

ON THE CLAIM
OF REVELATORY STATUS

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

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Unless otherwise indicated, all quotations are from *The Urantia Book*.

A TIMELINE FOR THE COMPILATION OF A REVELATION

THE DISTANT PAST

Consider what might have been involved to navigate this revelation safely to mankind, after recognizing the need and instigating action.

Publication of the Urantia revelation occurred in 1955. But what transpired prior to that? When did the planning commence? We might estimate the lead time based on many ideas:

- From documented contact over 100 years ago in Chicago.
- To a claimed reference to The Middle Ages by one of the revelators.
- To a possible indication 2,000 years ago by Jesus. (132:6.3; 1465.7)
- Upon the default of Adam and Eve and references in the Papers to a comment made some 40,000 years ago to Adam. (852:2.3; 1316.5)
There is also a reference at 43:1.6; 486.5.
- Upon the planet being placed in spiritual quarantine at the time of the Lucifer rebellion some 200,000 years ago.
- A reference to our history commencing a billion years ago when Michael assumed sovereignty of his local universe.
- Four hundred billion years ago when Michael started organizing this local universe. (57:3.7; 653.7)
- And to God the Father who probably knew details eons prior to that, perhaps at the moment of the creation of the seven superuniverses.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INITIAL CONTACT

The introduction of revelatory proceedings to planetary mortals commenced early in the twentieth century:

- 1906-1922 The Revelatory Commission fostered a favorable environment in which the papers could be graciously delivered to humanity.
- 1922 An informal group of friends met on Sunday afternoons in Chicago for tea and discussions on various topics of interest.

- 1925 The writings of the Revelatory Commission were introduced to the Sunday afternoon discussion group. The core group was called the Contact Commission. A forum of people for further discussion was later formed.
- 1925-1935 During this era the Forum initiated questions and the Papers continued to be edited by the Revelatory Commission in response to the reactions of the Forum members while reading the papers.
- 1934 Parts I, II, and III of the revelation (excepting Paper 119) were sponsored, formulated, and put into the English language by various celestial authors. The first financial funds were raised to create plates to print the Book.
- 1935 Paper 119 of Part III was received, and Part IV was delivered as a completed manuscript.
- 1937 During this period Dr. Sadler and his son Bill had endeavored to write a Foreword for the Book. In response, a typewritten Foreword was provided by the revelators.
- 1940 Seventy Forum members attended weekly meetings to give talks and study the Book in-depth. The Forum officially ended in 1942.
- 1941 The printing plates were ordered from R. R. Donnelley and Sons Co, a major commercial printing company based in Chicago, Illinois.
- 1950 The Urantia Foundation was established as a non-profit organization and began preparing for publication by raising the necessary funds.
- 1954 Last message claimed to have been received from revelators – ‘You are now on your own.’ The timing for book publication was now the Foundation’s decision.
- 1955 A fraternal social organization was launched called the Urantia Brotherhood with a General Council of 36 members.
- 1955 *The Urantia Book* arrived from the printers and people could at last hold it in their hands. The price was \$10.00. The office was located at 533 Diversey Parkway in Chicago, where it remains to this time.

PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS OF THE HISTORY AND ORIGIN

These accounts were written by people closely associated with the events surrounding the receipt and publication of the Urantia Papers. They are

strikingly consistent. Many are firsthand accounts, while others have gathered information from the earliest of records. This is a fortunate circumstance as it gives authenticity to those significant reports.

[*A History of the Urantia Movement*](#)

There is some uncertainty about the authorship of this history, but all indications suggest that it was the work of Dr. Sadler.

This article can be found under History at urantia.org

[*The Origin of The Urantia Book*](#)

This is in The Meredith J. Sprunger Archive, April 1979, and was revised in December 1997. There are also extensive notes.

This article can be found under Archives at urantiabook.org

[*The Origin of the Urantia Papers*](#)

A Brief Account by Ernest P. Moyer.

This was originally available at world-destiny.org
It is now available at squarecircles.com

[*The Plan for The Urantia Book Revelation*](#)

Carolyn B. Kendall. April 1996.

This article can be found under Documents at ubhistory.org

[*A History of the Urantia Papers*](#)

Larry Mullins with Dr. Meredith Sprunger.

In addition to providing new details and insights into the known stories of the origin of the Papers, the Mullins/Sprunger book chronicles the development of the text through its various printings since 1955. The authors also examine in detail the apocryphal stories that have been used in the creation of proprietary entitlement attitudes toward control of the Urantia Papers.

A collection of reference documents has also been compiled corresponding to the endnotes in *A History of the Urantia Papers*.

This information can be found at urantiabook.org

[How The Urantia Book Came into Existence](#)

William S. Sadler, Jr. February 18, 1962.

Transcribed from a recording made to a study group in Oklahoma City.

This article can be found under History at urantiabook.org

[The Urantia Book Historical Society](#)

The purpose of this organization is to collect primary and secondary source materials and oral histories. The library went on-line to the public in July 2007. The Society continues to scan and add donated documents to the library. It also keeps up with current publications and organizational records of Urantia Book organizations.

This site is ubhistory.org

There is an exception to the acceptable record of events:

[URANTIA: The Great Cult Mystery](#)

By Martin Gardner. 1995.

This publication is poorly researched, contains errors and misinformation, and is an example of an unworthy effort to discredit the revelation.

Several well regarded Urantia Book readers have published detailed accounts of the exceedingly poor scholarship shown by Gardner.

[Urantia Movement History](#)

This information is presented at squarecircles.com

PUBLICATION DETAILS

PRIOR TO PUBLICATION

After the transmission of content during the 1930s, and prior to preparation for publication in the 1950s, the 1940s provided a time of review. Perhaps text was added or altered during that decade.

Did any of the philosophies of people involved insert content into the revelation? Readers would like to believe that any suggestions to include such human elements into the revelation would have been decisively and summarily resisted by Dr. Sadler. He did dismiss entreaties from external influences. But did he also reject requests from those close to him?

Matthew Block has found this admission by Dr. Sadler, for he writes:

Also, I have discovered several source texts (seventeen, at last count) that were first published after 1935, despite statements in The Urantia Book that Parts I, II and III were written in 1934 or 1935 (31:10.22, 56:10.23, 119:8.9). This incongruity was resolved for me after reading William S. Sadler's privately published essay, 'History of the Urantia Movement' (1960), in which he acknowledged that new material was added to the Urantia manuscript between 1935 and 1942.

The problem here is that while we know of such inclusions from source documents, we do not know what inclusions might also have come from non-published sources.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW

The following account was written by Carolyn Kendall.

Urantia Foundation was established in 1950, and the trustees began planning to copyright the text and to register the three concentric circles symbol, following the instructions of the revelators in each case.

The human associates reviewed the final text before it was sent to the printing company, checking for errors, such as spelling and typing errors. The revelators indicated their preferences regarding design, font, and binding.

After the Second World War ... the revelators announced that the contact commissioners could begin the printing process. In 1953, publication was [apparently] approved by the revelators to begin in early 1955. The actual date of release was in October of 1955.

Finally, the great day arrived on Wednesday, October 12, 1955. Attendees at the Wednesday evening study group, the 'Seventy',

received their books that evening. Also, they engaged in a Remembrance Supper led by Edmond Kulieke, who gave a brief talk.

