

Part 3, Paper 68, The Dawn of Civilization, Melchizedek

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

fear-driven societies, noble savage, social order, vivid dreams, ghost fear, early tools, animal domestication, private property, gender roles, agricultural revolution, land ratio, infanticide, superstitious beliefs, ethical dilemmas, future challenges

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

S Sarah 00:00
Welcome to another deep dive. Listeners today, we're going way back in time to the dawn of civilization. We've got excerpts from the Urantia Book, specifically

J John 00:09
paper 68

S Sarah 00:11
the dawn of civilization, right? And it really challenges a lot of our preconceived notions about our early ancestors. It certainly does. You know, it's easy to romanticize the past, to think about our ancestors living in harmony with nature and each other, yeah, but the Urantia Book paints a very different picture, one where fear, not friendship was the dominant force. Okay, so

J John 00:32
are we scrapping that whole like peace loving, community driven image then? Well, not

S Sarah 00:37
entirely,





John 00:38

but we do have to kind of ditch this idea of the noble savage.



Sarah 00:42

The text argues that early humans weren't exactly social butterflies. They were more inclined to avoid each other, driven by this deep seated suspicion and fear. Wow. I never really thought about it like that. So if they weren't naturally drawn to each other, what brought them together in the first place? Survival, pure and simple. Imagine a world where every rustle in the bushes could be a predator, yeah, every illness a terrifying mystery.



John 01:06

In that context, it's no wonder early humans quickly learned that there was safety in numbers. Yeah, it's like a prehistoric watch each other's backs kind of deal, exactly. Even the story of Cain from the Bible



Sarah 01:17

gets a new interpretation in the Urantia Book, okay, the mark of Cain the text suggests, wasn't just a punishment, but a way of signifying tribal affiliation, a very early warning system against potential threats.



John 01:30

That's a fascinating take on that story. So



Sarah 01:32

if fear was this initial push toward forming these groups, what kept them together was it simply a matter of stick together or get eaten.



John 01:40

It was more nuanced than that. Remember, we're



Sarah 01:42

talking about a time before science, before religion as we know it, even



John 01:47

 John 01:17
before a real understanding of cause and effect in that world, dream, particularly vivid, terrifying ones, would have felt incredibly real. I can only imagine. I

 Sarah 01:58
know I've woken up from nightmares feeling totally shaken. Oh, amplify that 1000 fold. The Urantia Book calls this phenomenon ghost fear, okay, and it suggests that this fear of the supernatural, fueled

 John 02:10
by those vivid dreams and the lack of understanding, became a powerful

 Sarah 02:14
force for social order. That's incredible. Seems so counterintuitive, but fear, in a way, laid the

 John 02:21
groundwork for these early societies precisely it provided a common enemy,

 Sarah 02:25
a shared experience that, in its own strange way, brought people together and fostered a sense of dependence on the group for

 John 02:33
protection and reassurance. It

 Sarah 02:35
makes you think about the things we fear today and how

 John 02:39
they might be shaping our societies in ways we don't even realize, but we're getting ahead of ourselves. Let's get back to those early humans. They're huddled together, united by fear, but

 Sarah 02:40

S Sarah 02:48
they're also starting to figure out how to manipulate their environment a little bit,

J John 02:53
and that's where we see some truly groundbreaking innovations. The first tools. The Urantia Book highlights this as a pivotal moment. It's like

S Sarah 03:01
that moment when you realize you can use a rock to

J John 03:03
crack open a nut instead of just smashing it with your bare hands. Exactly the Urantia Book emphasizes the profound impact of that first hammer, however rudimentary it was a sign of early humans ingenuity, their ability to look beyond the obvious and manipulate their surroundings, and I bet that

S Sarah 03:23
sparked a whole wave of innovation from there, absolutely, the text traces this fascinating progression from those early hammers

J John 03:30
to the domestication of animals and the rise of agriculture. These developments weren't just about convenience. They fundamentally reshaped the fabric of early societies. Okay, let's

S Sarah 03:39
talk about that.

J John 03:40
How did domesticating animals change things? Well, for one, it led to the concept of private property, something

S Sarah 03:46
that wouldn't have meant much to a nomadic hunter gatherer, right? Suddenly, owning a herd of animals meant status, self, potential, power, things that people were willing to fight for.

Wow.

J John 03:57

It's amazing how quickly things can shift. It is, and the Urantia Book doesn't shy away from the complexities of these shifts. It

S Sarah 04:05

points out that while the domestication of animals had a largely positive impact on societal development,

J John 04:09

it also had some unintended consequences, particularly for

S Sarah 04:13

women. Oh, in what way? Well, in earlier hunter gatherer societies,

J John 04:17

the division of labor was relatively balanced. Men hunted, women gathered, both essential roles, right? But with animal husbandry, the text argues women's social standing took a bit of a hit. Why is that? I always picture those like pastoral scenes as being peaceful, even idyllic.

