

Nov. 10, 1958

Rev. Robert E. Chiles
Concord Methodist Church
9539 North Main Street
Dayton 15, Ohio

Dear Rev. Chiles:

Thank you for your letter and comments on the Urantia Book. In answer to your request for my response to these remarks, I would say that your opinions are apparently based largely on misinformation. In your two page analysis I find the following accurate statements about the Urantia Book: "which purport to be direct revelation...Urantia pleads (?) for openminded, tolerant investigation...In its scheme of development Urantia treats the Adamic story and period as relating to a actual history...Treating great figures in the pre-Christian Era...For Urantia man is finite..." There is another partially correct statement about the Urantia Book. It does not discuss many of the philosophies of the past such as Gnosticism but it in many places warns against the errors which Gnosticism made.

I can understand how it was possible for you to get the various misconceptions regarding the point of view of the Urantia Book by the hop, skip, and jump method you used. From your comments, it would appear that you have little or no grasp of "Urantia theology" for factual information about the book. It is possible by selecting certain portions out of their context of the total picture of the book and get such a series of mistaken concepts which you present - but actually they have come mostly from your own mind.

I'm not saying that I disagree with your theological point of view - my guess is that I would pretty closely agree with it. But I'm simply saying that you are commenting on a lot of misinformation - pretty much as I would comment on such misinformation.

We have a group of pastors who have been studying this book critically for several years. About a month ago we met with one of the best New Testament scholars in the nation to discuss the Urantia Book. Although he had read only part of the Life of Jesus and the sections dealing with O.T. literature, he said he was much impressed and that whoever wrote it had the finest theological insights of modern scholarship.

Regardless of who wrote the Urantia Book, so far as we have been able to determine it contains the finest theological insights and the most comprehensive and relevant world view of religion, yet distinctively Christian, that we have been able to find.

Am not interested in defending the Urantia Book. It stands on its own validity or ~~lack-of-it~~. it does not stand. Would simply say, on the basis of your remarks, you have very little accurate information of what the Urantia Book claims. My guess is that you have only begun to hear about the Urantia Book. Even when people understand its true message, it will be a controversial book.

Best wishes to you.

Sincerely yours,

Meredith J. Sprunger