He was assisted by Lee Miller Jones, Lulu Steinbeck, and Clarence Bowman. Everyone present was given their previously ordered copies of *The Urantia Book*. The members of the Forum received their books the following Sunday afternoon, also at 533 W. Diversey Parkway, in Chicago.

Publication happened to fall on the anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus in 1492. That year in the fifteenth century also marked the traditional end of the Middle Ages.

It was at that time, according to the contact commissioners, that the Midwayers of Urantia sent a formal request to the rulers of the superuniverse, the Ancients of Days, requesting permission to impart a new revelation to our world, Urantia.

They wished to include more about Jesus than was contained in the four Gospels of the New Testament. It was not until the time of the fifth epochal revelation, in the twentieth century, that the midwayers received the answer to their earlier request: permission to include Part IV of *The Urantia Book* - The Life and Teachings of Jesus.

SAFEGUARDING THE REVELATION

On October 1, 1956, Urantia Brotherhood Corporation was brought into existence as the fiscal agent of the brotherhood and to act as the distributor of *The Urantia Book* for Urantia Foundation, and to engage in other outreach activities. The Foundation continued with the separate responsibility of publishing, translating, and protecting the text.

After publication the Book found only a small audience, as it had no popular appeal. In the twenty-first century, it continues to be subject to very slow growth. This may be intentional by higher authorities, a material restriction, or a natural revelatory progression on a mortal realm.

The Declaration of Trust requires the Urantia Foundation to keep the text inviolate and to publish it in perpetuity. In a sense it has to avoid becoming a secular organization, or be influenced by secular interests. Its foundations should always be based on the teachings it has been charged to uphold.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS AFTER PUBLICATION

In its first twenty-four years, the organization functioned under the leadership of eight different presidents.

William S. Sadler, Jr., was elected the first President of Urantia Brotherhood on January 2nd, 1955, and served one term. Warren R. Kulieke was next elected and served until his death in 1962. James C. Mills served a short term as Acting President. Emma L. Christensen served a full term from 1963 to 1967, and again for a few months as Acting President in 1973. Alvin L. Kulieke came to office in 1967, and served until his death in 1973. Paul Snider served one term from 1973 to 1976, and Dr. Meredith J. Sprunger served one term from 1976 to 1979. John Hales was elected in 1979.

There is an index to historic documents according to date. It is on the urantiabook.org site and provides demarcations by the following stages:

1875 - 1900

1901 - 1925

1926 - 1950

1951 - 1965

1966 - 1980

1981 - 1995

1996 - 2003

A search on Urantia Foundation Trustees provided the following two sets of personnel on page 1 of the search.

1. In July 1989, The Executive Committee of Urantia Brotherhood was comprised of the following members:

Robert Bruyn, Gard Jameson, Avl Dogim, James Johnston, Stephen Dreier, Lynne Kulieke, David Elders, Marilyn Kulieke, Berkeley Elliot, Peter Laurence, John D. Hay, L. Daniel Massey, Harry McMullan.

2. In April 2007, this is the list of Urantia Foundation Board Members, Trustees, and Directors:

Neal Waldrop, Seppo Kanerva, Judy Van Cleave, Richard Keeler, Pat Mundelius, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Gard Jameson, Irmeli Ivalo-Sjølie, Jorgen A, Claire Mylanus, Marilyn Kulieke, Jay Peregrine, Tamara Wood, Mo Siegel, and Sue Tennant.

QUESTIONS OFTEN ASKED

WHO WROTE *THE URANTIA BOOK*?

And a reasonable, though secondary, question it is. However it can never be the sole criteria of the Book's worth. Neither can the Book be judged solely on its content, unique as it is. It needs to be lived, and lived over a long time.

People are particularly influenced by sources and authority when evaluating publications, especially religious literature. Many Book readers have been asked this question and it is important to offer some explanation. However, readers are seen as giving a personal opinion that is substantiated only by their faith. Many would prefer to hear from so called authorities.

A search on 'who wrote *The Urantia Book*' shows good results. There are the few detractors as one might expect, and their propositions lack substance.

There are sites offering firsthand accounts by those who were present when the writings were making their first appearance. They all basically relate the same details. Collusion perhaps, but a through reading indicates independence of thought and style.

In the publication *From Science, Anthropology and Archaeology in The Urantia Book*, Ken Glasziou did an analysis of the writing styles of various Papers under these headings:

Methodology for Determining Authorship

Was Dr. Sadler an author?

Could a single human mind be the source of the Papers?

The author concludes that we do not have a sensible, rational proposal about human authorship of the Papers. But any conclusion claiming other-than-human authorship is not provable. As the Papers themselves tell us - our personal decision must be an act of faith. Does the spiritual content of the Urantia Papers make them self-authenticating?

HOW WE DID NOT GET THE URANTIA BOOK

Dr. Sadler led a discussion on this topic. At the time, he was perhaps the leading investigator of mind and the paranormal, and wrote the seminal work entitled *The Mind at Mischief*. These comments are relative:

Several members of this group who participated in the preliminary 'contacts' which led up to the appearance of the Urantia Papers had considerable experience in the investigation of psychic phenomena. This group early arrived at the conclusion that the phenomena connected with the personality who was later associated with the Urantia Papers, was in no way similar to any other well-known type of psychic performance - such as hypnotism, automatic writing,

clairvoyance, trances, spirit mediumship, telepathy, or double personality.

It should be made clear that the antecedents of the Urantia Papers were in no way associated with so-called spiritualism - with its séances and supposed communication with the spirits of departed human beings.

But it should be made clear that the midway creatures are not involved in the sordid performances taking place under the general designation of 'spiritualism'. The midwayers at present on Urantia, all of whom are of honorable standing, are not connected with the phenomena of so-called "mediumship" ... (77:8.13; 865.6)

IS IT A COMPILATION OF OTHER PEOPLE'S WORK?

Some have said much of the revelation has been plagiarized. While that term is hardly correct, the claim that other people's work has been included is absolutely correct. It is admitted by the revelators. It was part of their challenge to produce the best compilation of available information for comprehension by the human mind.

As certain concepts had been thought and recorded at the human level, it was preferable to use those concepts rather than introduce versions formulated from nonhuman experience.

Rather than making the Book easier to compile it was made more difficult. The blending of existing knowledge with revelatory concepts required amazing expertise. We are the beneficiaries.

Yet it has limited appeal at this time. Few are seeking such information. And those who discover it find that few of their friends and relatives find it of even passing interest.

It has not been written as an instant best seller. It makes no money. It brings no kudos to any one individual. The motive for its compilation and availability has been wrought from the service motive and not the profit motive.

DID THE REVELATORS USE SOURCES WRITTEN BY HUMANS?

A massive number of source documents have also been identified and are listed at the web site called urantiabooksources.com/

This project is the work of Matthew Block who writes:

This website has been created to share my parallel charts, which identify the sources for particular Urantia papers (or sections) and trace

how they were used. These charts, and others to come, will be used in a series of works which analyze how *The Urantia Book* was written.

Having read *The Urantia Book's* two nebulous acknowledgments, which refer to the use of 'more than one thousand human concepts ... assembled from the God-knowing mortals of the past and the present' in the writing of Part I (0:12.12), and the use of the thoughts and expressions of 'more than two thousand human beings who have lived on earth from the days of Jesus down to the time of the inditing of these revelations' in the writing of Part IV (121:8.13), I was prepared to find sources.

