

March 17, 1988

Barrie Bedell
P. O. Box 30571
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Dear Barrie:

Oh no! Not another editorial job from Mo. When will this ever end?

Once again, I find myself pleading upon your kindness to help edit our introductory brochure to *The Urantia Book*. It is hardly fair to ask you to do the work, especially since you have not seen the fruits of your last efforts *Life After Death*. Please don't be dismayed. The *Life After Death* magazine is at the printers and will be in your hands soon. I think you will find it worthy of your efforts.

This short introduction to *The Urantia Book* is very important. We are doing shows across the country and the introductory brochure is picked up by most people. You have already edited the previous version and this is my editing of your editing. Once we have edited this brochure, it will be turned over to our art director and transformed into beautiful four-color printing. I look forward to your help as soon as possible. We have numerous shows in April and May and we would like to get this printed before then.

Once again, thank you so much for your kindness. I do believe you will feel slightly rewarded when you see the completed *Life After Death* effort. With lots of love.

Your friend,

Mo Siegel, President

MS/pd
Enclosures



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

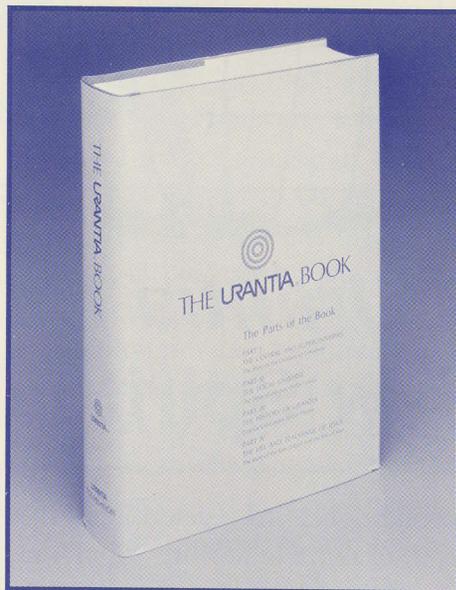
Deity, divinity, and God are defined. Qualities and characteristics of Deity are given and some of the ways in which Deity is perceived are explained.

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

An Introduction to *The Urantia Book*

The Urantia Book — A New Spiritual Vision

We are not alone, says *The Urantia Book*. The universe is teeming with inhabited planets, heavenly worlds, and spirit personalities.

We are not here by accident. The human race was created by divine intelligence and for divine purposes.

We live in a friendly and orderly universe. We are part of a plan whereby God is perfecting us for enhanced and exhilarating service. Our life on earth is preparing us for the adventure of eternity. "*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)

God is a loving and caring personality; He relates with every human being as a loving Heavenly Father. Our closeness to and fellowship with our Creator Parent is limited only by our willingness to open our inner life to his guidance and unconditional love. All who are willing may be faith born children of the Heavenly Father and share His presence.

The Search for Truth

Every religion contains some **truth** in its teachings and can facilitate the individual's quest for God. Yet no religion or age has all the truth, nor a monopoly on any part of it. Today, civilization is changing. We are on the edge of a transformation in the way we feel and think. There is a pervasive hunger for new meanings and values that will work in our complex world. "*Urantia...[Earth] is now quivering on the very brink of one of its most amazing and enthralling epoches of social readjustment, moral quickening, and spiritual enlightenment.*" (2082:35-36)

For the searching soul, *The Urantia Book* is a treasury of spiritual truth and intellectual insights. Within its masterfully written 2097 pages is an integrated picture of life unified by science, philosophy, and religion. Its teachings are rooted in the best of classical religion while realistically dealing with contemporary and future needs. It presents spiritually insightful answers to life most perplexing questions.

- Why is there suffering and evil in the world?
- Will there be a cure for diseases?
- How can there be lasting world peace?
- Will humans ever love their fellow humans?
- Is there intelligent life on other planets and what is it like?
- What does the future hold for me and my family?
- Is there life after death?
- What is heaven like?
- How can I become a happier, better, and more loving person?
- Who is Jesus? Where is he now? When will he come again? What did he teach?

Contents

The Urantia Book is 2097 pages long. It is divided into four major parts, each part being subdivided into papers (chapters). There are 196 papers in all.

When you first pick up *The Urantia Book*, it may seem overwhelming. An initial reading of the Table of Contents is highly recommended. This will give you a comfortable familiarity with its diverse teachings.

Forward

The Forward defines words and concepts such as God, energy, personality, Divinity, Paradise, reality, spirit, mind, and the Trinity.

This 17 page section of *The Urantia Book* can be intimidatingly difficult to read. Please don't be discouraged by it. You may choose to read the Forward after reading the rest of the book.

