

Chapter 2

The Gift of Revelation

Early in the twentieth century, the first contact was made with the men and women who would help bring the fifth epochal revelation of truth to our world, Urantia. This development represented centuries of preparation and planning by God's unseen celestial beings, who are constantly revealing truth to our world.¹

*Truth is always a revelation; **auto revelation** when it emerges as the result of the work of the indwelling Adjuster; **epochal revelation** when it is the function of some other celestial agency, group, or personality [Emphasis added].² Revelation as **an epochal phenomenon** is periodic; as a **personal** human experience it is continuous [Emphasis added].³*

While epochal revelation—the idea that revelation by divine beings who periodically arrive on inhabited worlds to impart new truth about God and the universe to the residents—is a new concept for most people, it is a standard occurrence throughout the universe:

From the inception of life on an evolutionary planet to the time of its final flowering in the era of light and life, there appear upon the stage of world action at least seven epochs of human life. These successive ages are determined by the planetary missions of the divine Sons. And on an average inhabited world, these epochs appear in the following order:

1. *Pre-Planetary Prince Man*
2. *Post-Planetary Prince Man*
3. *Post-Adamic Man*
4. *Post-Magisterial Son Man (Avonal Son)*
5. *Post Bestowal Son Man*
6. *Post-Teacher Son Man*
7. *The Era of Light and Life.*⁴

Five Epochal Revelations

Our world, Urantia, is different from most of the other planets in the local universe in that it was designated a life modification planet when the Life Carriers implanted life; every tenth planet is a “decimal planet.”⁵ Urantia is also different due to the disruption of the normal order of events, the consequence of rebellion and default in our system of Satania. The first two epochal revelations prior to the bestowal of Machiventa Melchizedek conform to the divine plan of progressive development for a world of mortal habitation; however, they would have provided an even better foundation had they not been caught up in rebellion and default.

*Revelation is evolutionary, but always progressive. Down through the ages of a world's history, the revelations of religion are ever-expanding and successively more enlightening. There have been many events of religious revelation but only five of epochal significance.*⁶

1. The Dalamatian Teachings. Approximately 500,000 years ago, the era of the Planetary Prince was established to uplift primitive tribes and to establish a permanent world headquarters at what was then the center of the world's population.⁷ A true concept of God was promulgated on Urantia. Unfortunately, the Prince and the majority of his staff participated in the local system Lucifer Rebellion. This sent our world into great confusion strife, and retrogression.⁸ For over 200,000 years, our world has followed an irregular, confused, and difficult path.
2. The Edenic Teachings. Approximately 40,000 years ago, the era of Adam and Eve began with the purpose of uplifting our planet culturally, biologically, and spiritually.⁹ Through the error of impatience, a desire to promote more rapid results, this mission ended in default. The default thwarted biologic upliftment and many other potential benefits.¹⁰
3. Melchizedek of Salem. 4,000 years ago, the bestowal and incarnation of a Melchizedek emergency Son, Machiventa Melchizedek, was successful in sustaining the concept of one God in order to prepare the way for the bestowal of our Creator Son.¹¹ During his 93 years in Palestine he taught the beneficence of God by faith, the living experience of our relationship

with God, and through his teachings established the foundations for many of the world's religions.

4. The Creator Son's Bestowal. Approximately 2,000 years ago the Creator Son of the local universe of Nebadon experienced his terminal bestowal and incarnation on Urantia as Jesus of Nazareth. [A local universe, when fully populated will have 10,000,000 inhabited planets.] Such a revelation is an extraordinary event, occurring only once in each local universe. The essence of his teaching is love and service. Through his Spirit of Truth, he is still changing our world and the universe with his revelation of God, the Universal Father, and his teaching of the spiritual family of all God's universe children. His successful mission provided for the universal bestowal of his Spirit of Truth and of the Thought Adjusters, the indwelling fragments of the Universal Father in the mind of each mortal being on Urantia.¹²

5. *The Urantia Book*. The fifth epochal revelation is embodied in a 2,096 page book, the purpose of which is: "to expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception."¹³ This revelation of God and his creations expands our concept of the cosmos and awareness of our "supreme obligations and duties" as citizens of the universe. The teachings presented in *The Urantia Book* can help lead us to genuine religious experiences, thereby enfranchising the believer as a son of God, a citizen of a new and meaningful universe. The book presents a startling discovery about the nature of revelation: it highlights the significance of a personal spiritual experience, but that "no revelation short of the attainment of the Universal Father can ever be complete."¹⁴

Enhanced spiritual perception would uplift all mankind to the high level of God-consciousness, exhibiting the sublime self-mastery and fruits of the spirit that Jesus demonstrated during his mortal life on Urantia. Fully one third of *The Urantia Book*—774 pages—is a restatement of the life and teachings of Jesus.