S Sarah 04:36

The reality was probably quite different.

J John 04:38

Think about it. Men were largely in charge of the herds, which represented

S Sarah 04:41

the primary food source and a form of wealth. This shift towards a reliance on meat, along with the physical demands of herding, tipped the

J John 04:49

 John 04:45
balance of tower

 Sarah 04:50
women, while still playing a vital role in caring for crops and children, found

 John 04:55
themselves relegated to roles that, while important, didn't hold the

 Sarah 04:58
same social sway. As controlling a herd of valuable livestock. That's a really interesting point. It makes you realize that progress isn't always linear. You

 John 05:07
know, there can be winners and losers, even when it comes to something as fundamental as food production, exactly. And the Urantia Book is careful to point this out. It reminds

 Sarah 05:17
us that the development of civilization is a messy, complex process full of unintended consequences, but also incredible ingenuity, right? I

 John 05:26
mean, think about the LEAP it took to go from hunting and gathering to actually

 Sarah 05:30
cultivating crops. That's right. The text refers to agriculture as the highest type of material civilization up to that point. And for good reason, it required planning, patience, cooperation on a whole new level, and it

 John 05:43
completely transformed humanity's relationship with the land. Speaking of land, that's something we haven't really touched on yet. What

S Sarah 05:49
was the real estate situation like for these early civilizations? Was

J John 05:54
it just like a first come first served kind of deal? It was

S Sarah 05:56
a lot more nuanced in that

J John 05:58
the Urantia Book emphasizes the importance of the land to person ratio. It

S Sarah 06:04
basically boils down to this, when land was plentiful, populations could grow, societies could thrive, but when that ratio got out of whack, things got a little tense, to say the least, competition for resources would ramp up, leading to conflict, migration

J John 06:19
and even some pretty drastic measures to control population growth. Okay, now

S Sarah 06:23
that's a side of history I'm not so familiar with.

J John 06:25
What did our ancestors do when things got a little too crowded? Well, keep in mind,

S Sarah 06:28
infant mortality was already tragically high in those times, but

J John 06:33
the text explains some societies adopted even more deliberate practices

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Sarah 06:37

to manage their numbers, like what? Give me the details.

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John 06:40

It's not easy to digest from our modern perspective, but infanticide,

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Sarah 06:43

even in cases where the

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John 06:45

child was healthy, was practiced

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Sarah 06:46

in some cultures. Wow, the Urantia Book specifically mentions twins being targeted, often seen as a burden evidence of bad luck or even infidelity. Wow, being a twin back then was a whole different ballgame.

J

John 07:00

It's hard to believe that something so natural could be perceived as a threat. It's a stark reminder of how differently life and death were viewed in those times. Remember

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Sarah 07:10

that pervasive ghost fear we talked about earlier. These practices weren't just about pragmatism,

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John 07:16

they were often deeply intertwined with superstitious beliefs and

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Sarah 07:20

attempts to appease the spirits or maintain balance with nature, it

J John 07:24
makes you appreciate how far we've come in terms of our understanding of the world, but also how much those ancient fears and beliefs still echo in our own

S Sarah 07:32
time, even if they're not always so overt. And that's a key insight the *Urenchu* book offers. It's not just a history lesson, it's a mirror, yeah, reflecting our own anxieties and

J John 07:43
how they might be

S Sarah 07:43
shaping our future. It's like the saying goes, those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it, right? But instead of fearing the unknown, our ancestors were taking concrete,

J John 07:54
albeit sometimes shocking, steps to manage it precisely,

S Sarah 07:58
they were grappling with this very real

J John 07:59
problem of balancing population size with limited resources. And as the text points out, this challenge isn't just a relic of the past, right? What if in the future, advancements

S Sarah 08:09
in science and medicine allow us to live even longer, healthier lives? What happens when overpopulation becomes a global concern, not just a localized one? That's a pretty profound question. It's like we're on the verge of outsmarting nature itself, and

J John 08:25

that's where the ethical dilemmas arise. The

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Sarah 08:27

Urantia Book doesn't shy away from this. It challenges us

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John 08:31

to think critically about how we as a global society might

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Sarah 08:36

navigate such uncharted territory. Okay, how do we balance individual rights with the greater good? What ethical frameworks will guide our decisions? These aren't easy questions, but they're ones we can't afford to ignore. It's

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John 08:49

almost like we need a whole new set of mores,

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Sarah 08:51

as the book calls them, those unwritten rules that kind of dictate how we behave and interact as a society. Only this time the stakes are even higher, exactly, and that's the beauty of the Urantia Book. It

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John 09:02

doesn't offer easy answers or prescribe a particular path.