Part II— The Local Universe

Part I — The Central and Superuniverses

Part I of *The Urantia Book* is 334 pages long. This section describes the nature of God and the organization of the universe. The first five papers explain about the Heavenly Father and His relationship with all other personalities and realities. Knowledge about God is the beginning of all understanding. *"The Universal Father has an eternal purpose pertaining to the material, intellectual, and spiritual phenomena of the universe of universes...God created the universes of his own free and sovereign will, and he created them in accordance with his all-wise and eternal purpose."* (54:1-5)

The Urantia Book says we are part of a well administered universe. We are one of millions of inhabited planets in all stages of physical, mental, and spiritual evolution. *"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. The universe of universes is the work of God and the dwelling place of his diverse creatures."* (21:11-14)

By the end of Part I, you will have an overview of:

- Who and what is God•The organization of the universe• Where matter comes from and why there is life• Who we are• What happens to us after we die
- What spirit is• Who inhabits the heavens

This section is fairly difficult to read. It covers eternity, infinity, and other concepts that we barely understand. When reading the book from cover to cover, you will discover each part is successively easier to read.

Part II— The Local Universe

Part II contains 292 pages and 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 local space region that directly affect our lives, current and future. Some highlights of Part II include:

- Why faith in God is the only requirement to be granted eternal life• Where we go after we die and what life will be like immediately upon resurrection• Who Jesus was before he lived on earth, where he is now, and why he is the door to eternal life• Meeting loved ones and friends in the hereafter• How the universe is astronomically and administratively organized• Who and what angels are• What the Lucifer Rebellion was, and who Satan is• What life on a normal inhabited planet is like• What caused our planet to be in such chaos• What the relationship should be like between the individual and the rest of the universe creation.

"There is a great and glorious purpose in the march of the universes through space. All of your mortal struggling is not in vain. We are part of an immortal 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 one life." (364:18-21) 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." (365:28-3)

Part IV—The Life and Teachings of Jesus

Part III—The History of Urantia

Part III is 669 pages of intriguing and fast moving history. This section details the unfolding of planetary life since earth's formation over four and one half billion years ago. *"The story of mans ascent from seaweed to the lordship of earthly creation is indeed a romance of biologic struggle and mind survival."* (731:34-35)

"The long, long forward struggle of the human species from a status that was little better than an animal existence, through the intervening ages, and down to the later times when a real, though imperfect, civilization has evolved..." (763:1-4) is reported in detail. In addition to tracing our physical evolution, we learn about the development of civilization, industry, culture, religion, and family life. This fascinating story of human tribulation and progress includes a vision of personal and planetary destiny. Some highlights of Part III include:

- The scientific origin of our planet• The ages of fishes, birds, and dinosaurs
- Why and how human life started• The story of the first two humans• The triumphs and tragedies of Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses, Lao-tse, Confucius, and Ikhnaton• The stories of great unknown heroes
- The crisis of the Lucifer rebellion and how it collapsed the Mesopotamian civilization• The steps necessary for a successful marriage and family
- The evolution of government and a vision for a better world• How personal religion will bring ultimate happiness• How the part of God within us works to ensure our survival• How to pray and worship

Part IV—The Life and Teachings of Jesus

People have long desired to know more about Jesus because most of his life's biography is unrecorded. *The Urantia Book* tells his entire life's story.

The 775 pages of Part IV is classic literature written in simple twentieth century prose. Reading the stories and teachings of Jesus is so spiritually alive that at times, it feels as though Jesus is literally standing in our presence.

While *The Urantia Book's* teachings of Jesus are generally compatible with *The Bible*, it is also unique, original, and packed with new information and insights. This complete picture of Jesus is basically acceptable to most religions because it emphasises the religion of Jesus and not the religion about Jesus. If you love the Jesus portrayed in *The Bible*, you will love and follow his teachings even more after reading Part IV of *The Urantia Book*.

Jesus was a strong and courageous man. He was a well-balanced personality. His sincerity, warmth, love for people, and devotion to truth is an inspiration for us all. "*His associates called him Master unbidden....and today, as in Galilee...he unifies life, he ennobles character, and simplifies experience. He enters the human mind to elevate, transform, and transfigure it. It is literally true: 'If any man has Christ Jesus within him he is a new creature;...'*" (1103:6-30)

Highlights of Part IV include:

- The missing years of Jesus' life• The premature death of Jesus' father
- Jesus helping to raise his 7 brothers and sisters• His impoverished teen-age years• Rebecca's proposal of marriage to Jesus• His journey to Egypt and Rome• His jobs as carpenter, boat builder, scribe, teacher, and caravan conductor• Healing the sick• Blessing of the little children• Stories of the hundreds of people Jesus personally helped such as the Greek contractor, the Roman judge, the Chinese merchant, the condemned criminal, the Roman senator, and the runaway lad• The dark days preceding the Crucifixion • His resurrection and appearances

Jesus' teachings and discourses include over 65 parables; the Sermon on the Mount; discourse on reality; love; truth and faith; law, liberty, and sovereignty; prayer and worship; self-mastery; evil, sin and iniquity; the purpose of affliction; justice and mercy; understanding of suffering; true religion; science and philosophy; anger; balanced character; material success; self-respect; tact and charm; temptation and human nature; light of the world; spiritual freedom; wealth; the Good Shepherd; angels; divine forgiveness; and the new commandment.

