⌚ 8:26

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

marine life era, Urantia Book, shallow seas, single-celled organisms, Cambrian period, trilobites, shifting continents, Ordovician volcanoes, Silurian corals, Devonian ferns, Carboniferous coal, Permian extinction, Pangaea formation, Earth's history, evolutionary leaps

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

S Sarah 00:00
Ever imagine our planet as a completely alien world, like not just sci fi alien, you know, but a place where the air, the ground, even the continents, were totally different? Yeah,

J John 00:11
completely.

S Sarah 00:11
That's where we're diving today, into the deep end, deep into the Urantia books version of Earth's marine life era.

J John 00:18
It's a fascinating perspective. It's not just like what existed, but how it all set the stage for everything after you know, even us, we're

S Sarah 00:26
talking a quarter of Earth's entire history. It's a long time, two 50 million years, six distinct periods in the Urantia Book epic. So no dinosaurs yet, not yet. But picture shallow seas, tons of life unlike anything today. Oh, absolutely. And just the first little bits of green on land, the very first



John 00:45

hints, yeah. And even picturing those periods, it's hard to wrap your head around that scale of time, like one period could be 10s of millions of years. Wow. Civilizations could rise and fall, mountains disappear, and it's still just one period ticking by.



Sarah 00:58

Okay, so no quick trips back to the Cambrian then. But if we could hop in a time machine go back a billion years, what would we see? What would Urantia look like? Well, the



John 01:06

Urantia Book, it divides Earth's history into five major eras, pre life, life, Dawn, marine life, early land life, and then finally, the mammalian era, which is us. But think for three whole eras It was mostly ocean life. It



Sarah 01:23

makes you realize how important this marine life era really is. Oh, absolutely. This



John 01:26

is like the grand opening, exactly. And during this era, constant change, not the continents as we know them, but huge land masses just crashing into each other, pulling apart for eons. Forget GPS.



Sarah 01:38

You'd need a whole different map app.



John 01:39

You'd be lost. But these shifting continents, they made huge, shallow seas, and those, the Urantia Book calls those The Cradle of Life, warm, sunlit, full of, you know, single celled organisms. But still, it's



Sarah 01:54

hard to imagine those simple things leading to everything today. It's true like trying to picture the entire internet starting from one blinking cursor. It's that



John 02:01

kind of scale, yeah. And yet, the uranti book lays out this beautiful evolution. From those single cells, we get the first multicellular organisms more than one cell, which sounds simple, but huge leap.



Sarah 02:16

So from one cell to a few, things are getting complex. What's the next chapter? The



John 02:20

next chapter, oh, is a good one. The Cambrian period, life in the oceans just explodes. This is



Sarah 02:24

when the Urantia Book says it's the age of trilobites, right? What's the big deal with those guys? They seem kind of basic, like sea bugs, right?



John 02:31

They might sound basic, but they were everywhere for almost 300 million years. They were like the top organism. And they're fossils. They're all over. So we can tell how the continents used to



Sarah 02:39

be. So Trilobite fossils are like our prehistoric map, kinda exactly,



John 02:43

and they were so diverse, 1000s of species. The Urantia Book says, some tiny, some huge, like two feet long. Whoa, yeah. They lived everywhere in the ocean, which means it was a busy place, nothing like the boring world from before.



Sarah 02:56

So under those seas, a whole ecosystem was going wild, and the continents, they were still moving around, right?



John 03:03

Oh yeah, big time. Urantia was not a calm place back then.



Sarah 03:07

I know we think of continents as fixed now, but back then, just constant shifting and smashing. It's wild to picture. Imagine being there, seeing these giant land masses just rearranging.



John 03:19

North America was underwater, actually. And the Gulf Stream, it went all the way up to Greenland, no way. Yeah. So warm water up there, yeah. And the Pacific Ocean, way bigger like covered most of the planet, so different from now, completely. Even the Caribbean Sea. It was mountainous back then. Time blowing.



Sarah 03:35

And those changes weren't just the planet. Were they? The Urantia Book talks about the Ordovician and Silurian periods. More big stuff happening. Oh yeah,



John 03:45

this is where the next act starts. Yeah, sea levels rise, which is perfect for making limestone and more new creatures show up, corals, sponges, jellyfish, all kinds of stuff. Sounds crowded, it was, but the stars of the show had to be the cephalopods. Cephalopods,



Sarah 04:00

those are like the ancestors of squid and octopus, right? You



John 04:03

got it. And in the Ordovician, some got huge. Ee, how huge, 15 feet long. Imagine a squid that big, with a beak and tentacles with hooks.