At the time of this writing, I have identified about 125 books, which were used in the writing of some 150 Urantia papers. The source texts were all published in English and the source authors were, with few exceptions, Americans or Britons born in the 19th or 20th centuries.

An article on this topic is available at: *Selections from Writings thought to be Urantia Book 'Sources'*. It also shows ways in which human resources have been used in the construction of the text.

These sources, instead of distracting from the authenticity of the Book, confirm that they were compiled in accordance with the revelators' stated mandate and limitations.

WAS IT WRITTEN BY A COMMITTEE OF PEOPLE?

Yes, the Papers of *The Urantia Book* were assigned, written, and compiled by a committee of various celestial authors. The title, or perhaps description of function, of each of these celestial personalities, is indicated in the Table of Contents and at the conclusion of each Paper.

Let's consider the possibility of a group of mortals being appointed, interacting, collaborating, co-authoring, and accepting the verdicts of an overarching authority. No payment, no recognition, no direct thanks. Only realization of self worth, and perhaps the doing of the will of God.

Committees have operated in order to produce literature. This varies from historical accounts, religious texts, movie scripts, and company reports.

There are also prolific human writers to be considered. Over the years many claim to have authored many hundreds of books. In certain cases authorship was taken over by others using the same characters, themes, and style, to basically make money.

But once again, such a format for human output bears no comparison to *The Urantia Book*.

IS THERE A SPECIFIC REVELATORY TEACHING TECHNIQUE?

Many readers have studied this topic over the decades.

The unique aspect is that the entire content is consistent in details, and repetitive in only those instances where it was necessary to make each Paper an understandable composition. And when collated into a single document, it demonstrates a flow of information that is unprecedented. Not only is it new in relation to pieces of revelation, it has a new thought process for learning. It is a document created by master educators. It leads from one point to another as it sets up a question in the reader's mind, only to answer it seemingly immediately. It proceeds from the complex viewpoint to the simplified.

Nothing is presented as an isolated fact. Our reading journey builds a momentum. There is a positive nature to it all. We gain belief. Truly, we can acknowledge that our awareness of self and of creation expands.

Imagine the challenge: Write a brief Paper on the nature and personality of God that can be understood by the current level of the average human intellect. To do this would require a firsthand knowledge of the person of God. Someone who could truly say: 'I know whereof I speak.'

The story goes that the mortal receivers of the revelation felt an introduction to the Papers was necessary to give an outline of the content. Their meager effort fell so far short of the quality commensurate with the Papers themselves that the revelators prepared the section now known as the Foreword. This is an illustration that the paucity of even educated minds exposed to the revelation cannot produce writings anywhere near the equivalent of those presented by the revelators. Entire papers and studies have been done in relation to the comprehension of this Foreword. So apart from not being capable of its authorship, human minds are still grappling with understanding its challenging pronouncements.

The scientific content has been criticized as being quite basic, and even wrong in parts. The so-called erroneous data was apparently not wrong at the time of its writing. That is, it was the prevailing knowledge based on current scientific research. The requirement to work within the scope of existing scientific knowledge was part of the mandate of revelation. However references to continental drift for example, do seem revelatory.

Professionals in all disciplines continue to expand on concepts based on the 'clues' contained in the Papers. We can now function from a higher level.

Then there is the precision used in word selection. For clarity of understanding, even exactness of meaning, words have been carefully and intentionally chosen. There is virtually no room for misinterpretation. This is important, as the human mind is disposed to bend meanings of great scriptures to suit an ulterior motive, usually related to power and authority.

But there can be no such rewriting or interpreting with a revelation.

COULD THE FIFTH REVELATION DEFAULT?

... no revelation short of the attainment of the Universal Father can ever be complete. All other celestial ministrations are no more than partial, transient, and practically adapted to local conditions in time and space. (92:4.9; 1008.2)

THE REVELATORS KNOW THEY FACE CHALLENGES

Revelations to inhabited planets follow a pattern that has no doubt been proven suitably progressive. However, our planet has not enjoyed such stable extra planetary influences.

Rebellion in some form has diminished the intended contribution of the four previous revelations, and this has caused disruption to the most favorable course of to the stage of Light and Life.

Have the seeds of rebellion already been sown in regard to the fifth and current revelation? Is history repeating itself even though the warnings about previous follies have been given to us in the text of *The Urantia Book*?

CONSEQUENCES OF DERAILED REVELATIONS

We know that the final benefits of revelatory defaults eventually vastly outweigh the negatives in terms of the exposure of the futility of evil, and show demonstrated loyalty by those who stood firm in the face of insurrection.

But there are massive legacies of misery from poor genetic development, turmoil from regressive civilization, countless conflicts, and spiritual darkness attendant upon the rejection of truth. The fifth revelation faces this formidable history and any default could long perpetuate such disastrous legacies.

You should not forget that for two hundred thousand years all the worlds of Satania have rested under the spiritual ban of Norlatiadek in consequence of the Lucifer rebellion. And it will require age upon age to retrieve the resultant handicaps of sin and secession. Your world still continues to pursue an irregular and checkered career as a result of the double tragedy of a rebellious Planetary Prince and a defaulting Material Son. Even the bestowal of Christ Michael on Urantia did not immediately set aside the temporal consequences of these serious blunders in the earlier administration of the world. (50:6.5; 578.5)

It will be of particular benefit to study the background, implementation, and outcome for previous revelations. We need to heed all such circumstances and related recommendations made by the revelators. In this way, we can be aware of the issues that are expected to impact on the current revelation.

ONLY FIVE REVELATIONS ARE OF EPOCHAL SIGNIFICANCE

REVELATION 1. The Dalamatian teachings

The true concept of the First Source and Center was first promulgated on Urantia by the one hundred corporeal members of Prince Caligastia's staff. This expanding revelation of Deity went on for more than three hundred thousand years until it was suddenly terminated by the planetary secession and the disruption of the teaching regime. (92:4.5; 1007.5)

COUNSEL AND ADVICE IN PREPARATION

There is a carefully designed, implemented, and monitored plan for mortal life on a planet. And as individuals, whatever our station and whenever our time, we can contribute to a better world. However, we can also fail in attaining our full potential, or even fail outright.

When a major revelation defaults, because it is always a possibility for certain levels of sonship, the consequences can be severe and long lasting. The one big family on a planet shares in that destiny. It occurs when individuals attempt to overrule and subjugate the divine plan in favor of a personal plan they assume is superior.

It should be noted that both Lucifer and Caligastia had been patiently instructed and lovingly warned respecting their critical tendencies and the subtle development of their pride of self and its associated exaggeration of the feeling of self-importance. But all of these attempts to help had been misconstrued as unwarranted criticism and as unjustified interference with personal liberties. (66:8.2; 752.3)

REASONS FOR THE DEFAULT

There can be no short cut to Paradise. Real progress has spirit qualities, has to be earned, and leads to a subsequent stage. Unfortunately human nature is susceptible to what seems like a good idea at the time. But we are repeatedly instructed, and given clear evidence, of the seemingly difficult divine way.

Thus does the Lucifer manifesto, masquerading in the habiliments of liberty, stand forth in the clear light of reason as a monumental threat to consummate the theft of personal liberty and to do it on a scale that has been approached only twice in all the history of Nebadon. (54:2.3; 615.0)

In short, what God had given men and angels Lucifer would have taken away from them, that is, the divine privilege of participating in the creation of their

own destinies and of the destiny of this local system of inhabited worlds. (54:2.4; 615.1)

THE RESULT OF DISLOYALTY

History is a master teacher if only we are mature enough to learn. Even today we are attempting to create societies on impoverished values: War, family dislocation, poor health and education, population explosion, and the base aspects of materialism. We admit to all of that, but do nothing about it.

