

Part 3, Paper 61, The Mammalia...n Era on Urantia, Life Carrier

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Cenozoic Era, age of mammals, placental mammals, live births, angiosperms, megafauna, giant mammals, intelligence, ice ages, dawn mammals, mid mammals, first humans, glaciers, evolution, survival

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

S Sarah 00:00
Get ready, listener, because we are about to take a deep dive into prehistory, like, way back. We're talking almost 50 million years. Wow,

J John 00:08
that's a long time.

S Sarah 00:09
It is. And today we are tackling the era that set the stage for, well, us. You

J John 00:15
mean, like the dawn of man, exactly,

S Sarah 00:18
the Cenozoic Era, better known as the age of mammals. Oh, okay,

J John 00:22
the age of mammals. I've heard about this, and we'll be

 Sarah 00:25
exploring this era using the Urantia Book, specifically paper 61

 John 00:29
cool. So we'll uncover all those fascinating events that shaped this period, right? You

 Sarah 00:33
got it. It's a period of major change, wouldn't you say absolutely. I

 John 00:37
mean, the world was still recovering from the whole dinosaur thing,

 Sarah 00:39
right? But it wasn't just a desolate wasteland, was it? No,

 John 00:43
no, not at all. Think more like lush forests, wide open plains, animals everywhere. It was like an animal paradise, kind of

 Sarah 00:51
okay. So how do we go from like reptilian overlords to mammals? That's

 John 00:57
the interesting part. The Urantia Book talks about this surprising ancestor for placental mammals. You ready for this? Hit me with it, a small, agile, carnivorous dinosaur,

 Sarah 01:08
really a dinosaur? Yep,

 John 01:11



John 01:11

not your typical lumbering T Rex, though. This one was built for speed and intelligence characteristics that would become really important for their mammal descendants, as you can imagine,



Sarah 01:21

wow, not the ancestor I was picturing. So these early mammals, what gave them an edge? There were still plenty of reptiles around, right? Oh,



John 01:29

yeah. But these guys had a few tricks up their sleeves. They had live births. They took care of their young, and they had a knack for adapting thanks to their ever evolving grains. Okay, I can see how that would be helpful. Take kangaroo ancestors, for example, just hopping around, or those tiny horses just starting to make their mark and get this. There was even this ostrich like bird laying these massive eggs. Hold



Sarah 01:51

on, a bird laying giant eggs. That doesn't sound very mammal to me. It just goes



John 01:56

to show that evolution takes some wild turns. Remember, it's not a straight line. These mammals were testing things out, trying new things, and sit in the stage for a huge takeover, and



Sarah 02:06

all this while continents were moving and the climate was doing its own thing exactly.



John 02:09

Imagine Europe almost completely underwater, with only the Alps and Pyrenees poking out like islands. Those kinds of geological shake UPS plus changing sea levels and volcanic activity really put the pressure on adapt or die, you know, intense.



Sarah 02:24

So in the middle of all this change, a new type of food pops up. Angiosperms. Were these plants a big deal for our mammal friends, huge

J John 02:33

deal. Angiosperms were basically an all you can eat buffet for grazing mammals. They provided plenty of nutritious food and really fueled the rise of, let's just say things were about to get big. Here

S Sarah 02:44

comes the part I've been waiting for. We're talking about giant mammals now, right, the ones we know today, just, you know, super sized precisely,

J John 02:52

around 25 million years ago, placental mammals took center stage. They out competed those reptiles, and it was the era of megafauna. Picture enormous herds of horses evolved from their three toed ancestors, thundering across North America. Now

S Sarah 03:08

that's a sight I wish I could have seen. And speaking of amazing sights, we can't forget about elephants. I mean, those creatures were gigantic. What made them different from the other giants,

J John 03:15

their intelligence, believe it or not, the Urantia Book talks about their incredible brainpower, even comparing it to early humans, it's fascinating to consider what intelligence looked like in a pre human world. Did they communicate in complex ways, solve problems? These are questions scientists are still trying to answer today,

S Sarah 03:34

elephants, the brainiacs of the animal world. I never knew

J John 03:38

but good times and warmer climates don't last forever, do they? What happens to our mammal friends as we journey further into the Cenozoic Era?

