

An Overview—Divine Plans and the Future

A Divine Counselor, acting by the authority of the Ancients of Days of Uversa, the capitol of the superuniverse of Orvonton, reveals to us the true nature of the Universal Father on Paradise. He knows him well because he has many times been in the loving presence of the God of the Isle of Paradise of the central universe. God is the creator, controller, and infinite upholder.¹

To human beings and to the created personalities of the worlds of time and space, he is love personified:

*I come forth from the Eternal, and I have repeatedly returned to the presence of the Universal Father. I know of the actuality and personality of the First Source and Center, the Eternal Universal Father. I know that, while the great God is absolute, eternal, and infinite, he is also good, divine, and gracious. I know the truth of the great declarations: God is spirit and God is love.*²

*When man loses sight of the love of a personal God, the kingdom of God becomes merely the kingdom of good. Notwithstanding the infinite unity of the divine nature, love is the dominant characteristic of all God's personal dealings with his creatures.*³

*The Father's love follows us now and throughout the endless circle of the eternal ages. As you ponder the loving nature of God, there is only one reasonable and natural personality reaction thereto: You will increasingly love your maker; you will yield to God an affection analogous to that given by a child to an earthly parent; for as a father, a real father, a true father, loves his children, so the Universal Father loves and forever seeks the welfare of his created sons and daughters.*⁴

*How unfortunate that I cannot make use of some supernal and exclusive term which would convey to the mind of man the true nature and exquisitely beautiful significance of the divine affection of the Paradise Father.*⁵

The Purpose of This History

The purpose of this history is to provide readers of *The Urantia Book*, with factual information about the background of the Urantia Revelation: how it began, how it evolved, and how and why the associated organizations developed. To put this background into perspective,

one must position the Urantia Revelation within the wide-ranging panorama of the universe and among the high celestial beings who administer the universe, past, present, and future. We cannot write the history of the future, but we can anticipate events that are foreordained to occur on an evolutionary planet that remains out of step, along with eighteen other worlds in our system that were isolated by the Lucifer Rebellion.

The universe is not a haphazard collection of planets, suns, and galaxies. There is defined organization and structure, as well as loving over-care by beings who gently guide our destiny. There is a range of divine perfection plans and sub-plans that are laid out in *The Urantia Book* for the inhabited worlds of the Grand Universe, all of which fit somewhere into the following plans:

1. *The Plan of Progressive Attainment.* *This is the Universal Father's plan of evolutionary ascension, a program unreservedly accepted by the Eternal Son when he concurred in the Father's proposal, 'Let us make mortal creatures in our own image.' This provision for upstepping the creatures of time involves the Father's bestowal of the Thought Adjusters and the endowing of material creatures with the prerogatives of personality.*

2. *The Bestowal Plan.* *The next universal plan is the great Father-revelation enterprise of the Eternal Son and his co-ordinate Sons. This is the proposal of the Eternal Son and consists of his bestowal of the Sons of God upon the evolutionary creations, there to personalize and factualize, to incarnate and make real, the love of the Father and the mercy of the Son to the creatures of all universes.*

*Inherent in the bestowal plan, and as a provisional feature of this ministration of love, the Paradise Sons act as **rehabilitators** of that which misguided creature will has placed in spiritual jeopardy. Whenever and wherever there occurs a delay in the functioning of the attainment plan, if rebellion, perchance, should mar or complicate this enterprise, then do the emergency provisions of the bestowal plan become active forthwith. The Paradise Sons stand pledged and ready to function as retrievers, to go into the very realms of rebellion and there restore the spiritual status of the spheres.*

3. The Plan of Mercy Ministry. *When the attainment plan and the bestowal plan had been formulated and proclaimed, the Infinite Spirit projected and put in operation the tremendous and universal enterprise of mercy ministry, and the spiritual personalities of the Third Source and Center all partake of the spirit of mercy ministry which is so much a part of the nature of the Third Person of Deity.⁶*