The Caligastia scheme for the immediate reconstruction of human society in accordance with his ideas of individual freedom and group liberties, proved a swift and more or less complete failure. (67:5.3; 759.1)

The fact that we have only a meager idea of interplanetary government is of no consequence as an excuse.

BY COMPARISON, WHAT IS AN EXAMPLE OF LOYALTY?

We are not without such guidance. And this can be applied to all revelations:

Throughout the seven crucial years of the Caligastia rebellion, Van was wholly devoted to the work of ministry to his loyal army of men, midwayers, and angels. The spiritual insight and moral steadfastness which enabled Van to maintain such an unshakable attitude of loyalty to the universe government was the product of clear thinking, wise reasoning, logical judgment, sincere motivation, unselfish purpose, intelligent loyalty, experiential memory, disciplined character, and the unquestioning dedication of his personality to the doing of the will of the Father in Paradise. (67:3.6; 756.7)

REVELATION 2. The Edenic teachings

Adam and Eve again portrayed the concept of the Father of all to the evolutionary peoples. The disruption of the first Eden halted the course of the Adamic revelation before it had ever fully started. ... by 2500 B.C. mankind had largely lost sight of the revelation sponsored in the days of Eden. (92:45.6; 1007.6)

COUNSEL AND ADVICE IN PREPARATION

The challenges on an evolving world are never underestimated by the universe administration. Every effort is made to assist us, even though they are currently hampered because of defaults on a grand scale. This Material Son and Daughter were made totally aware of the dangers they would face.

The revelators have yet again lovingly and carefully given us likewise instructions in *The Urantia Book*.

Adam and Eve had remained loyal to Michael during the Lucifer rebellion; nevertheless, the pair were called before the System Sovereign and his entire cabinet for examination and instruction. The details of Urantia affairs were fully presented; they were exhaustively instructed as to the plans to be pursued in accepting the responsibilities of rulership on such a strife-torn world. They were put under joint oaths of allegiance to the Most Highs of Edentia and to Michael of Salvington. (74:1.4; 828.5)

... the Melchizedeks, before departing, had especially enjoined Eve as to the peculiar dangers besetting their isolated position on the planet and had in particular warned her never to stray from the side of her mate, that is, to attempt no personal or secret methods of furthering their mutual undertakings. (75:2.4; 840.6)

There can be no excuse for claiming ignorance.

IMPACT OF THE PREVIOUS DEFAULT

The plans for race upstepping are prepared by the Planetary Prince and his staff and are executed by Adam and Eve. And this was where your Material Son and his companion were placed at great disadvantage when they arrived on Urantia. Caligastia offered crafty and effective opposition to the Adamic mission; and notwithstanding that the Melchizedek receivers of Urantia had duly warned both Adam and Eve concerning the planetary dangers inherent in the presence of the rebellious Planetary Prince, this archrebel, by a wily stratagem, outmaneuvered the Edenic pair and entrapped them into a violation of the covenant of their trusteeship as the visible rulers of your world. (51:3.4; 583.3)

Caligastia then and now seeks nothing less than to deprive susceptible souls of the supernal privilege of making the Paradise ascent to perfection. He has sought to accomplish this goal by destabilizing the revelations received on Urantia. The cumulative effects impact upon the fifth revelation. Shall we be mindful and recognize his nefarious ways?

REASONS FOR THE DEFAULT

Even though this project of modifying the divine plan had been conceived and executed with entire sincerity and with only the highest motives concerning the welfare of the world, it constituted evil because it represented the wrong way to achieve righteous ends, because it departed from the right way, the divine plan. (75:4.6; 842.8)

Once again default occurred because people listened to insidious propaganda of personal liberty and planetary freedom of action. And not only Eve, but

Serapatatia was honest and sincere in his intentions. Like him, perhaps we would be unaware that we aiding and abetting Caligastia. He will be targeting his victims yet again. And the quote about modifying the divine plan can already be applied to the fifth major revelation.

REVELATION 3. Melchizedek of Salem

This emergency Son of Nebadon inaugurated the third revelation of truth on Urantia. The cardinal precepts of his teachings were trust and faith. He taught trust in the omnipotent beneficence of God and proclaimed that faith was the act by which men earned God's favor. (92:4.7; 1007.7)

IMPACT OF PREVIOUS DEFAULTS

The supermaterial government of Urantia, under the direction of the Melchizedeks, continued, but direct physical contact with the evolutionary races had been severed. From the distant days of the arrival of the corporeal staff of the Planetary Prince, down through the times of Van and Amadon to the arrival of Adam and Eve, physical representatives of the universe government had been stationed on the planet. But with the Adamic default this regime, extending over a period of more than four hundred and fifty thousand years, came to an end. In the spiritual spheres, angelic helpers continued to struggle in conjunction with the Thought Adjusters, both working heroically for the salvage of the individual; but no comprehensive plan for far-reaching world welfare was promulgated to the mortals of earth until the arrival of Machiventa Melchizedek ... (70:5.6; 852.5)

REASONS FOR THE DEFAULT BY MAN

Revelatory truth now had to contend with the self-interest and resistance of the priest caste.

The teaching of Melchizedek was full and replete, but the records of these days seemed impossible and fantastic to the later Hebrew priests ... (93:9.6; 1023.3)

The rejection of the Melchizedek gospel of trust in God and salvation through faith marked a vital turning point for India. The Salem missionaries had contributed much to the loss of faith in all the ancient Vedic gods, but the leaders, the priests of Vedism, refused to accept the Melchizedek teaching of one God and one simple faith. (94:1.6; 1028.2)

In their efforts at self-preservation the Brahmans had rejected the one God of Melchizedek, and now they found themselves with the hypothesis of

Brahman, that indefinite and illusive philosophic self, that impersonal and impotent it which has left the spiritual life of India helpless and prostrate from that unfortunate day to the twentieth century. (94:2.7; 1029.5)

THE RESULT OF DISREGARDING REVELATION

The leaders of organized and hierarchical religion resisted the teachings of Melchizedek, and so it has been in regard to the teachings of Jesus. Religious and organizational movements that are infiltrated and hijacked by the parasitic human priest caste inevitably deteriorate into the most serious competitors to the epochal revelations they circumvent.

There appears to be a natural tendency to protect vested interests by denigrating opposition, rather than assessing revelation as a higher authority and therefore worthy of recognition and integration. Jesus incorporated the best of the existing scriptures into his teachings.