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Sarah 09:05

Instead, it encourages us to look at history,

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John 09:08

to understand the cyclical nature of these challenges, and

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Sarah 09:11

to approach the future with the sense of informed responsibility, acknowledging both the

to approach the future with the sense of informed responsibility, acknowledging both the potential of our ingenuity and the weight of our choices. It makes you wonder, what are the ghost fears driving our decisions today? Are we motivated by fear of scarcity, fear of the other, fear of technology surpassing our control? Those are questions worth pondering, and perhaps even more importantly, how can we as individuals and as a global community

J John 09:36
ensure our actions are guided by something more than just fear? How do

S Sarah 09:40
we move beyond simply reacting to perceived threats and

J John 09:44
instead proactively shape a future based on compassion, cooperation

S Sarah 09:48
and a shared vision for a brighter tomorrow?

J John 09:51
What a powerful thought to end on

S Sarah 09:53
listeners. We've journeyed from the fear driven beginnings of civilization to the complex

J John 09:57
challenges that lie ahead.

S Sarah 09:58
If there's one thing we can learn from the dawn of civilization.

J John 10:02
It's that the story of humanity is anything but simple. It's a tapestry woven from threads of

fear and ingenuity, progress and

 Sarah 10:10
setbacks,

 John 10:11
conflict and cooperation,

 Sarah 10:12
and it's a story that's still being

 John 10:14
written, with each of us playing a role in shaping the chapters to come. So

 Sarah 10:18
as you go about your day, consider this, what ghost

 John 10:21
fears might be influencing your own decisions, both big and small, and how can you move forward with courage,

 Sarah 10:30
compassion and a commitment to creating a future

 John 10:33
that's guided by something more than just fear, until next time, keep asking those big questions, keep seeking out new perspectives and keep diving deep, and that's a key insight the Urantia Book offers.

 Sarah 10:44
It's not just a history lesson, it's a mirror reflecting our own anxieties and how they might be shaping our future. Yeah.

...keeping our heads on a string,

J John 10:50

it's like the saying goes, those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it. But instead of just fearing the unknown, our ancestors were taking concrete, albeit sometimes shocking, Steph, to manage it precisely. They were grappling with this very real problem of balancing population size with limited resources. And as the text points out, this challenge isn't just a relic of the past. What if in the future, advancements in science and medicine allow us to live even longer, healthier lives? What happens when overpopulation becomes a global concern, not just a localized one, right?

S Sarah 11:23

That's a pretty profound question. It's like we're on the verge of outsmarting nature itself, and

J John 11:27

that's where the ethical dilemmas arise. The Urantia Book doesn't

S Sarah 11:30

shy away from this. It challenges us to think critically about how we as a global society might navigate such uncharted territory. How do we balance individual rights with the greater good? What ethical frameworks will guide our decisions? These aren't easy questions, but they're ones we can't afford to ignore. Yeah,

J John 11:49

it's almost like we need a whole new set of mores, as the book calls them, those unwritten rules that kind of dictate how we behave and interact as a society. Only this time the stakes are even higher, exactly, and that's the beauty of the Urantia Book. It doesn't offer easy answers or prescribe a particular path. Instead, it encourages us to look at history, to understand the cyclical nature of these challenges, and to approach the future with a sense of informed responsibility, acknowledging both the potential of our ingenuity and the weight of our choices.

S Sarah 12:17

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J John 12:27

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the questions that persisting, and perhaps even more importantly, how can we as individuals and as a global community ensure our actions are guided by something more than just fear? How do we move beyond simply reacting to perceived threats and instead proactively shape a future based on compassion, cooperation and a shared vision for a brighter tomorrow.

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Sarah 12:48

What a powerful thought to end on. Listeners, we've journeyed from the fear driven beginnings of civilization to the complex challenges that lie ahead. If there's one thing we can learn from the dawn of civilization, it's that the story of humanity is anything but simple. It's

J

John 13:00

a tapestry woven from threads of fear and ingenuity, progress and setbacks, conflict and cooperation, and it's a story that's still being written, with each of us playing a role in shaping the chapters to come.

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Sarah 13:10

So as you go about your day, consider this, what ghost fears might be influencing your own decisions, both big and small, and how can you move forward with courage, compassion and a commitment to creating a future that's guided by something more than just fear, until next time, keep asking those big questions, keep seeking out new perspectives and keep diving deep.