S Sarah 03:47

Well, it starts to get a bit chilly. The Earth cools down, and plants and animals have to migrate

to find more comfortable places to live.

J John 03:54

Oh, this doesn't sound good. Is this where those ice ages come in?

S Sarah 03:57

We got it. But before we dive into that frosty territory, there's another important development we need to talk about, one that leads to the appearance of a truly remarkable creature.

J John 04:06

Let me guess, humans, bingo. But the road to humanity is full of unexpected turns and fascinating ancestors, and it all starts with a group of lemur like creatures. At least that's what the Urantia Book tells us, lemur

S Sarah 04:20

like creatures. Okay, now you've got my attention. Tell me more. Okay. Picture this

J John 04:24

about 20 million years ago in Central Asia, the ancestor to both primitive monkeys and gorillas emerged, but it's a different group, equally as fascinating, that holds the key to our evolutionary past. So

S Sarah 04:37

we're interested in these lemur like creatures. Then what made them stand out. While

J John 04:41

those other primates were busy evolving, these lemur like creatures were changing and adapting too, setting the stage for something extraordinary, the dawn mammals. Dawn

S Sarah 04:50

mammals, it sounds almost mythical. Were they like a cross between lemurs and humans? Imagine



John 04:54

small, agile creatures, mostly walking upright and with bigger brains than their ancestors. Dollars. The Urantia Book places their arrival a bit west of India. They were descendants of those North American lemur types who migrated across ancient land bridges. These ancestors



Sarah 05:09

of ours were real globetrotters. But what makes these Dawn mammals so special? It sounds like brain power played a big role.



John 05:18

Absolutely, the Urantia Book really stresses their larger brain size compared to other animals at the time, this brain power, plus their ability to walk upright, was a major leap forward in evolution.



Sarah 05:29

It's like all the pieces for humanity were starting to come together, intelligence walking on two legs. You can almost see it happening. And



John 05:35

this is where things get really interesting. Within just 70 generations of the Dawn mammals appearing a new, even more advanced group branched off the mid mammals 70



Sarah 05:45

generations. That doesn't seem like very long at all.



John 05:49

It's incredibly fast in terms of evolution. It tells you there was a lot of pressure to change, and it happened quickly. These mid mammals were almost twice the size of the Dawn mammals, even smarter and ready for the next big step.



Sarah 06:03

Welcome back. Listener. Last time we left off with those mid mammals, super smart, walking upright and on the verge of something big,

J John 06:09
right? They were like the stars of the show those mid mammals. So no

S Sarah 06:13
more delays. Let's get back to the Urantia Book and find out how humans entered the picture. Okay,

J John 06:18
so remember how the Earth's climate was going a bit haywire back then, those glaciers we talked about, well, they were about to play a big part in this whole evolution thing.

S Sarah 06:28
Okay, paint us a picture what was going on when humans first appeared. Imagine

J John 06:31
this about a million years ago, with the earth cooling down and glaciers taking over. Something incredible happened. One of the mid mammals had a mutation,

S Sarah 06:43
just one mutation, and that changed everything. Yep, one

J John 06:47
little mutation that would change the course of history. And from that single mutation, the Urantia Book says two primitive humans were born, the very first humans on Earth. Wow.

S Sarah 06:56
It's mind blowing when you think about it all those years and it came down to that. So what was life like for these early humans? It was a start of the Ice Age, wasn't it? Talk about

J John 07:05
a rough start. Imagine being one of the first humans looking around at a world covered in ice. The Urantia Book really emphasizes how challenging it was back then.

S Sarah 07:15
Survival of the fittest, right from the beginning. But the Urantia Book also talks about how intelligent these early humans were right,

J John 07:21
oh yeah, for sure. They were smart, adaptable and resourceful. They learned to work together, use tools and find shelter from the cold they had to to survive.

