



The Urantia Book **A Bold New Spiritual Vision**

An Introduction to *The Urantia Book*

You are not alone, says *The Urantia Book*. The universe is literally teeming with inhabited planets, celestial spheres, and spirit personalities.

We are not here by accident. The human race was created in accordance with a divine plan, and for specific divine purposes. Every human being is, in some way, implementing the divine plan.

We live in a friendly and accommodating universe. We are a part of a vast educational plan whereby God is perfecting us for enhanced and exhilarating service. The gigantic university of time-space experience is preparing us for the adventure of eternity.

God is a loving and caring personality; He relates with every human being as a loving Heavenly Father. Our potential closeness to and fellowship with God is limitless. Our willingness and ability to open our inner life to his guidance and

unconditional love determines the depth of our relationship with Him. All who are willing may become faith-sons and faith-daughters of God and start immediately sharing His presence.

Our little planet Earth (Urantia) has undergone many trials but is uniquely blessed by Christ's bestowal ministry. We have experienced biological tribulations and administrative maladjustments. Our planet has been spiritually handicapped by the Lucifer rebellion and the default of Adam and Eve. However, out of these tragic experiences, our world has gained an unparalleled opportunity for the demonstration of God's grace and saving power. Urantia is now poised on the "very brink of one of its most amazing and enthralling epochs of social readjustment, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment" (2082:35-36)

The Urantia Book presents an integrated picture of reality which is unified by science, philosophy, and religion. It presents spiritually insightful answers to ten of the most asked questions, and to many more:

Why is there suffering in the world?

Will there ever be a cure for all diseases?

Why is there evil in the world?

Will there ever be lasting world peace?

Will humans ever love their fellow humans?

When will the world end?

What does the future hold for me and my family?

Is there life after death?

What is heaven like?

How can I become a better person?



The Urantia Book's teachings are a new light in the world.

Contents of *The Urantia Book*

Table of contents

When you first pick up *The Urantia Book*, its 2097 pages can seem overwhelming. A careful reading of the table of contents will give you a broad familiarity to the subjects contained in the Book. Reading the entire table of contents is highly recommended.

Foreword

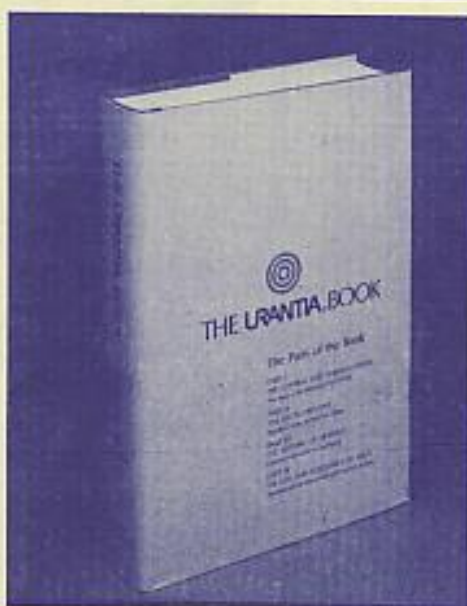
Deity, divinity, and God are defined. Qualities and characteristics of Deity are given and some of the ways in which Deity is perceived are explained.

This short section of *The Urantia Book* is extremely difficult to read. Please, don't be discouraged by it. It is fine to skip the foreword and come back to it after you have read the rest of the Book.

Part I — The Central and Superuniverses

Part I of *The Urantia Book* describes the nature of God and the astronomical-cosmological organization of the universe. The relationship of the Heavenly Father to universe personalities and realities is presented as the key to comprehending all other events and phenomena.

An organized and well-administered universe is described, which includes millions of inhabited planets in all stages of physical, mental and



Over 175,000 *Urantia Books* have already been sold.

spiritual evolution. **By the end of Part I, you will have an understanding of:**

**Who and what is God.
The universe's organization.**

**Who we are.
What happens to us after we die.**

**What Spirit is.
Where matter comes from and why there is life.**

Your world, Urantia, is one of many similar inhabited planets which comprise the local universe of Nebadon. This universe, together with similar creations, makes up the superuniverse of Orvonton... Orvonton is one of the seven evolutionary universes of time and space which circle the never-beginning, never-ending creation of divine perfection—the central universe of Havona. At the

heart of this eternal and central universe is the stationary Isle of Paradise, the geographic center of infinity and the dwelling place of the eternal God. (1:32-39)

This whole section is fairly difficult to read. The essence of it covers eternity, infinity and many other concepts that we barely understand. When reading the Book from cover to cover, don't be discouraged; each part gets successively easier to read.

Part II The Local Universe

Part II of *The Urantia Book* concentrates on our local universe of 10 million inhabitable planets. In this section, we learn a great deal about the personalities and events in our Universe that directly affect our lives, current and future. **Some highlights of what we learn in Part II include:**

Who Jesus was before he lived on earth, where he is now, and why he is the door to eternal life.

