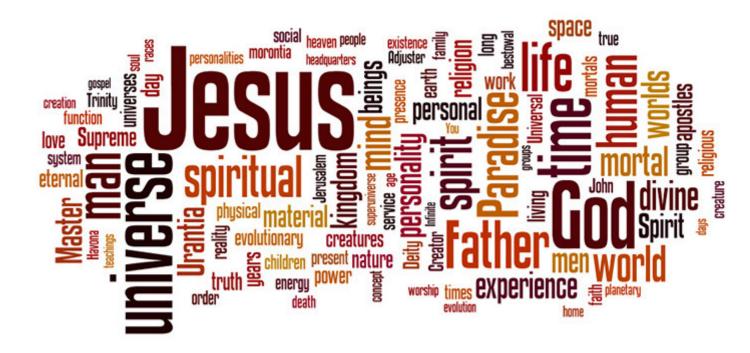
URANTIA BOOK INTRODUCTION

Compiled by Carol Weatherford

How many time have I been asked what is the Urantia Book and what does it teach? And how many times have I tried to give a simple explanation. If I were forced to say what the book is about in a few words, what would I tell people? Now, thanks to Word Cloud technology, there's no reason to guess. The Word Cloud is a technological tool that mathematically calculates and visually presents the prominence of the most used words in a document - even a whole book - at one glance. The end product is a visual "cloud" of printed words, arranged so that the word most commonly used is largest, and the others are arranged around it in their respective sizes. It is like a visual snapshot of the contents and "content" of the document.

Here's the Word Cloud of *The Urantia Book*:



In the Urantia Book Word Cloud, two words stand out loud and clear -"Jesus" and "God" - in that order. But if you add the word "Father" and "God" together as one concept, God the Father comes first and then Jesus. Said another way, they come as a complete package. In order to see God you need Jesus because Jesus was here to reveal God the Father to humankind.

QUOTE: "Jesus is the spiritual lens in human likeness which makes visible to the material creature Him who is invisible." 169:4.13

I believe *The Urantia Book* is a revelation from God and presented in four parts as one unified book. Each part is essential but given the evidence of the Word Cloud, it seems reasonable to assume that the teachings about God and Jesus, primarily found in Part 1 and Part 4, can be thought of as "book ends". The teachings about God and the life and teachings of Jesus are the eternal and infinite underpinnings of truth allowing you to trust and integrate the finite cosmological and scientific facts in the book.

What is the Urantia Book?

Well, it's a BIG book, a complex book, thoroughly **describing everything imaginable** from the cosmos, the creation of our solar system, the entire history of our planet and the entire life of Jesus from beginning to end.

Where did it come from?

That is still a bit of a mystery. It was written in 1934-1935 and published in 1955. There is much detailed speculation and conjecture on the origin, organization, and method of reception of the Urantia Papers, but how they actually were obtained constitutes an amazing mystery about which little is truly known or understood. The authors are listed in the Table of Contents and at the end of each of the 196 papers comprising the Urantia Book. The authors identify themselves as a diverse group of heavenly beings who were commissioned to bring to our world the next is a series of revelations intended to restore to humankind an understanding of the true nature of God, our origin,

history, and destiny, and to provide us with a cosmic perspective of who we are and how we fit into the greater flow of cosmic events.

There has never **been any human being exalted** to receive attention in connection with the book. They wanted the book to stand on its own merits and not become some type of personality cult.

There is no authority figure except God as he reveals himself to each of us. There exists no organization of Urantia Book readers remotely comparable to even a mainstream Christian denomination, much less to a cult. Readers so inclined, remain active in their respective churches or synagogues. Furthermore, the book has nothing in common with the occult. There are no mystical teachings, and no initiates. The Urantia Book teaches that we are not saved by what we know, but by Who we know, the loving Father of all mankind.

The book has **never been publicized or commercialized in any way**. There are thousands of study groups around the country. The only way you'll hear about it is through a friend.

Why was it given to us?