When I observe the Creator Sons and their subordinate administrators struggling so valiantly with the manifold difficulties of time inherent in the evolution of the universes of space, I discover that I bear these lessor rulers of the universes great and profound affection. After all, I think we all, including the mortals of the realms, love the Universal Father and all other beings, divine or human because we discern that these personalities truly love us. The experience of loving is very much a direct response of being loved.⁷

As individuals, we are each provided with the opportunity to make a freewill choice to survive this life and to venture out upon the eternal quest of finding God, the loving heavenly Father on Paradise:

The transcendent goal of the children of time is to find the eternal God, to comprehend the divine nature, to recognize the Universal Father. God-knowing creatures have only one supreme ambition, just one consuming desire, and that is to become, as they are in their spheres, like him as he is in his Paradise perfection of personality and in his universal sphere of righteous supremacy.⁸

This, therefor, is the goal for the mortals of the Grand Universe who are born on the inhabited worlds. The superuniverse was not made just for us and our journey to Paradise. The higher beings who serve on the various levels of the universe are constantly reaching down and extending the hand of love and wisdom to the mortals who are ascending through the local systems, the constellations, the local universes, and the superuniverse, on their way to Paradise. The plan also includes the personal enhancement of those higher orders of beings who assist these mortals in their ascent. They, too, look toward Paradise and the central universe as their destiny.

All Planets Are Guided By Divine Plans

Every epochal revelation on every planet has a divine plan that charts its course. The first two revelations on our world, Urantia, the Planetary Prince's reign and the Material Son and Daughter (Adam and Eve), departed from their divine plans, causing our world to plunge into rebellion, default, and isolation. It should first be mentioned that evolution is the guiding force in the universes of time and space. All growth and development take place on planets that were once part of suns or other aggregations of matter, and which now provide the evolutionary homes for humans on which to begin their physical existence. On the other hand, created beings and supervisors of the many units of the universe live on made-to-order architectural worlds suited to the training and progress of intermediate beings such as ourselves after we survive this life, and for the spiritual teachers and beings we encounter on the way up to Paradise.

*Since the early times of the [first epochal revelation], the Planetary Prince [Caligastia], Urantia has suffered from the miscarriage of the **divine plan of world growth and racial development**. The loyal inhabited worlds of Satania are not governed as is Urantia. Nevertheless, compared with the other isolated worlds, your planetary governments have not been so inferior; only one or two worlds may be said to be worse, and a few may be slightly better, but the majority are on a plane of equality with you [Emphasis added].⁹*

*From the Melchizedeks and their associates, Adam and Eve [the second epochal revelation] learned more about the details of Prince Caligastia's rebellion and the result of that upheaval upon the world's progress. They also arrived at a full realization of the folly of attempting to achieve planetary advancement independently of the **divine plan of progression** [Emphasis added].¹⁰*

Urantia's third epochal revelation was the unscheduled bestowal of Machiventa Melchizedek, who arrived as a response to the miscarriage of the divine plans by the Planetary Prince and Adam and Eve. His bestowal initiated the **rehabilitation** of Urantia, and prepared the way for the seventh bestowal—on an evolutionary planet—of the local universe Creator Son, Michael of Nebadon:

If ever the authority or administration of a Creator Son is challenged, attacked, or jeopardized, he is eternally pledged to uphold, protect, defend, and if necessary, retrieve his personal creation.”¹¹

The fourth epochal revelation on Urantia was that of Christ Michael, Jesus of Nazareth: Michael’s bestowal as Jesus was the next chapter of the **divine bestowal plan in which he continued the rehabilitation of our world**, while *The Urantia Book* [the fifth epochal revelation] is the following chapter of that divine plan. Or it may in reality be a continuation of the fourth revelation—the Master Son Michael as Jesus of Nazareth—restating the principles of all prior revelations on Urantia in an unusual recapitulation of the mission of earlier visitations. We can anticipate the future arrival of yet other Paradise Sons, an Avonal Son, who will continue the **rehabilitation** of this tragic sphere. His arrival time is unknown; it could come any day if it is linked with the Urantia Revelation, or he could arrive a thousand years hence. Also promised is another visit by Christ Michael to his bestowal planet, Urantia, as yet not scheduled, and eventually, the Trinity Teacher Sons.

