

Part 3, Paper 71, Development of the State, Melchizedek

📅 Thu, Oct 03, 2024 10:33AM 🕒 9:22

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

human civilization, early humans, conquest, Iroquois Confederacy, private property, Roman Empire, rapid expansion, democracy downsides, public opinion, education importance, expert governance, public service, profit-driven society, global court, international disputes

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

S Sarah 00:00

All right, everyone ready to go deep today, we're tackling a real head scratcher. How did humans go from like scattered tribes to building entire civilizations? We're talking laws, governments, the whole shebang, the

J John 00:13

whole nine yards. And

S Sarah 00:15

get this. Our guide for this wild ride is the Urantia Book, specifically

J John 00:19

paper 71 which dives into how the state evolved. Now, I

S Sarah 00:24

know, I know this isn't your typical history book. It's got some, well, unique ideas about where it came from, right? But trust me, the ideas themselves are worth exploring, even if the origins are a bit mysterious, exactly, mysterious, okay? So no sugarcoating here. The book doesn't paint a pretty picture of early humans. Basically it says conquest was the name of the game back then.

J John 00:44

Yeah, pretty much said, Forget Peace Prizes. Early humans were all about, well, dominating each other, stronger groups, taking what they wanted, often through force. It's kind of brutal, but that struggle for power that's actually a foundation for how complex societies came to be.

S Sarah 00:59

So it's like the first ingredient in the civilization recipe is conquer your neighbors. Yikes. But here's the thing, the Iroquois Confederacy, they never quite hit full blonde statehood, did they? They didn't, and we all learned about them in school. So what went wrong? What was missing from their recipe?

J John 01:18

The book points to a few things. For one, the Iroquois didn't really have a concept of private property, which, if you look back, most early states were built on, really, yeah. And they also didn't have those big, bustling cities, you know, they kind of act like centers for trade and culture, and even their use of domesticated animals was limited. These might seem like small details, but the book argues they made a huge difference in how the Iroquois developed.

S Sarah 01:43

So it's like missing ingredients through the whole dish off exactly. Okay, so if the Iroquois missed the mark, what about a super successful state like Rome? What did they do? Right?

J John 01:53

Well, the book highlights how the Romans really nailed those key ingredients we were talking about, especially things like family structure. Oh, interesting. Yeah, strong families mastering agriculture and animal domestication, and of course, those famous Roman roads that connected their massive Empire. The book suggests these were all essential to Rome's success,

S Sarah 02:14

okay, but even Rome eventually crumbled. And here's where it gets really interesting. The book blames Rome's rapid expansion and all the turmoil that came with it for its eventual collapse, right? And doesn't that sound a little too familiar, like grow too fast or change too much, too quickly, and things start to fall apart?

J John 02:32

That is a parallel the book seems to draw. It's almost like a cautionary tale. but the potential

dangers of change that outpaces the society's ability to adapt. Hmm, makes

S

Sarah 02:42

you think, right? Even well intentioned changes, if they happen too fast or too broadly, can backfire.

J

John 02:50

It's true. And that takes us to the big question, if even mighty empires like Rome had an expiration date, how do we build something more lasting?

S

Sarah 02:58

So that brings us to, well, what most people think is the magic solution, democracy, right? Give everyone a voice Power to the People. Problem solved?

J

John 03:06

Well, not so fast. This is actually where the Urantia Book throws a bit of a wrench in the works. It's got some pretty direct warnings about, well, the downsides of democracy.

S

Sarah 03:14

Oh, now you've got my attention. This is where things get interesting. Most folks think democracy is like the end all be all of good government. So tell me more about these downsides. Well,

J

John 03:26

the book makes this point that just because everyone gets an equal say doesn't mean those voices are, you know, equally informed or wise? Yeah, that makes sense. It even uses this phrase, it's a bit blunt. Calls it the glorification of mediocrity. Ouch, right? Like sometimes appealing to the masses can actually drown out the voices of expertise and reason the people who really know what they're talking about.

S

Sarah 03:48

It's like, just because something's popular doesn't mean it's the best way to go, exactly.

J

John 03:52

And the book goes even further. It highlights how public opinion can be really powerful, sure, but also super slow to change, and it can be really vulnerable to manipulation. Okay,

S

Sarah 04:03

yeah. Think about it. How many times do people vote based on, like, actual logic and facts versus, I don't know, a catchy slogan or a gut feeling? It's kind of scary.

J

John 04:14

It is. The book definitely seems to be saying, hey, democracy, it's fragile. Handle with care. So

S

Sarah 04:19

what's the answer? Then, how do we make sure this whole democracy thing doesn't, you know, completely go off the rails? The

J

John 04:24

key, according to the Urantia Book, is education. And I don't just mean like knowing your history dates. It's about having a population that's well informed, capable of making rational decisions, not just reacting to, you know, the loudest voice in the room.

