

March 23, 1983

RE: Dustcover of The URANTIA Book

Dear Mo,

First of all, let me congratulate you on an impressive and insightful approach to the problem/opportunity of the dustcover. The format and content is of a very high quality; you are to be commended.

As per your request, I have reviewed the contents of your Draft #5 and would like to make the following comments:

On a technical level, the dustcover gives us a perfect opportunity to standardize the referencing system to The URANTIA Book. I would recommend that you use a format like p.234:5 rather than 234-5. The latter is confusing as it might mean pages 234 through 235. Also, we must determine whether to count a partial paragraph as 0 (as does Randy Moser) or as 1 (as the Brotherhood seems to prefer). In the following suggestions, I have used the Brotherhood system but have not re-checked any references which you had already used (except the 1127 one in #1 (should be p. 27:1)).

Also suggest of p 383: 3 for cover (just)

On the level of content, I would like to suggest the following further options to your suggested answers to the twelve questions (which, by the way, were very well chosen):

1. Does God exist?

"The Universal Father is the God of all creation, the First Source and Center of all things and beings. First think of God as a creator, then as a controller, and lastly as an infinite upholder." (p.21:1) But "[t]he existence of God can never be proved by the pure reason of logical deduction. God can be realized only in the realms of human experience;..." (p.24:3) "The God of universal love unflinchingly manifests Himself to every one of his creatures up to the fullness of that creature's capacity to spiritually grasp the qualities of divine truth, beauty and goodness." (p.27:1) "Except for God, there would be no such thing as reality." (p.55:4)

2. Is there life after death?

Yes. Jesus, while on earth, spoke of the "many mansions in the Father's universe." After death, those who have manifested even "the faintest flicker of faith" will be resurrected on the mansion worlds to continue the progressive striving for perfection; the endless career of service to the Infinite God. "The goal of eternity is ahead! The adventure of divinity attainment lies before you! The race for perfection is on! whosoever will may enter, and certain victory will crown the efforts of every human being who will run the race of faith and trust, depending every step of the way on the leading of the indwelling Adfuster and on the guidance of that good spirit of the Universe Son which so freely has been poured out upon all flesh." (p.365:5)

3. Why does God permit evil?

In this universe age, there are two ways of complying with the Universal Father's command to "Be you perfect, even as I am perfect": by being created in perfection; and by climbing from imperfection, by the exercise of free-will, up the rungs of the ladder of growth and progress, to perfection. Human beings must achieve perfection by the second technique. Free-will in imperfect beings makes evil possible, and those highest human values of courage, altruism, hope, faith, love of truth, idealism, loyalty, unselfishness, and even happiness, can grow only in an environment of adversity where the choosing between good and evil is a reality; not just a postulate.

4. Is there a conflict between religion, science, and philosophy?

Science is concerned with things, philosophy with meanings, religion with values. Only when scientists try to prove that values are things, when religionists interpret things as values, and when philosophers confuse meaning for thing or value, do the realms of science, philosophy, and religion appear to conflict. "In reality, true religion cannot become involved in any controversy with science..." (p.2076:7) "True science can have no lasting quarrel with true religion." (p.2078:6)

The URANTIA Book traces the 4-billion year history of this planet, penetrates the structure of energy and matter, and outlines the evolution of the universe. In it you will find that the sciences of physics, astronomy, biology, and geology are consistent with the actuality of the spiritual overcontrol of the Universal Creator of all.

5. What was the purpose of Jesus' life on earth?

Add to the end of your copy: Said Jesus: "God is your Father, and religion—my gospel—is nothing more or less than the believing recognition of the truth that you are his son. And I am here among you in the flesh to make clear both of these ideas in my life and teachings." (p.1590:6)

6. Why is family life important?

"Marriage, with children and consequent family life, is stimulative of the highest potentials in human nature and simultaneously provides the ideal avenue for the expression of these quickened attributes of mortal personality...The home is the natural social arena wherein the ethics of blood brotherhood may be grasped by the growing children. The family is the fundamental unit of fraternity in which parents and children learn those lessons of patience, altruism, tolerance, and forbearance which are so essential to the realization of brotherhood among all men." (p.941:6) "While religious, social, and educational institutions are all essential to the survival of cultural civilization, the family is the master civilizer. A child learns most of the essentials of life from his family and the neighbors." (p.913:2)

7. Is there intelligent life in the universe?

"The myriads of planetary systems were all made to be eventually inhabited by many different types of intelligent creatures, beings who could know God, receive the divine affection, and love him in return." (p.21:2) We are not alone° We live in a vast and far-flung universe filled with numerous orders of intelligent and friendly beings.....to your copy...

8. Where is God?

Excellent as written. (Except that the word "within" in the second sentence is in an awkward position. Would recommend either rearranging the sentence or simply dropping the word.)

9. Does God hear and answer prayers?

Our Heavenly Father hears our prayers, but in his divine wisdom, he answers in terms of our true spiritual needs. Words are not important in prayer. God responds only to the sincere attitudes of the mind and soul. "Prayer is not a technique of escape from conflict but rather a stimulus to growth in the very face of conflict. Pray only for values, not things; for growth, not for gratification." (p.1002:6) "Do not be so slothful as to ask God to solve your difficulties, but never hesitate to ask him for wisdom and spiritual strength to guide and sustain you while you yourself resolutely and courageously attack the problems at hand." (p.999:8)

10. Are men and women equal?

Women and men are equal in the sight of God. A planet has not "emerged from barbarism so long as one sex seeks to tyrannize over the other." (p.564:6) There is no preferential sex, race, color, or nation. "God is no respecter of persons..." (p.27:2)

11. Will we meet our friends and loved ones again after death?

All that which has spiritual value will survive death and will be retained as a part of your personal memory. Relationships between personalities have value and will persist.....To your copy....

12. How did life begin on this planet?

555,000,000 years ago, the spiritual powers in liaison with superphysical forces organized and initiated the original life patterns of this world and planted them in the primordial oceans in three locations about the single original continent. Life then evolved from the primitive marine vegetable stage through many intervening steps to the mammalian era when suddenly, through the process of creative evolution, the first two human beings were born from primate parents. "From the year A.D. 1934 back to the birth of the first two human beings is just 993,419 years." (p.707:8)

