

Part 3, Paper 72, Government on a Neighboring, Melchizedek

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Urantia Book, alien society, government structure, three branches, council of elders, family laws, parental education, practical skills, worker ownership, legal compensation, Old Age Insurance, crime rehabilitation, military roles, resource management, universal truths

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah



John 00:00

All right, everybody, buckle up, because today we're taking a deep dive into the Urantia Book. Yeah, this is the one you guys sent in, a document that claims to describe a society. Get this on another planet. And



Sarah 00:12

this isn't just some sci fi story about aliens. This is like anthropology from another galaxy. This document dives deep into the nitty gritty, their government, their economic system, even their laws. It's wild, right?



John 00:24

I mean, a whole other planet's government. That's what hooked me, too. But what really got me was how oddly familiar it felt. So they start by describing this nation on a continent it's about the size of Australia, apparently. And



Sarah 00:37

get this technologically way ahead of us, at least in some areas. I mean, they've nailed self sufficiency. Their inventions are light years ahead, and their average lifespan 90 years. But there's a catch, they're surrounded by all these other nations, less advanced and a lot more, let's say, hostile, isolated, yeah,





John 00:54

like an island of progress, you know, surrounded by, well, you get it makes you think, doesn't it?



Sarah 00:59

It does. It does like is that just the price of progress, this constant tension between moving forward and staying safe, and speaking of moving forward, can we talk about this government? It's a representative system, sure, but with a twist,



John 01:13

three branches, like many democratic systems, but here's the kicker, their legislative branch, it's split into three houses,



Sarah 01:21

three. Okay, now that's just showing off. Go on. Break it down for us, all right. So



John 01:25

the upper house, that's your workers, organized by industry, pretty standard. Then you've got the lower house, and this is where it gets interesting. The lower house represents all these different social and philosophical groups, think, political parties, but like next level. And then we have the elders. The elders, like a council of elders. That sounds a little, I don't know, mystical for a government, doesn't it? Well,



Sarah 01:49

think of them as the voice of experience. You know, this third house, it's made up of these seasoned citizens appointed for life and the selection criteria, experience and wisdom. That's it. They're the advisors, the steady hand on the tiller of the state. Can you imagine the debates in that chamber? Honestly,



John 02:06

it sounds kind of intimidating, like way too efficient for my liking. But this focus on wisdom, on experience, it seems to be everywhere, right? Yeah. Like, look their views on family and education, total curveball. Family



Sarah 02:18

is everything to them. Like they have actual laws against multiple families living together and

get this mandatory parental education you have to prove you're ready to be a parent. Wow. Talk about pressure. And then there's the religion, or should I say, lack of it, no public institutions, none spirituality. That's a family affair, private.

J John 02:40

It's like they looked at our world and said, Hold my drink, right?

S Sarah 02:43

And then there's education. Forget classrooms and standardized tests. We're talking hands on, real world experience from day one. So

J John 02:51

what like apprenticeships, internships? More like a

S Sarah 02:55

complete integration of work and learning. Imagine kids building furniture, growing food, and all the while they're absorbing history, science, culture, everything. Through the lens of their work, they prioritize practical skills above all else. By the time they hit 18 skilled artisans, every single one skilled

J John 03:14

artisans. I was barely a skilled eater at 18.

S Sarah 03:16

That's fair, but you see the theme, right? Practicality, that's their thing, which of course, leads us to their economic system. That's where it gets really interesting. Oh, I bet hit me. So imagine this capitalism and socialism, but like blended, they've blurred the lines, you know, and at the core of it all worker ownership. They encourage, actually, they incentivize, workers to become shareholders in the companies they work for. So

J John 03:39

everyone's a part owner. That's a bold move. I mean, it has to solve some problems, right? Like, what about labor disputes gone

—

S

Sarah 03:44

well, almost violence of any kind is totally outlawed as a way to settle disagreements, including, and this is key in the workplace, no more strikes, no more drawn out negotiations. It's all about finding common ground, making sure everyone benefits from economic growth.

J

John 04:00

Okay, that sounds idyllic at all. But how do you even manage wages and profits and, you know, keep things fair when it's all about harmony? Is there some kind of central authority calling the shots?

S

Sarah 04:11

Not exactly a central authority, more like specialized courts, industrial courts, they call them. And these courts, they don't just settle disputes. They determine what they call legal compensation for everyone. Okay,

J

John 04:24

now you're speaking a different language, legal compensation. What's that even mean?

S

Sarah 04:28

So instead of just leaving wages up to the market or, you know, whatever the boss feels like paying these courts, they take a broader view. They look at the value that labor brings, yeah, but also skill the capital invested the whole picture, and then they try to find that balance where everyone gets a fair cut for their contribution. So

J

John 04:47

it's like built in profit sharing, but for the entire society,

S

Sarah 04:51

exactly. It's all about making sure everyone benefits from economic growth.

J

John 04:54

That makes sense. But I gotta ask, what about those who can't work, or the elderly? Is. There any kind of safety net? Absolutely,

S

Sarah 05:01

in fact, they have this incredibly robust Old Age Insurance System, and it's all built on this idea of shared responsibility, shared benefit. You contribute, you benefit. So

J

John 05:13

like a universal pension fund, you

S

Sarah 05:14

could say that, but think bigger, way bigger. See, a chunk of everyone's income, and go straight into the central pension fund.