And thus, in losing sight of Melchizedek, they also lost sight of the teaching of this emergency Son regarding the spiritual mission of the promised bestowal Son; lost sight of the nature of this mission so fully and completely that very few of their progeny were able or willing to recognize and receive Michael when he appeared on earth and in the flesh as Machiventa had foretold. (93:9.10; 1024.1)

REVELATION 4. Jesus of Nazareth

Christ Michael presented for the fourth time to Urantia the concept of God as the Universal Father, and this teaching has generally persisted ever since. The essence of his teaching was love and service, the loving worship which a creature son voluntarily gives in recognition of, and response to, the loving ministry of God his Father; the freewill service which such creature sons bestow upon their brethren in the joyous realization that in this service they are likewise serving God the Father. (92:4.8; 1008.1)

THE MISSION

"Throughout your Urantia bestowal you need be concerned with but one thing, the unbroken communion between you and your Paradise Father; and it will be by the perfection of such a relationship that the world of your bestowal, even all the universe of your creation, will behold a new and more understandable revelation of your Father and my Father, the Universal Father of all." (120:1.4; 1326.1)

"Your great mission to be realized and experienced in the mortal incarnation is embraced in your decision to live a life wholeheartedly motivated to do the will of your Paradise Father, thus to reveal God, your Father, in the flesh and especially to the creatures of the flesh." (120:2.8; 1328.5)

From a human and universal standpoint, when considering these mandates, Jesus in no way defaulted in his mission.

AS USUAL, THERE WAS COUNSEL AND ADVICE

"And now, my brother, in taking leave of you as you prepare to depart for Urantia and after counseling you regarding the general conduct of your bestowal, allow me to present certain advices that have been arrived at in consultation with Gabriel, and which concern minor phases of your mortal life." (120:3.1; 1329.2)

The inclusion of this quote reminds us that counsel and advice is similarly given to us in the fifth revelation. And it is there because we are susceptible to errors of judgment, as have previous recipients of revelation. It is a big task to reconcile our mortal status with an expanded vista of worlds and values.

IMPACT OF THE PREVIOUS REVELATION

And thus did Melchizedek prepare the way and set the monotheistic stage of world tendency for the bestowal of an actual Paradise Son of the one God, whom he so vividly portrayed as the Father of all, and whom he represented to Abraham as a God who would accept man on the simple terms of personal faith. (93:3.8; 1017.2)

Here we see that one revelation is the forerunner to the next. And the fifth in turn is confirming all that Michael presented. What we do with the fifth will surely somehow determine the next revelatory event. We are playing a high stakes game. Questions will one day be asked of us.

THE PLANETARY SITUATION

In the weeks following the baptism of Jesus the character of John's preaching gradually changed into a proclamation of mercy for the common people, while he denounced with renewed vehemence the corrupt political and religious rulers. (135:10.2; 1506.4)

This cleansing of the temple discloses the Master's attitude toward commercializing the practices of religion as well as his detestation of all forms of unfairness and profiteering at the expense of the poor and the unlearned. This episode also demonstrates that Jesus did not look with approval upon the refusal to employ force to protect the majority of any given human group against the unfair and enslaving practices of unjust minorities who may be

able to entrench themselves behind political, financial, or ecclesiastical power. (173:1.11; 1891.1)

Revelation challenges the prevailing conditions so it is likely that its acceptance will only be partial. Lessor Sons and mortals seem to look for easy ways to interpret the divine plan. It is easier still to resist or ignore it.

THE REASONS FOR THE DEFAULT BY MAN

Again we see that mortals who sat in authority at the time of a revelation failed to see the dawn of a new springtime. And the world of today is in a far greater state of transition. So it will require worldly wisdom to pilot the fifth revelation through rapidly changing times. Circumscribed viewpoints will not do it.

And all of this false hope led to such a degree of racial disappointment and frustration that the leaders of the Jews were so confused they failed to recognize and accept the mission and ministry of a divine Son of Paradise when he presently came to them in the likeness of mortal flesh - incarnated as the Son of Man. (97:8.4; 1071.2)

How these chief priests, scribes, Sadducees, and some of the Pharisees flattered themselves that Jesus, the disturber of their position and the challenger of their authority, was now securely in their hands! And they were resolved that he should never live to escape their vengeful clutches. (184:3.3; 1982.4)

A RELIGION HAS MISINTERPRETED A REVELATION

The fact that the fifth revelation is in written form presents an interesting circumstance. It can be readily subjected to the conspiracies of a hostile world. The quotations above illustrate how that can be done. But in another way, it should prevent the many errors that are described in the quotes below.

The gospel of the kingdom, the message of Jesus, had been suddenly changed into the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They now proclaimed the facts of his life, death, and resurrection and preached the hope of his speedy return to this world to finish the work he began. (194:4.5; 2066.5)

New Testament authors and later Christian writers further complicated the distortion of Hebrew history by their well-meant attempts to transcendentalize the Jewish prophets. Thus has Hebrew history been disastrously exploited by both Jewish and Christian writers. (97:8.6; 1071.4)

In the enthusiasm of Pentecost, Peter unintentionally inaugurated a new religion, the religion of the risen and glorified Christ. The Apostle Paul later on transformed this new gospel into Christianity, a religion embodying his own theologic views and portraying his own personal experience with the Jesus of the Damascus road. (196:2.1; 2091.10)

REVELATION 5. The Urantia Papers

The papers, of which this is one, constitute the most recent presentation of truth to the mortals of Urantia. These papers differ from all previous revelations, for they are not the work of a single universe personality but a composite presentation by many beings. (92:4.9; 1008.2)

COUNSEL AND ADVICE IN PREPARATION

It is claimed in historical archives that the following early warning was given to recipients of the Urantia revelation: 'Many strange isms and queer groups will seek to attach themselves to *The Urantia Book* and its far-flung influence. Your most trying experiences will be with such groups who so loudly acclaim their belief in the teachings of the Book and who will so persistently seek to attach themselves to the movement.

'Great wisdom will be required to guard against the distracting and distorting influence of these multifarious groups and from equally distracting and disturbing individuals, some well intentioned and some sinister, who will strive to become a part of the authentic constituency of the Urantia movement.'

THE RESULT OF DISLOYALTY IN RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

The great challenge for an organization is to present its spiritual mission while disassociating itself from the society it wishes to influence. Jesus managed to do so by limiting the size of his group. When an organization becomes too large and formalized, nonspiritual trends emerge. Then it begins to die.

So-called Christianity has become a social and cultural movement as well as a religious belief and practice. (195:9.11; 2083.7)

But there is no excuse for the involvement of the church in commerce and politics; such unholy alliances are a flagrant betrayal of the Master. (195:10.13; 2085.5)

Christianity suffers under a great handicap because it has become identified in the minds of all the world as a part of the social system, the industrial life, and the moral standards of Western civilization ... (195:10.20; 2086.6)

The priest caste will continue to defy the fifth revelation, as will other associated interests in politics, law, and business. However, we are not only warned about this, but we are told what we need to do.

... Indeed, the social readjustments, the economic transformations, the moral rejuvenations, and the religious revisions of Christian civilization would be drastic and revolutionary if the living religion of Jesus should suddenly supplant the theologic religion about Jesus. (196:1.2; 2090.3)

THE STATUS OF THE REVELATION TODAY

The partial successes of previous revelations have resulted in limited progress on this planet. And while many mortals have demonstrated a priceless harvest of loyalty to Deity amid insurrection, the wisdom to learn from past mistakes still seems to be largely lacking.

The record shows that extensive counsel and advice, even as we have been given in *The Urantia Book*, is of no use if it is not heeded. And the history of revelations shows that counsel and advice is easily overlooked.

It took 500,000 years after human will was first registered on this planet, before the first revelation of epochal significance was inaugurated. During the next 500,000 years, only one further such revelation occurred. Now, in the space of the last 4,000 years, three such revelations have eventuated.

The first of those three revelations was by Melchizedek, Abraham's mentor, but it did not suit the existing concepts of evolutionary religions.