“The Oncoming Dispensation”

In 1970s speeches, Emma L Christensen, the last surviving contact commissioner, referred to the approach of a “new dispensation” on this world, an event not mentioned in *The Urantia Book* but thought by many readers to be associated with this revelation:

*We, the soldiers of the circles, will presently begin to function as a part of the spiritual illumination and religious readjustment of **the oncoming dispensation**. I believe we are witnessing at the present time a subsidence of the political, social, and moral convulsions of the mortal races of this world. The transition upheavals of **a new age** have in some phases attained their height and the long and slow progress of **dispensational adjustment is now beginning** [Emphasis added].*

One note of caution, however, all dispensations have been denoted epochs, but not all epochs began or ended with dispensational adjudications, the resurrection of sleeping survivors who had not previously gone on to the mansion worlds.

The Selectmen

In her address to the Triennial Delegate Assembly on August 4, 1967, as president of Urantia Brotherhood, Miss Christensen indicated how each of us can participate in the rehabilitation and spiritual growth of our world:

I have heretofore reminded you that the celestial supervisors of Urantia are mobilizing small groups of spirit-led men and women throughout the world among all nations and these truth battalions, these selectmen, are concerned today with scores of vital enterprises which have to do with the rehabilitation of the world following the ending of the present distressing conflicts. They are attached to the reserve corps; some of them know who they are. And of all the emergency corps of mortal selectmen on Urantia, none is charged with a more solemn obligation than our group. We have been called to the great work of taking the first step of offering to mortal man a new light, a new revelation of the love of God. The easy jog-trot religion of former days no longer suffices to meet the challenges of today. Following Jesus' way of life calls for an act of complete commitment, a dedicated intention, a resolute purpose, and a trumpet call to a life that will not compromise.

She continued, listing how we can be of greater service:

God has provided the vision and the call. The answer must be ours. There are steps we can take that will help us to meet this challenge: First, we need to cultivate the power to envision our share in bettering the world. Second, we need to believe that God can speak to us, that he can use us and our talents, and that he does call us to our particular place of service. Third, we need to be willing to be used for the fulfillment of the vision. Let us pray that we may all become valiant soldiers of the circles, wholeheartedly enlisted in the solid ranks of those mortals who shall go forth in the coming battle for truth against error under the unfaltering leadership of the mighty seraphim of progress.

[Note: All page numbers in the end notes in this history are from *The Urantia Book* unless otherwise indicated. Page numbers of the single column Urantia Foundation book

are in parentheses, while references from the two-column book indicate paper, section, and paragraph in brackets are from the Fellowship book. These follow the approved Standard Reference Text format. All direct quotations are in italics, while partial quotes, concept fragments, and combined ideas are not shown in italics, though they may have originated with *The Urantia Book*. The celestial “author” of the paper being quoted or paraphrased is identified in an end note when appropriate.]

END NOTES FOR CHAPTER 1, *AN OVERVIEW—DIVINE PLANS AND THE FUTURE*

¹ (p. 21) [00.01] by the Divine Counselor assigned by the Ancient of Days on Uversa.

² (p. 26.02) [01.03.08] by the Divine Counselor.

³ (p. 40) [02.05.12] by the Divine Counselor.

⁴ (p. 40) [02.05.09] by the Divine Counselor.

⁵ (p. 40) [02.05.11] by the Divine Counselor.

⁶ (p. 85) [07.04.1-3] by the Divine Counselor.

⁷ (p. 39.07) [02.05.08] by the Divine Counselor.

⁸ (p.21) [01.03] by the Divine Counselor.

⁹ (p. 1258) [114.07.15] by the Chief of Seraphim stationed on Urantia.

¹⁰ (p. 830) [74.03.03] by Solonia, the seraphic “voice in the Garden”.

¹¹ (p. 238) [21.03.07] by a Perfector of Wisdom from Uversa.