It came at a time in our planetary history when we desperately needed help. We need a clearer understanding of the nature of God and reality.

- The book never reveals unearned knowledge. They do not give us new facts that we are going to discover down the road.
- It's a bit like the directive that was given to the Starship Enterprise Remember, they were not allowed to interfere with any planets destiny. They could visit, but could not change the course of that planets fate.
- They do not tell us what our future holds but the do say things like:
 - Someday there will be a musician that will enthrall the entire world with a new type of music.
 - They say that there is a type of energy that we have yet to discover.

- They talk about things like **tectonic plates** that were not even discovered when the book was written.
- They write about scientific, geologic and astronomical things that boggle the imagination and are a bit too heavy at times.
- They do say that Jesus will definitely return to this planet but even they do not know when.

How is the book arranged?

The book is 2,000 pages divided into **4 parts** which are then divided into papers. There are **196 papers** all total. The first 17 are called the Forward and is an area where you will find definitions to various terms used in the papers. Terms like God, the Trinity, personality, spirit, mind, Paradise and reality are discussed.

Part 1 is called the Central and Super universe.

You are not alone says part 1 of the Urantia book. The cosmos teems with trillions of inhabited planets, heavenly worlds and spirit personalities.

You are not here by accident. Divine intelligence created the human race for divine purposes. QUOTE: "...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." "God created the heavens and formed the earth; he established the universe and created this world not in vain; he formed it to be inhabited."

You live in a friendly, highly organized, and well-administered universe. You are part of a plan in which the Heavenly Father perfects you for enhanced and exhilarating services. Your life on earth initiates you into an eternal adventure.

Eternal life is yours for the choosing. God has a far-reaching plan for us which embodies boundless attainment, adventurous service, and personal fulfillment. QUOTE: "...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."

Nevertheless, it is wholly optional whether or not we accept this plan. The Father has endowed each of us with the free will to accept or reject all or any part of his plan. The heavenly Father has ordained that we be free persons, and he respects the choices we make, even when such choosing is self-destructive. As a place, hell does not exist; after death, those who reject the way of life simply cease to exist. God loves every one of his children, and wants each of us to survive, but nonetheless he endows us with the prerogative to chart our own courses.

Part 2 describes our local universe of 10 million inhabitable planets. In part 2 your will discover:

- Who Jesus was before he lived on Earth, where he now lives and how he
 affects your life throughout eternity.
- How the local universe is administratively and astronomically organized.
- The nature and role of celestial personalities including your Guardian Angels.
- Who Satan and Lucifer are, and what happened in the Lucifer rebellion.
- Why earth struggles in confusion.
- Where you go after you die.
- How love and fairness function within the heavens.

Part 3 is the history of Urantia – the name of our planet.

Part 3 depicts the history of life on earth since its origin more than four and one-half billion years ago. It traces the story of human existence from the birth of the first two human beings nearly 993,500 years ago. It describes the development of civilization, industry, government, religion and family life.

In part 3 you will discover:

A scientific explanation of the origin of our solar system and our world.

- How evolution is the technique that our Creator uses to fashion the evolutionary worlds of time and space.
- The ages of fishes, birds, dinosaurs and primates.
- How and why human life evolved on earth and the story of the first two human beings.
- The triumphs and tragedies of Adam and Eve, Moses, Van and other heroes in our planetary history.
- The bleak years of the Lucifer rebellion.
- How the indwelling spirit of God works to ensure your eternal survival.

The last section, Part 4, is quite simply the most extraordinary in inspiring biography of the life of Jesus you could ever find. While it generally corresponds with the Bible, it stands unique, packed with new information and fresh insights. It emphasizes the religion OF Jesus rather than a religion ABOUT Jesus. If you love Jesus as portrayed in the Bible you will gain an even greater admiration and understanding of his life and teachings in part 4 of the Urantia Book. If you don't know Jesus you meet the Son of God who lived here as the Son of Man. You will discover his ideals and experience his perfected life on Earth.