And then Jesus did not fit the concept of the expected Messiah. Today, over 20,000 pitifully sub-divided organizational sects currently trade upon his name and tragically, though understandably, most choose to keep their distance from him, and never really get to know him.

Now, the Urantia revelation is the content of the original Urantia Papers. It is not any human group or organization associated with the Book. Such groups and organizations will expand and contend for authority and control over the revelation. There will be division within and between them. Problems that disrupted previous revelations are beginning to emerge. But always, the Urantia revelation itself must stand aloof and increasingly apart from all human efforts to control or distort it.

Newcomers to the revelation may see a faltering and fallible organizational movement. They may even see *The Urantia Book's* ideological antithesis in self-assertion and unbridled personal liberty, as groups and people interpret the revelation in ways that conflict with the original text.

But if people can see beyond to the labor of love of the revelators, the entire human race would likely fall in love with the carpenter of Nazareth and his heart-warming and world-saving teachings.

This being the case, and knowing the background to previous revelations, it is important to look more closely at the implications specifically for Revelations Four and Five.

THE CONTEXT OF THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS

THE FOURTH AND FIFTH AT SIXES AND SEVENS

This section considers the two recent revelations that are about Jesus. The fourth and fifth revelations have much in common regarding the prevailing challenges and reactions, and even the misunderstanding among followers.

THE TEACHINGS OF THE FOURTH WERE REJECTED

The new teachings of Jesus were certain to be in conflict with the religionists of the day. Jesus was killed as a direct result.

Admittedly, Jesus was saying things about who he was, where he was from, and the reason for his message. This was difficult for people then, as it is for many now, to grasp. He knew what he had to convey, not just for Urantia but for the local universe of Nebadon, and this somewhat accounted for the context and the scope of his teaching.

COMPROMISES WERE TRIED

Many efforts were made for acceptability. For example, Jesus tried to accommodate their beliefs with his teaching about the Kingdom of God which led to some degree of confusion among his followers. *Much of the early persecution of Christians in Rome was due solely to their unfortunate use of the term "kingdom" in their preaching.* (195:2.2; 2072.6)

Then along came Paul who watered down the teachings to win the approval of the Jews and of course all that has been a disaster. *Though these efforts failed as far as winning the Jews was concerned, they did not fail to confuse and alienate many honest souls in all subsequent generations.* (149:2.3; 1670.4) And for good measure Paul also adapted it to suit the Greco-Roman mind set.

Then there was the biggest calamity: *And so, under the vigorous leadership of Peter and ere the Master ascended to the Father, his well-meaning representatives began that subtle process of gradually and certainly changing the religion of Jesus into a new and modified form of religion about Jesus.* (192:4.8; 2051.5)

This overemphasis of the personality of Jesus in the theology of Christianity has worked to obscure his teachings, and all of this has made it increasingly difficult for Jews, Mohammedans, Hindus, and other Eastern religionists to accept the teachings of Jesus. (149:2.4; 1670.6)

ARE WE BETTER PLACED TO ACCEPT THE FIFTH?

Jesus' task may have been simpler if his listeners had a more appropriate spiritual perspective. Fortunately for us, the background spirit perspective provided by Parts 1 - 3 of *The Urantia Book*, give us that framework. So the biography regarding the Fourth revelation, in Part 4 of the Book, can be readily accommodated into the human mind. At last we can relate to the real person and the real story, with real places and recorded historical events.

However *The Urantia Book*, as it brings the same message of the personal religion of the spirit, will be at odds with today's religionists who once again will be greatly offended at being told the errors of their beliefs, if they retain their religions of the mind rather than a religion of the spirit.

COMPROMISES ARE BEING ATTEMPTED

By applying this background to today, what do we get? Will *The Urantia Book* be watered down to appeal to prevailing interest groups as Jesus teachings were 2,000 years ago? Will it be cherry picked for populism? Is it at risk of being demonized by vested interests of the religion industry?

Will people who would condemn the maladaptation by Paul, Peter, and James (in the main), in turn do exactly the same damage to the Book which is endeavoring to correct the record and highlight previous errors?

HISTORY IS REPEATING

The Urantia Book is not the word of God. That would be a relic of the olden tendency to ascribe everything to do with natural phenomena, spiritual thought, and religious writings, as coming from God himself.

This development could be compared with the way Christianity has promoted the Bible as 'The Word of God'. This has resulted in the Bible becoming a 'fetish' and resulting in intelligent men and women believing all manner of absurd things, and justifying many evil acts,

It would be preferable and more accurate to say the Book is a revelation about God, the universe, universe personalities, various orders of celestial beings, the history of Urantia, and so on. It offers a pathway to finding God.

... the revelation of God must always be partial, relative, and progressive until his power becomes experientially infinite in the space potency of the Unqualified Absolute ... (56:9.7; 645.2)

You can know God, not by understanding what Jesus said, but by knowing what Jesus was. Jesus was a revelation of God. (169:4.4; 1856.2)

THE CUSTODIANS OF THE FOURTH

Jesus saw a group of the Sadducees and Pharisees making their way through the crowd, and he paused for a moment until they drew near him, when he said: "You know how your fathers rejected the prophets, and you well know that you are set in your hearts to reject the Son of Man." And then, looking with searching gaze upon those priests and elders who were standing near him, Jesus said: "Did you never read in the Scripture about the stone which the builders rejected, and which, when the people had discovered it, was made into the cornerstone? And so once more do I warn you that, if you continue to reject this gospel, presently will the kingdom of God be taken away from you and be given to a people willing to receive the good news and to bring forth the fruits of the spirit." (173:4.4; 1894.2)

When the Pharisees heard these words, they understood that Jesus referred to themselves and the other Jewish leaders. (173:4.5; 1894.3)

There should be hundreds of questions that intrigue, such as:

- Who became the custodians of the partial teachings of Jesus?
- Who took its main influence to Rome after 70 AD?
- How and when did Christianity progressively originate?
- What happened to the followers of the true gospel of Jesus?
- Who wrote and who compiled the New Testament?

The real answers can be found, although often they will conflict with the answers commonly given by those who rewrite history.

The truth about such questions will give a better insight into the Christian religion throughout the centuries, and its role today. Notwithstanding its trials and tribulations, it still contains the seeds of the truths presented by Jesus, and it remains a beacon of hope for a brighter future for all mankind.

Perhaps we can be comforted by this:

Christianity exhibits a history of having originated out of the unintended transformation of the religion of Jesus into a religion about Jesus. It further presents the history of having experienced Hellenization, paganization, secularization, institutionalization, intellectual deterioration, spiritual decadence, moral hibernation, threatened extinction, later rejuvenation, fragmentation, and more recent relative rehabilitation. Such a pedigree is indicative of inherent vitality and the possession of vast recuperative resources. And this same Christianity is now present in the civilized world of Occidental peoples and stands face to face with a struggle for existence which is even more ominous than those eventful crises which have characterized its past battles for dominance. (195:4.4; 2075.2)

The Urantia Papers have such recuperative powers. Their truths can win the struggle for existence that they in turn will face. At least they are here on the planet, and they are currently available for anyone to access and read.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

The Urantia Book has entered a complex world. Already many religions and ideologies are aware of it. Some groups are trying to build organizations around the revelation. Many are claiming authenticity in the name of the Book for their distorted interpretations of the revelatory concepts.