J

John 05:22

Okay, so far so good. What's the bigger part? Well,

S

Sarah 05:24

they also take a big chunk of their revenue from inheritance taxes and get this their natural resources. Hold

J

John 05:30

on, you mean like they're oil, yeah, they're minerals that goes into the pension fund. Yep,

S

Sarah 05:34

the profits. Anyway, they call it a social trust, basically these resources, they belong to everyone, so the profits, they should benefit everyone.

J

John 05:43

That's a pretty radical idea,

S

Sarah 05:45

it is, isn't it? The government manages all these resources, and the money goes back into education, disease prevention, and, of course, those pensions, wow.

J John 05:52

Okay, that's a lot to unpack. I can already hear the debates on that one, but let's be honest. We all knew this was coming. Let's talk Crime and Punishment, because this is where things get. Well, interesting, interesting.

S Sarah 06:06

This is one way to put it. It's definitely a different approach. Like, on the one hand, they're really strict, especially with violent crimes and corruption. We're talking death penalty is still on the

J John 06:17

table. Yeah, I had a feeling that might be the case, but it's not just about punishment,

S Sarah 06:22

right? Oh, no. They're big on rehabilitation, huge emphasis on trying to reform offenders. Okay, that makes sense. They even try to identify potential offenders before they actually commit a crime. What's how? Yeah, it's pretty out there. Apparently, they've identified these behavioral indicators, and if someone ticks enough boxes, they can be sent to these detention colonies.

J John 06:43

Wow, that's, I don't even know that's a lot of power, and how accurate is it really? Right?

S Sarah 06:47

Talk about ethical dilemmas, but speaking of complex issues, let's talk about their military. Because here's another head scratcher. They've got a powerful military, but they haven't actually fought a war in over a century, a century. So what do they do with this military the whole time? They're all about that peace through strength thing. But here's the kicker, during peacetime, they're military personnel. They pull civilian duty, infrastructure projects, disaster relief, you name it.

J John 07:16

Interesting. So the military isn't just a fighting force. It's like a, I don't know, a multi purpose tool for societal good.

S Sarah 07:23

Exactly. It's all about service in every sense of the word. I like it, but

 John 07:28

it does make you wonder, what about their neighbors, the less developed ones? I mean, yeah, do they ever share their tech, their knowledge, or do they just, I don't know, keep it all to themselves

 Sarah 07:38

that my friend, is the million dollar question, and according to the document, it's a source of constant debate for them. It's like they're wrestling with this fundamental dilemma. Do they reach out, share what they know and risk conflict, maybe even exploitation, or do they maintain their distance, protect what they've built? Tough one, no easy answer. It's

 John 07:58

the classic conundrum, isn't it? The Benevolent superpower versus the what is it? The isolationist utopia? Yeah, it's funny, though, even a society as advanced as this one, they still struggle with the same questions we do. It's a debate we have here too, isn't it, intervention versus isolation? It's like every civilization that gets to a certain point hits this fork in the road.

 Sarah 08:17

Maybe that's a sign of maturity, though, right? Like even recognizing that those are the stakes, that there are no easy answers, makes you think twice about what advanced even means. Yeah,

 John 08:28

no kidding, it's wild. We've just scratched the surface of this document, but think about it. We've covered their government, their economy, the way they think about crime and punishment, education, even their military. And through it all, they're wrestling with these big questions, fairness, sustainability, what they owe to the rest of the world, pretty humbling stuff.

 Sarah 08:49

You know, what gets me is their focus on balance. I mean, they're not just technologically advanced. They've clearly thought about the social impact, the economic side, even the spiritual side of all that advancement. It's like they're trying to make progress on all fronts without leaving anything behind,



John 09:04

right? It's like they figured out how to integrate their tech with their values, something we haven't quite cracked yet. Makes you wonder, maybe that's the real secret, isn't it? Finding that harmony between progress and well, our humanity powerful



Sarah 09:18

idea, and it really gets to the heart of what we're doing here, doesn't it, asking the right questions, because the answers might change over time, sure, but those big questions, they stick around.



John 09:29

So I'm curious, what's your big takeaway from all this? You



Sarah 09:31

know, it's a good reminder that even a society as different as this one, I mean, potentially alien, right? They still bump up against the same things we do, like there are just some universal truths about building a society, dealing with limited resources, trying to figure out justice, finding our place in the universe, humbling, but also kind of inspiring. Don't you think



John 09:52

totally so to everyone listening. If you could ask the society one question, just one what would it be? What could we learn from their. Experiences, their wins, even their losses. Because really, isn't that how we grow by exploring these possibilities, asking these questions together, and



Sarah 10:09

who knows, maybe somewhere out there, someone's asking those same questions about us? That's



John 10:14

a thought. And on that note, we'll wrap up this deep dive until next time. Keep exploring, keep asking those big questions and keep those fascinating sources coming. You never know what we might uncover.