In part 4 you will learn:

- The missing years of Jesus and how he raised his 7 brothers and sisters after his father's premature death.
- His work as a carpenter, boat builder, scribe, teacher and caravan conductor.
- You will journey with him to Egypt, Rome and the Caspian Sea.
- You will witness him helping the sick and hundreds of others.
- You will learn about the dark days preceding the crucifixion and rejoice in his resurrection and appearances.
- You discover the power of the Spirit of Truth.
- You will observe the mysterious natures of the human and divine nature of Jesus.

Taken together, Parts 1 and 4 spiritually validate the book. Without either one, the revelation would be a mere shell of itself. Part 4 vividly illustrates the most flawless human life dedicated to God, essential in understanding the personality and nature of the Father. Jesus revealed God by being one of us. We simply can't know the Father without following the Son.

QUOTE: "To 'follow Jesus' means to personally share his religious faith and to enter into the spirit of the Master's life of unselfish service for man. 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 lived it." 196:1.3

The Urantia Book embraces tolerance and openness. The Urantia Book makes no claim to be The Whole Truth. Some religious groups attempt to set their beliefs apart and to declare they are the one true truth. To the contrary, the Urantia Book encourages its readers to study every world religion, to seek for, appreciate, and embrace truth wherever it might be found.

Every religion contains truth in its teachings and can facilitate the individual's quest for God. Yet no religion, book or age has all the truth nor a monopoly on any part of it. The sincere search for truth always leads to God, for without God there is not truth.

As we strive to share the truths of *The Urantia Book* with an unbelieving world, we have before us the example of Jesus of Nazareth who did this very thing in his own life. He didn't have *The Urantia Book*, but he possessed all of the knowledge contained in it. He shared - and lived - divine truth as the Son of Man and also as a perfecting Son of God. And following his lead, we can "go and do likewise..."

While the Jesus papers are my favorite part of the Urantia Book, the most amazing aspect of this book in my opinion is the **description of the fragment of God that**

indwells us all. They call this God fragment "the Thought Adjuster" because it lives within our minds and adjusts and attunes our thoughts Godward.

The modern day term "Namaste" which means the God in me recognizes the God in you is literally true. It is not some fragment of the imagination that Jesus and most other religions talk about. When they say that the "Kingdom of Heaven is with you" or that there is a still small voice within, it is literally TRUE.

QUOTE: "You are the temple of God, and the spirit of God dwells with you."

Not only does God give his life to you by living in your mind, he teaches and guides you and blesses you with infinite patience and mercy. He desires to live in and through you to create good. And what does this really mean? It means something so wonderful, we can barely fathom it. It means our purpose in life is nothing less than to co-create with God himself and we do this by thoughtful prayer and faith-action.

QUOTE: "In liaison with God, nothing, absolutely nothing, is impossible!" 26:5.3

For you, the creative possibilities will be endless. Expect to succeed in this life, regardless of appearances. Expect to do good, regardless of appearances. Expect to change this world for the better, regardless of appearances. Have faith in yourself and the Creator, because together, you are in charge. And, eventually you will see, if not in this life than in the next, the supreme and spectacular result of your trusting faith-adventures with God! Never be afraid. God is always with you.

Who is the Urantia Book for?

It's for the Truth Seeker.....the Urantia Book describes the nature and personality of God, the relationship between science and religion, life after death and the infinite cosmos.

It's for the struggling mortal.....this book brings purpose, courage, hope and a spiritual family.

It's for the religious person.....it will expand the depth of your personal religious experience.

It's for the atheist and agnostic......it is an intelligent and refreshing challenge.

It's for those thirsting to know God better.....the Urantia Book is an infinite and eternal Love story.

The Urantia Book teaches us that God is our Father. This makes us all children of God.....and that makes us all brothers and sisters. Not just brothers and sisters of this city, state, country, world.....but all the universes. That makes us all ONE.

This to me, is the great gift of the Urantia Book; I hope you will discover it as a part of your growing spiritual experience.