"*One of the most important things in human living is to find out what Jesus believed, to discover his ideals, and to strive for the achievement of his exalted life purpose. Of all human knowledge, that which is of greatest value is to know the religious life of Jesus and how he live it.*" (2090:40-44)

Seven Urantia Book truths:

Origin and Source

1. God is the greatest experience in human existence. All of us can experience
The Urantia Book was written in 1934 and 1935 and published in 1955. According to the Book, it is a religious revelation of major significance. There are no human authors associated with it and the technique whereby the papers were communicated is unknown to any living person. as Jesus loves us.

4. There is an actual part of God that lives within each of us.
Like all other **inspired** writings, the contents should be evaluated by the "fruits of the spirit" which the teachings produce. New readers should treat this book as a fascinating piece of fiction until its spiritual quality confirms its message in one's soul.

7. The most important knowledge in the world is knowing the religious life of Jesus. The most important spiritual practice is living the religion of Jesus.
The Urantia Book is available in libraries and book stores. For information on local *Urantia Book* study groups near your home, other printed literature concerning *The Urantia Book*, or copies of this brochure please write:

Jesusionian® Foundation
1790 30th Street
Boulder, CO 80301
Telephone (303) 447-2418

The Jesusionian® Foundation is an unaffiliated, non-denominational, non-profit organization dedicated to spreading the teachings of *The Urantia Book*

The material used herein from *The Urantia Book* was copyrighted in 1955 by URANTIA® Foundation, all rights reserved. Quotations are used with permission. Any interpretations, opinions, and/or conclusions—whether stated or implied—are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent the views of URANTIA® Foundation or URANTIA® Brotherhood.

Seven Urantia Book truths;

1. God is the greatest experience in human existence. All of us can experience God because we are all children of the Heavenly Father.
2. We will receive eternal life if we have faith and trust in God.
3. Love is the most powerful force in the universe. We are asked to love one another as Jesus loves us.
4. There is an actual part of God that lives within each of us.
5. We live in an orderly, intelligent, and loving universe.
6. Human life has a divine purpose. There is meaning in our planetary history, values in our present situation, and hope for future generations.
7. The most important knowledge in the world is knowing the religious life of Jesus. The most important spiritual practice is living the religion of Jesus.

8

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

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.

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.

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

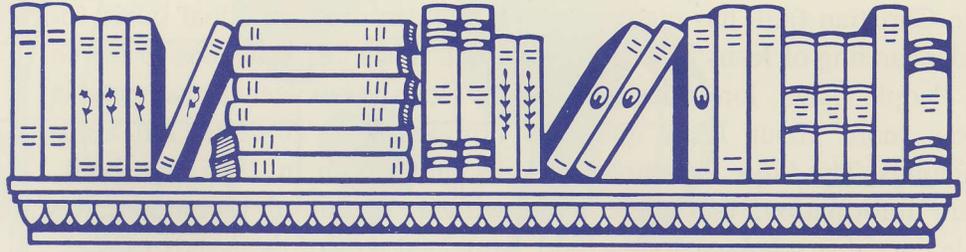
An insightful history of our planet from its origins to the present is related. In addition to our biological evolution, it traces the development of civilization, culture, government, religion, family, and other social institutions. The fascinating story of human tribulation and progress is presented, 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.

The Material used herein from *The Urantia Book* is used by permission. © 1955 Urantia Foundation (all rights reserved).

Seven Urantia Book Truths

1. God is the greatest experience in human existence. **All of us** can experience God because we are **all** children of the heavenly Father.
2. We will receive eternal life if we have faith and trust in God.
3. Love is the most powerful force in the universe. We are asked to love one another as Jesus loves us.
4. There is a part of God that lives within each one of us.
5. We live in an orderly, intelligent, and progressive universe.
6. Human life has a divine purpose. There is meaning in our planetary history, value in our present situation, and hope for future generations.
7. The most important knowledge in the world is knowing the religious life of Jesus. The most important spiritual practice is living the religion of Jesus.

The Urantia Book is available in libraries and book stores.

For information on local *Urantia Book* study groups near your home write: The URANTIA Brotherhood, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL. 60614. For information on study groups, supportive works, world outreach programs, or copies of this brochure please write:

Jessonian Foundation
620 12th Street
Boulder CO, 80302