

# *The Urantia Book* and Our Christian Heritage



Rarely does one find a book on theology or religion which has the potential of changing the conceptual patterns of our culture. Over thirty years ago a small group of United Church of Christ ministers discovered a stimulating volume entitled *The Urantia Book*, published by URANTIA® Foundation in 1955.

Since that time many other clergymen and tens of thousands of laypersons have become interested in this unusual book. The overwhelming consensus is that it will receive universal recognition. This challenging book is a fascinating document for personal spiritual growth and intellectual development. It may well become the most important source of information revitalizing the church and restructuring theology since the Reformation.

The growing number of ministers and religious leaders discovering the book are surprised that a publication of this spiritual quality and potential has remained virtually unknown for over thirty years. A partial answer is because the publishers have not promoted it. They believe the low key process of person to person communication is the wise method of acquainting people with the book. In addition, there are three major factors which have discouraged clergy and other Christian leaders from giving it a serious reading:

1. It comes from a source which is not known and trusted by religious and theological groups.
2. It is a large book (2,097 pages) and some sections are not easy to comprehend.
3. It claims to be a new revelation and understandably causes suspicion, if not fear or hostility.

We have, hopefully, left those days when claim or authority are accepted as a criterion of truth. Revelatory authenticity is a secondary consideration. The primary challenge posed by *The Urantia Book* is pragmatic. Does it have something creative and constructive to contribute to our modern philosophic-religious outlook? Evaluated on the basis of spiritual insight, philosophical coherence, and reality-centeredness, it presents, in the judgment of thousands of people who have critically examined it, the finest world view of religion available to contemporary society.

*The Urantia Book* like any other book on religion, should be read critically but with an open, spirit-guided mind. It is not, and should not be seen as, a challenge to the canonical literature of the church. Canonical

literature, including the Bible, is the result of divine initiative and guidance, attested to by centuries of witness and wisdom in the church. *The Urantia Book*, like other contemporary literature, can only serve as an adjunct to the scriptural sources of faith in the church. You will find that it supports an enlightened Biblical approach to religion. Most people have a greater appreciation of the Bible as a result of reading *The Urantia Book*. Although individuals may determine the personal value of the book in a relatively short time, its worth and place in the church can only be determined by generations, if not centuries, of experience.

### An Integrated Universe

*The Urantia Book* presents an integrated view of the universe. It combines the best traditional concepts of God with the most meaningful present day concepts (Tillich, Teilhard de Chardin, Whitehead) into a uniquely coherent system. A hierarchical, insightfully structured universe, teeming with millions of inhabited planets, is projected and paralleled by a similar spiritual cosmology. The book presents a superior understanding of our planetary history, dynamics, and destiny. Evolution functions as the key physical and spiritual modus operandi of the universe. The mechanisms of the physical universe are integrated with the purposes of mind and spirit overcontrol. *The Urantia Book* presents insightful and concise summaries of the development of religion and the growth of civilization. The authors' penetrating analysis of religion, culture, and the family is of exceptional quality.

The last section of *The Urantia Book* contains an extended version of the life and teachings of Jesus. This inspiring presentation of the mission of Jesus brings new life and authenticity to the New Testament story. Its teachings are basically acceptable to all religions. They emphasize the religion of Jesus which is unifying rather than the religion about Jesus which tends to be divisive. The central challenge of mortal existence is to make a balanced effort to achieve God-consciousness. Growth toward perfection (God) is seen as the

fundamental motivation of life. This growth is evolutionary, culminating, and virtually endless.

### A Resource not an Imperative

Although the message of *The Urantia Book* is solidly rooted in the perennial philosophy and religious experience of the past, it does present an enlarged view of the universe and God. Religious institutions usually find expanded knowledge and insight difficult to assimilate. Light can blind as well as guide. Truth, when presented prematurely, brings frustration and rejection. *The Urantia Book*, therefore, may be disturbing to some people even though it is supportive and positive toward all people and all human efforts in the search for truth and spiritual understanding.

*The Urantia Book* is one of the most significant sources of spiritual guidance to contemporary society. But it is not an end in itself, nor a necessary means to spiritual enlightenment. Its potentials for stimulating individual and social growth, however, are so great it should be highly recommended to all those interested in the creative possibilities of a spiritual renaissance. Its message is balanced and profound. Its approach is open and benign. There are no threats or coercions to "believe." It seeks to work in and through the evolutionary process and within the social institutions of our world.

The authors of *The Urantia Book* seek to stimulate the spiritual regeneration and evolutionary advancement of all people. They affirm that the kingdom of God is an invisible spiritual family destined to become a living organism transcending social institutions. Contemporary religious institutions can and will serve as an adequate source of religious ministration for our society. *The Urantia Book* supports, encourages, and strengthens all religious institutions in fulfilling their unique ministry to the spiritual needs of humankind. The Christian Fellowship of Students of *The Urantia Book* was organized to promote the study of *The Urantia Book* among Christian leaders and laypersons. We believe the revitalization and expansion of living faith in the church will stimulate a spiritual renaissance in our

society. Therefore, we would urge you to make a critical study of this inspiring and enlightening book. We are happy to assist you in any way we can in discovering this enlarged spiritual message which has great potential for the future of religion on our world.

### **Why Study *The Urantia Book*?**

There are three basic reasons for ministers and Christian leaders to take the time and effort to read *The Urantia Book*:

1. The book is being discovered by thousands of people at an increasing rate. You may find it helpful to have a working knowledge of its message.

2. In the judgment of many ministers and Christian leaders, the book contains the greatest stimulus to spiritual growth in contemporary literature. You may wish to examine the basis for this opinion.

3. You may be a searcher for philosophical and religious truth. If so, you are aware of the limitations of our historical philosophic-religious resources. You will find *The Urantia Book* one of the most enlightening sources of spiritual truth you have ever read.

Hopefully, these reasons will motivate you to read this seminal book. But as a person there is an even more important reason to read it. Through its pages you will discover new aspects of reality and deeper insights into living spiritual truth which will enhance your work and daily living. *The Urantia Book* has a wealth of resource information and insight which contribute to the solution of problems in our complex society. It presents the highest principles of judicious thinking and healthful living. Its message emphasizes balance and maturity while teaching respect for established traditions, laws, and usages. The spiritual universe is so realistically and authentically portrayed, it can be instrumental in elevating your life to a new level of spiritual effectiveness.

.....

For study group and reader services contact:

P. O. Box 148068  
Chicago, IL 60614-8068  
Phone (312) 327-0424

For literature related to *The Urantia Book* or for additional copies of this brochure, please contact:

### **The Jesusonian® Foundation**

1790 30th Street  
Boulder, CO 80301  
Phone (303) 447-2418  
Fax (303) 447-1271

© 1989 The Jesusonian® Foundation. All rights reserved.

The Jesusonian® Foundation is a non-denominational, non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to spreading the supernal teachings of Jesus found in *The Urantia Book*.

### **About Dr. Meredith J. Sprunger**

Dr. Meredith J. Sprunger, a retired minister in the United Church of Christ, served congregations in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Dr. Sprunger was President of Indiana Institute of Technology. During his tenure, he served as a professor, head of the Department of Psychology and chairman of the Division of Liberal Arts. He also taught at Elmhurst College in the Psychology Department.

Dr. Sprunger has been president of the former URANTIA® Brotherhood, chairman of the Education and Fraternal Relations Committees and a Field Representative. Today, Meredith is the Executive Director of Ministry of the Jesusonian Foundation while serving on the Board of Directors. He also founded and directs The Christian Fellowship of Students of *The Urantia Book*.