Where we go after we die and what that life will be like.

Who and what angels are.

Why faith in God is the only requirement for eternal life.

How the universe is organized astronomically and administratively.

What caused our planet to

be in such chaos.

What life on other planets is like.

What the Lucifer Rebellion is, and who Satan is.

There is in the mind of God a plan which embraces every creature of all his vast domains, and this plan is an eternal purpose of boundless opportunity, unlimited progress, and endless life. And the infinite treasures of such a matchless career are yours for the striving. (365:24-27)

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. (365:28-33)

Part III The history of Urantia

An insightful history of our planet from its origins to the present is related. In addition to our biological evolution, it traces the development of civilization, culture, government, religion, family, and other social institutions. The fascinating story of human tribulation and progress is presented, including a vision of planetary destiny. Some highlights of Part III include:

The origin of our planet.

The story of the first two human beings.

How life started on earth.

Adam and Eve's life.

Evolution of human governments, marriage and family life.



The Urantia Book enhances the best of the world's religious and philosophical literature.

Why there is evil and suffering.

Why personal religion can bring us ultimate happiness.

How the part of God within us works to ensure our survival and growth.

There is a great and glorious purpose in the march of the universes through space. All of your mortal struggle is not in vain. We are all part of an immense plan, a gigantic enterprise, and it is the vastness of the undertaking that renders it impossible to see very much of it at any one time and during any one life. We are all part of an eternal project which the Gods are supervising and outworking. The whole marvelous and universal mechanism moves on majestically through space to the music of the meter of the infinite thought and the eternal purpose of the First Great Source and Center. (364:19-26)

Part III is light and easy to read.

Part IV The Life and Teachings of Jesus

Part IV is also very easy to read—seven hundred fascinating pages of the superb story of the life

and teachings of Jesus. It relates his engaging childhood experiences, events in his heroic struggle to overcome family adversity as a teen-age youth, the travels and adventures through which he gained a thorough knowledge of how life is lived on our world, fascinating vignettes of personal ministry, and thrilling episodes of his public ministry.

This narrative is basically acceptable to all religions, emphasizing the religion of Jesus which is unifying rather than the religion about Jesus. If you love the Jesus portrayed in the *Bible*, you will love him even more after reading Part IV of *The Urantia Book*.

Of all human knowledge, that which is of greatest value is to know the religious life of Jesus and how he lived it. (2090:42-44)

The story of Jesus

The *Bible* relates the entire life and teachings of Jesus in less than one hundred and fifty pages. If we consolidated the duplications, there would be less than seventy-five pages. The sayings of Jesus occupy fewer than forty of those pages.

Upon this base of information—together with some letters from Paul—the Christian faith has evolved its understanding of Jesus' life.

People have long desired to know more about Jesus and his teachings. The *Bible* contains such scant information, that there was little hope that scholars alone would provide much more information than what was currently available until *The Urantia Book* came along. Without the new light and meaning that *The Urantia Book* brings to the story of Jesus, most of his life and teachings would be unknown.

Indeed, *The Urantia Book* relates over sixteen times more information about the life and teachings of Jesus than does the *Bible*. It contains the story of his missing years, and the details on incidents reported in only a fragmentary manner in the *Bible*. The Jesus who emerges is more human, more divine, and more magnificent than the one popularly known.

In no other place, is Jesus' reasons for coming to earth as a human being so clearly expressed. Nowhere else is it so lucidly explained how Jesus serves as mediator between God and humanity. Here the word *savior* takes on a new and broader meaning.

The Search for Truth

Every religion contains some *truth* in its teachings and each can facilitate the individual's quest for God. It may well be that some religions contain more truth than others do. Yet no religion has all the truth, nor any monopoly on any part of truth. The sincere search for truth always leads to God; for without God there is no truth.

The Urantia Book presents new information and insights for consideration in our individual quest for truth. It has inspired some to search for God and has been instrumental in bringing others closer to God. Since its publication in 1955, the book, without organized promotion, has attracted tens of thousands of readers. It has proven to be one of the most promising sources of creative thought in philosophy and religion for our contemporary world.

Although the Urantia papers have been in existence for more than fifty years, no formal religion has yet sprung from their teachings. The spiritual insights of the book are used by teachers, ministers, and lay persons of many faiths to enrich the highest values in their own traditions.

Those who read *The Urantia Book* with an open mind, will find their quest for truth enhanced, no matter what their religious traditions may be.

Origin and Source

The Urantia Book is an anthology of 196 *papers* written between 1928 and 1935 by superhuman personalities. The technique by which the papers were communicated is unknown to any living person.

Like all other *inspired* writings, the contents should not be evaluated by relying on claims of authorship or authority, but rather upon the "fruits of the spirit" which they produce. The book should be treated by any new reader as a fascinating piece of religious fiction and philosophy until its spiritual quality authenticates its message in one's soul.

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