S

Sarah 04:37

So it's about thinking for yourself, being critical, not just following the crowd, right?

J

John 04:42

It even uses this great phrase, ballots over bullets, like it's advocating for peaceful, gradual change through understanding and knowledge. Okay, so

S

Sarah 04:51

knowledge is power. Speaking of knowledge, the Urantia Book lays out these 10 steps for like building a. Really solid government. Some of them seem pretty straightforward, like freedom of speech, protecting private property. Those seem like no brainers, but then it gets into some really specific, almost kind of radical ideas. It

J

John 05:13

definitely does. Like it doesn't just say government representatives need to be qualified. It

definitely does, like it doesn't just say government representatives need to be qualified. It practically calls for a system where leaders are chosen based on their specific expertise in the areas they're governing. So

S

Sarah 05:24

instead of career politicians, we'd have like, expert panels calling the shots

J

John 05:28

in a way, yeah, it's like saying we wouldn't let just anyone perform brain surgery. So why should running a country be any different? Okay,

S

Sarah 05:35

yeah, I can see how that could get a bit controversial. What else in those 10 steps might ruffle some feathers. Well,

J

John 05:41

it puts a huge emphasis on actual public service, and I don't mean just saying the right things, but a real, genuine dedication to governing for the benefit of everyone, not just for personal gain or power. You

S

Sarah 05:54

mean like politicians should actually be lining up for the job because they're genuinely passionate about helping people not because they're after a bigger paycheck or a fancy title.

J

John 06:02

Exactly. It's about totally changing the way we think about public office. Like the book paints this picture of a society where being chosen to govern is the highest honor, a chance to use your talent for the greater good, something people would actually strive for. So

S

Sarah 06:17

let me get this straight. We're talking about a world where folks are practically fighting to run for office like it's the newest iPhone or something. Sign me up. But seriously, are we really picturing a society where everyone's suddenly chasing wisdom and the greater good instead of, you know, a bigger piece of the pie? Because that's where things start sounding a little too good to be true. You know, it's



John 06:40

definitely a different picture than we're used to, and the Urantia Book doesn't shy away from that. It acknowledges that even in this more well idealized state, Human Nature doesn't just disappear, right? Because,



Sarah 06:52

even if everybody suddenly turned into philosophers overnight, wouldn't we still run into the same problems like competition for resources, disagreements on how things should run, just you know, the usual human drama Exactly.



John 07:03

The book isn't suggesting conflict magically disappears. It recognizes that even in an advanced civilization, you'd still need ways to handle disagreements, systems to protect against threats, both internal and external. Okay,



Sarah 07:17

so it's not about pretending conflict doesn't exist, but maybe finding better ways to deal with it. Speaking of different approaches, the book seems to have some strong opinions on Well, profit as the main driving force in society, right?



John 07:29

Absolutely. The Urantia Book is pretty clear. In this ideal state, a purely profit driven system just wouldn't cut it. It challenges the idea of material wealth being the ultimate goal.



Sarah 07:42

So instead of just chasing profits, it's about what contributing to the community through innovation, service, that sort of thing. I mean, could that actually work? What would motivate people if it wasn't about bigger paychecks or fancier gadgets? That's the million



John 07:54

dollar question, right? What the Urantia Book points to is a society where wisdom, service to others, even spiritual growth become driving forces where fulfillment comes from contributing to something bigger than yourself. Whoa, okay,



Sarah 08:07

 Sarah 08:07

now I gotta ask, imagine a world where education and innovation weren't all about like the bottom line, but about solving global problems, where cooperation actually trumped cutthroat competition. What would that even look like?

 John 08:21

It's a whole different paradigm. It really is, and the book suggests that it's not just a pipe dream. It envisions a future where international disputes are settled, not through war, but through get this, a global court system, a world united by a common language, where communication and understanding could flow freely across borders.

 Sarah 08:40

I'll admit it's hard to picture sometimes, but think about it. What if we measured success, not just by like how much money you're making, but by things like well being, sustainability, how we treat each other? The book seems to be saying those things are possible, but it would take a huge e shift in our values and our priorities. It's a future that might seem a long way off, maybe even impossible sometimes, but if the Urantia books write, it's a future we're already moving towards, however slowly. So here's something to ponder. What role do we each play and build in that future? What small choices can we make today that you know reflect those higher ideals, wisdom, service a greater good? That's something I'll be thinking about, and I hope you will, too, until next time, happy diving. You.