

From Fear to Understanding: The Progressive Evolution of Man's Concept of God

Papers 87-92
URANTIA Brotherhood Summer Seminar 1988

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'Evolution unerringly achieves its end: It imbues man with that superstitious fear of the unknown and dread of the unseen which is the scaffolding for the God Concept.'

The URANTIA Book, p.990

I. The God concept is a blend of synthesized beliefs of revelation and the products of evolution, it is a blend of

- 1. The pre-existent ideas of the evolutionary cults.**
- 2. The sublime ideas of the revealed religion.**
- 3. The personal viewpoints of the great religious leaders, the prophets and teachers of mankind. p.1008**

II. The pre-existent ideas of the evolutionary cults; papers 87-92

- 1. The Nature of Evolutionary Religion p. 1005**
- 2. Strands of Evolution**
 - a. Man's Concept of God**
 - b. Man's Relationship to God (means of gaining access or control)**
 - c. The Cult or Symbolism of the Time Period**
 - d. The Social Customs of the Time**
 - e. The Personal Capacity of Man**

III. The Sublime Ideals of Revealed Religion; papers 91-92

1. The Gift of Revelation p. 1007

2. The Content of Revelation

IV. The Personal Viewpoints of the Great Religious Leaders, the Prophets and Teachers of Mankind; paper 92

1. The Great Religious Leaders p. 1008

V. The Further Evolution of Religion; paper 92

1. Future p. 1012-1013

Task

Papers 87-92 contain an historical account of the evolution of religion and God concept. In addition they contain a "revelatory" expansion of key misperceptions that have resulted from the evolutionary process. The URANTIA Book states that "The true perspective of any reality problem -- human or divine, terrestrial or cosmic -- can be had only by the full and unprejudiced study and correlation of three phases of universe reality: origin, history and destiny. The proper understanding of these three experiential realities affords the basis for a wise estimate of the current status." p.215. In line with this statement, it seems important that we read these papers with a perspective of where we have been as important component of where we are now and where we are going. Please read the assigned pages and answer the following questions when applicable.

1. How has evolution affected the current state of our world? What artifacts from the past remain today?
2. What needs to be changed in order to move toward a "revelatory" concept of God and true religion for mankind?