Some don't seem to appreciate the scope of the information and say the Book needs additional content. Sadly, some are claiming to be receiving such from superhuman sources.

We need to do everything possible to preserve the supreme potential of this great gift from Michael, and avoid mistakes made in the past. This means mindfully following the Spirit of Truth and valiantly resisting those modern-day revisionists who would claim bestowed knowledge and authority. Revelation has set a new stage for the long and arduous evolutionary struggle.

The waiting celestial intelligences of the on-looking universes could well be asking: Will the revelation contained in *The Urantia Book*, be given the chance to touch the hearts and minds of all people and thereby uplift the entire world? Will it be recognized as a revelation?

Or will the revelation be prevented from doing so by the default of a country, race, organization, or human group, that abrogates responsibility or invokes the revelation's inherent strength for their own agenda?

Again will Jesus' words about the cornerstone ring true: "*... on whomsoever this stone falls, he will be ground to dust and his ashes scattered to the four winds.*" (173:4.4; 1894.2)

Will there be the unintended (or intended) transformation of the revelation into an industry *about* the revelation?

MAINTAINING ACCESS TO THE REVELATION

Consider losing our freedom of speech, association, movement, and worship. And the banning or destruction of books. There are signs of all these things.

And there are such historical events:

The Dalamatia library, destroyed soon after the Caligastia disaffection, comprised more than two million separate records and was known as the 'house of Fad.' (66:5.9; 746.7)

The last of these few altered and amended copies [by Andrew] was destroyed by fire at Alexandria about one hundred years after the original was written by the first chosen of the twelve apostles. (139:1.9; 1549.7)

Quite simply, the Book must remain freely and openly available. Otherwise the responsibility for publication and dissemination in English would become a private matter for those readers who believe in the Book and who have the necessary resources. The English version is in the public domain.

Translations of the Book would become an issue. Most of them are currently subject to copyright held by the Urantia Foundation, and the others by a Urantia Society. If publication of these translations is discontinued, Book readers in various countries might have to make arrangements for personal use of the Book to be available through private funding.

If the Book itself for any reason was not available to the people of the world, the revelation may technically be in default. There is comfort in the thought that the Book will always be available, as it is accessible on the Internet. But even the Internet can block access to information.

And we are finding that social media can be manipulated. And yes, Artificial Intelligence has access to *The Urantia Book*, and can comment on it and precis it.

All of the brilliant work by students over the years is contained on the main Urantia sites on the Internet. The extent of scholarly analysis, the detailed listing of terms, the informed discussion, provides information for centuries to come. Hopefully, this is even now preserved. But some is already lost.

If we think the small groups of followers are important now, think how much more important the small but loyal groups of people are going to be when the wider public mission of the revelation begins.

The revelation will be subjected to an increase in genuine scrutiny one day. This will be a welcome circumstance. And let's hope there is an extensive and discerning readership at that stage.

But opposing forces will still use the information to say they are working for the good of all, and talk about the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. People can be given partial and inverted truths to divert them from the full truth.

Readers may be called conspiracy theorists as a means to discredit them. Such methods are already in use generally, and people can be hired to lie and mislead even on major issues.

That is not difficult to do. It is happening in regard to many events. How people will claim to be qualified as an authority on the Book will be an interesting issue.

It seems this world is not being run for the overall benefit of humanity, but by self-interest as if it were a business, and the planet itself a realm owned and controlled by those self-appointed authorities.

Expect the Book to continue its slow and unspectacular journey. Currently its public exposure has been limited, and in one sense it is perhaps being kept safe by such a low profile. However, we can be sure it is already being monitored by government as are all such organizations, but no doubt its impact is considered nonthreatening at this stage.

This will all change when the revelation gains acceptance to a level deemed worrisome by opposing forces. The Most Highs rule here on earth and they will be exerting certain controls over the destiny of the revelation, while not compromising human will.

WHAT CAN EACH OF US DO IN OUR LIFETIME?

You who have professed entrance into the kingdom of heaven are altogether too vacillating and indefinite in your teaching conduct. The heathen strike directly for their objectives; you are guilty of too much chronic yearning. If you desire to enter the kingdom, why do you not take it by spiritual assault even as the heathen take a city they lay siege to? You are hardly worthy of the kingdom when your service consists so largely in an attitude of regretting the past, whining over the present, and vainly hoping for the future. (155:1.3; 1725.4)

THREE POWERFUL LITTLE STORIES

There are simple ways to contemplate our concerns about the future of the fifth revelation of epochal significance.

STORY 1

From Edentia up through Salvington and even on to Uversa, for seven long years the first inquiry of all subordinate celestial life regarding the Satania rebellion, ever and always, was: "What of Amadon of Urantia, does he still stand unmoved?" (67:8.3; 762.2)

If the Lucifer rebellion has handicapped the local system and its fallen worlds, if the loss of this Son and his misled associates has temporarily hampered the progress of the constellation of Norlatiadek, then weigh the effect of the far-flung presentation of the inspiring performance of this one child of nature and his determined band of 143 comrades in standing steadfast for the higher concepts of universe management and administration in the face of such tremendous and adverse pressure exerted by his disloyal superiors. And let me assure you, this has already done more good in the universe of Nebadon and the superuniverse of Orvonton than can ever be outweighed by the sum total of all the evil and sorrow of the Lucifer rebellion. (67:8.4; 762.3)

STORY 2

This Jesus sect was growing rapidly, and once more the Sadducees took notice of them. The Pharisees were little bothered about the situation, seeing that none of the teachings in any way interfered with the observance of the Jewish laws. But the Sadducees began to put the leaders of the Jesus sect in jail until they were prevailed upon to accept the counsel of one of the leading rabbis, Gamaliel, who advised them: "Refrain from these men and let them alone, for if this counsel or this work is of men, it will be overthrown; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them, lest haply you be found even to be fighting against God." They decided to follow Gamaliel's counsel, and there ensued a time of peace and quiet in Jerusalem, during which the new gospel about Jesus spread rapidly. (194:4.10; 2067.5)

STORY 3

John said to Jesus: "Master, yesterday I went over to Ashtaroth to see a man who was teaching in your name and even claiming to be able to cast out devils. Now this fellow had never been with us, neither does he follow after us; therefore I forbade him to do such things." Then said Jesus: "Forbid him not. Do you not perceive that this gospel of the kingdom shall presently be proclaimed in all the world? How can you expect that all who will believe the gospel shall be subject to your direction? Rejoice that already our teaching has begun to manifest itself beyond the bounds of our personal influence. Do you not see, John, that those who profess to do great works in my name must eventually support our cause?" (159:2.1; 1764.3)

We can apply the same reasoning to the fifth when we see it facing issues of ownership, control, misrepresentation, availability, and progress.

Let us trust a time will come when there will no longer be the need for the world be at sixes and sevens with these two extraordinary revelations.

A SUMMARY OF THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Urantia Book contains a long and brilliant essay that directly assesses our current predicament. It is the revelators intentional warning to us. The further we look back, the better we can visualize the future.

This essay is Paper 195.

Although it was written almost one hundred years ago, it seems to have been specifically written for these days of the 21st century. It takes us on a journey from the time of Pentecost to the influences upon the teachings of Jesus in the first few centuries after the Master's death.

Then it mentions the European Dark Ages, and then specifically concentrates on the modern problem concerning the dangers of materialism and secularism.