S Sarah 07:32
The Urantia Book even says that the Eskimos, who are considered descendants of these original humans, are still drawn to colder climates today. It makes you wonder if it's like a distant memory from their ancestors. But were there other creatures evolving alongside humans? Absolutely. The

J John 07:48
Urantia Book says there was another line, also descended from the mid mammals that went in a different direction.

S Sarah 07:53
You mean those simian creatures, the ancestors of apes and gorillas. What's so important about that? Well, it

J John 07:58
shows that evolution doesn't always mean things get better. Humans kept evolving, but the Simian tribes stayed pretty much the same. The Urantia Book even says they regressed a bit.

S Sarah 08:08
That's wild. So back to the glaciers. They weren't just a pretty backdrop. Were they? What impact did they have on those early humans?

J John 08:16
A huge impact. Imagine North America covered in ice, some of it 20,000 feet thick. The Urantia Book says these massive glaciers were so heavy they actually made the Earth's crust sink.

S Sarah 08:28

No way that's hard to imagine. Do you think the ice ages helped or hurt the development of early humans?

J John 08:34

It probably did. Both. On the one hand, the glaciers destroyed habitats and changed the landscape completely, but on the other hand, they forced humans to adapt and innovate. Those who could figure things out and work together survived and passed on their genes.

S Sarah 08:47

So the ice ages were tough, but they pushed humans to evolve. That makes sense. We're not done with the ice ages yet, though. Are we? The uranium book mentions several, right? You

J John 08:56

got it, six different ice ages, and each one left its mark on the planet and everyone on it. Remember those six colored races we mentioned? The Urantia Book says they appeared during the fifth glacial advance, about 500,000 years ago. Hold

S Sarah 09:10

on. So while the glaciers were busy rearranging continents, humans were going through their own transformation. That's a lot to take in. Welcome back to our deep dive into the age of mammals. We left off with those six colored races appearing as the Ice Age raged on. It's hard to imagine. It was a wild

J John 09:28

time. That's for sure. Those glaciers weren't just there for show. You know, imagine the whole world covered in ice. Can you imagine being those early humans? It boggles the

S Sarah 09:36

mind. Six ice ages makes you wonder if that had anything to do with those different races appearing? You know, that's

J John 09:41

a great question. The Urantia Book doesn't really say for sure, but it makes you think, right? Maybe those tough conditions played a part in making humans so diverse. It's a puzzle scientists are still trying to solve. It's

S

Sarah 09:55

crazy to think about how long this all took, like, millions of years. I

J

John 09:59

know, right? Yeah, it's hard to wrap your head

S

Sarah 10:01

around it, but through it all life found a way. It kept adapting, kept changing, and eventually we got humans like us. It's amazing when you think about it. And you

J

John 10:11

know what? We're actually closer to that time than you might realize. According to the Urantia Book, the last Ice Age ended about 35,000 years ago, really that recently. That's right, that's when the hall scene epoch started, the one we're still in today. Wow, that's not that long

S

Sarah 10:26

ago, considering everything that happened. So once the ice finally melted and the world started to look a bit more like it does now, what happened to all those tough humans?

J

John 10:35

They spread out, basically. They went all over the globe, taking with them everything they'd learned from surviving those crazy times. Think about it, their strength, their ability to adapt, their smarts, all passed down from those who came before. It's

S

Sarah 10:49

like they were given the ultimate survival guide written by their ancestors.

J

John 10:53

Exactly So as we wrap up our deep dive into the Cenozoic Era, let's remember this epic journey from tiny creatures outrunning dinosaurs to the dawn of humanity in a frozen world. It's a story

from tiny creatures outrunning dinosaurs to the dawn of humanity in a frozen world. It's a story of constant change, incredible resilience and the incredible power of life to find a way

 Sarah 11:10

it really puts things in perspective, doesn't it? Thanks for joining us on this deep dive, listener and a huge thanks to our expert for guiding us through this fascinating period of history. My pleasure,

 John 11:20

it's always a blast to talk about this stuff.