Sarah 04:14

That's not just some little squid anymore. Nope, they



John 04:17

were at the top of the food chain. But then on top of that, you've got these volcanoes. The Urantia Book mentions in Europe, it does sound a little apocalyptic, right? Ash everywhere, lava changing the whole planet, even the oceans. It's like the Urantia Book is saying, This is what made life change direction.

S

Sarah 04:35

Wow. And it's all connected, even millions of years apart. Oh, we can't forget about the salt, though, you're right.

J

John 04:40

Huge salt deposits were forming from when lagoons dried up. And those tell us about the climate and the continents moving

S

Sarah 04:48

so it's like these clues left behind. It's like Earth was trying everything out, getting ready for something even bigger, you know. And that's

J

John 04:54

what takes us to the Devonian period. That's when life makes the jump to land, life

S

Sarah 04:59

on Earth. Yeah, in the oceans for what, billions of years and then the Devonian period, it's like, boom, everybody out, like, moving out of your parents basement. But for all of life, the

J

John 05:09

Urantia Book makes it pretty dramatic, too. Oxygen levels way up. So now you can live on land if you want, and all that rock slowly turning green.

S

Sarah 05:18

Not like our forests, though, right? No big trees, yet, different kind of

J

John 05:22

forest. Yeah, the Urantia Book describes these giant ferns, like tree sized ferns and weird trees. They didn't have leaves the way we think of them, really, no, it's wild. Imagine how quiet those

forests must been. No leaves rustling, no birds.

S

Sarah 05:37

A little spooky, beautiful, but spooky. But the oceans were still busy, right? That's when fish really took over.

J

John 05:43

The age of fishes, the Devonian. They were evolving like crazy. Remember those early ones kind of like arthropods? Now it's every kind of fish you can imagine, little guys and then huge ones with armor, scary teeth.

S

Sarah 05:56

Okay? Now those I want to hear about. What were the big ones, like the Urontia

J

John 05:59

Book talks about Dunkleosteus, up to 25 feet long. Its head was like just a battering ram, jaws that could crush, well, anything. I'm

S

Sarah 06:09

glad we're not swimming with that. But it wasn't all teeth and armor, right? Something about the air was changing, right?

J

John 06:14

Those forests, they were sucking up carbon dioxide, putting out oxygen. So the whole planet's changing. And there's those red sandstone deposits from then too red sandstone.

S

Sarah 06:22

That's more than just a pretty rock, isn't it? What does that tell us? It

J

John 06:26

says the climate was changing too hot, dry periods. See, it's always in flux. The Earth. Those sandstone layers, like pages from history,

S Sarah 06:34
always changing. Okay, so then we get to the Carboniferous period, the Urantia Book. It really gets into the swamps, giant bugs. And of course, where coal came from, plants

J John 06:44
everywhere, warm, humid, like you said, swamps, everything growing, competing. And, yeah, some weird creatures. Picture a dragonfly, but its wings are 30 inches across.

S Sarah 06:54
Oh, no, thank you. That's way too big to be a bug. That was the Carboniferous

J John 06:58
new life on land, so evolution was trying out some strange stuff, but the coal, that's what we really remember it

S Sarah 07:05
for, right? All those plants died, piled up in the swamps, and over time, boom, coal. My furnace is running on prehistory. It's

J John 07:11
amazing, when you think about it, the past, it's still with us. But things can't stay the same forever, right? Time for another big change, and this one, well, the

S Sarah 07:21
Permian extinction. It's almost impossible to picture how bad it was. 95% of life in the oceans just gone, like hitting the reset button. What could even do that?

J John 07:30
It was a lot of things. According to the Urantia Book, the continents they finally collided made that supercontinent, Pangaea and the huge volcanoes, climate going crazy. Most things couldn't survive that. It's

S Sarah 07:41



Sarah 07:41

scary how powerful nature is. But then you think some things did survive Exactly.



John 07:47

A few tough ones hung on, and all life after that, even us, we come from them. That's incredible,



Sarah 07:52

like we're only here because of those Permian survivors. It makes you wonder, what if even one thing had been different back then? Would things be the same? Now



John 08:00

it's a question we're thinking about the marine life era. It might be over, but it's all around us. We breathe it. We power our cities with it. It's even in our own cells. So



Sarah 08:09

much happened. It's a good reminder that Earth has one wild story, and we're just a tiny part of it. Well, that's our deep dive for today, but hopefully you're all a little more amazed by this planet now keep exploring, keep asking questions, and until next time, thanks for diving in with us.