And, as uncomfortable as it may be for many religionists, it addresses the problems that still face Christianity to this day.

Truly, could we ask for a better summary, a more concerned voice of authority. But will mankind realize we are being admonished by wise and concerned celestial personalities? Or are these guidelines to be ignored?

And the final section is about the future. The revelators have identified the issues for us. If we are still unable to recognize the circumstances we face, then humanity will have to recover from that eventual lower stage when we do realize our predicament.

In this section on the future, attention is given to the potential role of a revitalized Christianity. Can that be achieved in some way? Can *The Urantia Book* be a contributor in that regard?

Just as the fourth revelation could not be stopped over the centuries, so will it be with the fifth? The personal involvement of a Creator Son on this planet, and the powerful spiritual influences that stream into inhabited planets, ensure an eventual time of enlightenment even on this troubled sphere.

No matter who tries to subvert or diminish the influence, it will not succeed. Man's meager efforts are no match for the power of spirit which is always engulfing the planet, at universal and personal levels.

The remnants of Jesus' teaching contained within Christianity, and the mighty revelatory record contained in the fifth, are a part of God.

We are to forge ahead in faith. We are slowly advancing with our higher associates, but real progress seems to be taking more than just a little time.

THE DAY WILL COME

Jesus gave the highest representation of God ever known to man.

And based solely upon his teachings and the information in *The Urantia Book*, the following marvelous presentation called *The Future* has been written from a human viewpoint by a Book reader of many years. This beautiful picture is a summary of God's plan for mankind.

God's love ensures this magnificent future will be achieved, even from our current predicament. In his wisdom, he is allowing us to discover his truth experientially, assisted by the divine guidance of revelation. And the truth we are experiencing is indeed our ascension career to Paradise.

THE FUTURE (written by C.D.)

The Future will be the future of the religion practiced by Jesus, the religion of the spirit, with the individual engaging in personal and intimate relations with the Universal Father. Men and women will increasingly appreciate that they are the sons and daughters of God and that they have direct access to their spirit Father. God will be recognized as their truest friend.

Men and women will not settle for second-hand religion handed down by traditional religious leaders-religion that merely requires the mind assent to dogma and is miracle minded. Men and women will demand first-hand religion - religion validated by the supreme and unquestionable authority of their own personal experience.

An individual's faith will no longer be a lifeless creed, rather it will be a faith in spiritual realities that is so compelling that it transforms the entire mode of living and leads to growing consciousness of God's presence.

They will think of God as dwelling within them, with the spiritual kingdom within them rather than being 'out there' and ushered in only at the end of an age. They will recognize the personal guidance of the unique fragment of God that dwells within them and which is destined to be the eternal partner of their soul if they choose spiritual (personality) survival.

Religious fundamentalism based on reputed written revelation will give way to a willingness to accept living truth from wherever it may come from and follow it wherever it may lead. All of universe reality will be viewed as a revelation of God's love, sovereignty and infinite plans.

Men and women will refuse to accept a religion that is out of step with their highest concepts of truth, beauty and goodness. They will refuse to accept a religion inconsistent with facts, science and the universe. It will finally dawn on creationists that evolution is God's technique of creation.

Truth seekers will demand a religion that is able to unify all aspects of reality, including their own experience, in a supreme being who is the source and destiny of all reality and who provides its meanings, values and loving and merciful over-control. They will look to the transcendent goal of service concealed behind the horizon of this present universe age.

Religious sectarianism and intolerance will fade. Religions will look to other religions to profit from the best in them, rather than to condemn the worst in them. True religion will not require unity of thought, only unity of spirit.

The chosen-people mentality will fade. Truth seekers will see claims of religious superiority and infallibility as spiritually enslaving, sin as deliberate disloyalty to God, and pride as the greatest danger to spiritual survival.

Prayer will evolve from a request for material favors, to a request to benefit others, to thanksgiving and a request for values - a prelude to true worship of God. The truth of 'ask and you will receive' in accordance with your real spiritual needs will become well known.

Much more emphasis will be placed on the worship of God - every will creature's first duty and highest privilege. More people will hear the Father fragment's voice to the soul, which is your personal accumulation of spirit (your potentially immortal spiritual counterpart) that grows as you make personal the experienceable true meaning-values of the universe.

Spiritual progress will be seen as being made through decisions, decisions, and more decisions. The beautiful harmony of the consecration of one's free will to God's purposes will increasingly ring out.

True religion will look for new heroes and a new vision of heroes already known - struggling mortals who have fought the battle of faith and won by following Jesus' perfect example of exquisitely blending the human and the divine in the one life (to illuminate the sole way to be transformed from the human into the divine-endless growth of true, spiritual character).

It will be realized that Jesus is the truth, and that of all human knowledge the most important to know is the actual religious life of Jesus and how he lived it. Being our immediate creator, he lived the life of the creature (always seeking to know God's will and in submission to it). The religion Jesus practiced will be contrasted with religions that are largely about Jesus.

Religion will disentangle itself from politics, economics, and the social system. Religion will contribute to the advancement of civilization by providing the ideal citizen - tolerant, universe minded and devoted to Godly ideals, including the greatest good for the greatest number. The spirit born individual will then be influential in worthwhile areas of human advancement.

Religion will shift away from selfish focus on one's own spiritual survival. Men and women will increasingly conceive of eternal life as available simply by demonstrating unshakeable faith in the reality and goodness of God by sincerely striving to do the will of God as that will is constantly revealed by each person's indwelling Father fragment.

In the future, the focus will be on personally imitating God - on pursuing the endless quest for perfection while exploring infinity.

The religion of the future will exalt marriage, the family, the home and true ethics and morals. It will foster initiative, freedom of thought, and individuality, in religious experience. It will inspire the individual to work to establish the government of all mankind - peace on earth.

It will be a religion of actual experience, transforming faith, joy, deep thinking, self-criticism, courage, learning, ongoing relatively true revelation, new

meanings, new values, challenges and dynamic service - a rugged, never ending, daring faith adventure of step by step spiritual attainment.

The brotherhood of mankind, a high spiritual civilization striving to know and do the Father's will, eventually will be established on earth through intelligent love and service.

True religion will entail struggle, hard work, sharing and living the highest values. The faithful will become ever more real, loyal to God, patient, disappointment proof, full of truth, forgiving, wise, unselfish, non-judgmental, self-controlled, trusting in God, unafraid, at peace and able to see with spiritual insight. They will strive for unbroken communion with God. The character fruits of striving to live God's way will become their eternal possession.

The progress of true religion will be in the hands of those forward-looking men and women who will dare to construct an appealing way of life out of the highest available concepts of truth. They will not necessarily be accredited by the religions of ecclesiastical authority. Instead, these courageous men and women will rely on other people seeing that their credentials are the far-seeing, intelligent love they bestow on their fellows as they pass by.

In the future, the passion of the faithful will be a cycle of worship, truth seeking, and revealing to others, through intelligent service, that everyone is a son or daughter in God's vast universal family.

They will serve God only, treating everyone as they conceive that God would, so that each contact with a person will result in the greatest possible good to that person. The infinite spiritual rewards of their endless universe careers will unfold day by day.

We are on the brink of an amazing era of spiritual enlightenment and devotion to practical spiritual living. It will soon be easy to see that true religion is the most powerful influence on earth. One day the religion practiced by Jesus will rule in the hearts of all people upon the earth.