*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.*¹⁵

*The great hope of Urantia lies in the possibility of a new revelation of Jesus with a new and enlarged presentation of his saving message which would spiritually unite in loving service the numerous families of his present-day professed followers.*¹⁶

His tender ministry was for the benefit of all the worlds of his universe, but especially for Urantia's inhabitants, a world that is described by Tabamantia, the sovereign supervisor of life experiment planets in the local universe, as "strife-torn, grief-stricken, and disease-afflicted."¹⁷

*That which the world needs most to know is: Men are the sons of God, and through faith they can actually realize, and daily experience, this ennobling truth.*¹⁸

*Religious revelation is essential to the realization of brotherhood on Urantia. While Jesus has shown the way to the immediate attainment of spiritual brotherhood, the realization of social brotherhood on your world depends much on personal transformation and planetary adjustments. The quickest way to realize the brotherhood of man on Urantia is to effect the spiritual transformation of present-day humanity. The only technique for accelerating the natural trend of social evolution is that of applying spiritual pressure from above, thus augmenting moral insight while enhancing the soul capacity of every mortal to understand and love every other mortal.*¹⁹

"Authorship" of *The Urantia Book*

The early leaders of the Urantia Papers project were told that a revelation in book form is unique in the local universe of Nebadon.

*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.*²⁰

Those who provided the papers are not described as authors. Part I, *The Central and Super universe*, was authorized by the rulers of the super universe, the Ancients of Days, lower than Paradise, but higher than the local universe domain of our sovereign Michael. Paper 1 was “presented” by a Divine Counselor, a very high and noble personage.

The thirty-one papers in Part I and the Foreword, were “presented,” “indited,” or “sponsored” by Paradise/Trinity origin beings. Five of these papers originated with former mortals from other worlds in other universes, who had achieved Paradise and had become “trinitized” beings, now assigned to the special service of the superuniverse rulers. A super universe “high commission” performed the service of attenuating the concepts of the celestial beings and putting them into English on Urantia in the late 1920s and early 1930s.²¹

According to the List of Titles at the beginning of the book, every celestial being who presented the papers in Part II, *The Local Universe*, is of local universe origin.²² Part III, *The History of Urantia*, is a broad collection of subjects presented by a range of beings, mostly personages of origin in the Local Universe of Nebadon. Part IV, *The Life and Teachings of Jesus*, also known as “The Jesus Papers.” Papers 120 to 196 are provided to illustrate an accurate and authoritative narrative of the life and teachings of Jesus and are designed to illuminate humanity. This magnificent group of papers in *The Urantia Book* was authorized by Gabriel, the chief executive of our local universe of Nebadon. Parts II and III were assigned by Gabriel to the supervision of a Melchizedek revelatory director, who supervised a group of celestial beings representing all levels of universe function. The same Melchizedek oversaw the commission of twelve midwayers who compiled Part IV.²³

Limitations Placed Upon Epochal Revelations

The revelators know that all epochal revelations are limited by:

1. The laws of revelation.²⁴
2. The paucity of human language.²⁵
3. The human capacity for receptivity.²⁶

Yet, in spite of human imperfections, the down reach of God through epochal revelation continues unbroken from one epoch to another:

It is exceedingly difficult to present enlarged concepts and advanced truth, in our endeavor to expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception, when we are restricted to the use of a circumscribed language of the realm. . . . We have been instructed to introduce new terms only when the concept to be portrayed finds no terminology in English which can be employed to convey such a new concept partially or even with more or less distortion of meaning.²⁷

[W]e are to be guided by the mandate of the super universe rulers which directs that we shall, in all our efforts to reveal truth and co-ordinate essential knowledge, give preference to the highest existing human concepts pertaining to the subjects to be presented. We may resort to pure revelation only when the concept of presentation has had no adequate previous expression by the human mind.²⁸

It is the mission of revelation to sort and censor the successive religions of evolution. But if revelation is to exalt and up step the religions of evolution, then must such divine visitations portray teachings which are not too far removed from the thought and reactions of the age in which they are presented. Thus must and does revelation always keep in touch with evolution.²⁹

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. But 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.³⁰

What makes *The Urantia Book* especially significant is the manner in which it weaves together pure revelation, the perspective and presentation by many beings not of human origin, with the highest existing human concepts. These human concepts throughout *The Urantia Book* are being identified by scholars of the teachings, demonstrating how epochal revelation draws from human insight.

The cosmology of *The Urantia Book* is not inspired. However, this revelation does serve to fill in certain gaps in our scientific, historical and anthropological knowledge providing a framework for understanding how we developed and why our world departed from the norm.

Truth may be but relatively inspired, even though revelation is invariably a spiritual phenomenon. While statements with reference to cosmology are never inspired, such revelations are of immense value in that they at least transiently clarify knowledge by:

- 1. The reduction of confusion by the authoritative elimination of error.*
- 2. The co-ordination of known or about-to-be-known facts and observations.*
- 3. The restoration of important bits of lost knowledge concerning epochal transactions in the distant past.*
- 4. The supplying of information which will fill in vital missing gaps in otherwise earned knowledge.*
- 5. Presenting cosmic data in such a manner as to illuminate the spiritual teachings contained in the accompanying revelation.* ³¹

Why Did the Revelation Begin in Chicago?

Many have speculated as to why the Urantia Revelation came first to Midwest America and to the particular group of humans who were involved in its reception. Several reasons may be suggested, though there has been no confirmation of these ideas by the celestial overseers:

1. The United States of America was a maturing nation that espoused freedom of thought and expression; it possessed a polyglot population and a relatively peaceful social climate.
2. America was advanced in education, science, invention, industry, philosophy, religious thinking, and social justice.
3. Chicago is a centralized location, a crossroads; it has a moderate climate, relatively free of weather extremes and geologic disturbances.

4. The Midwest United States presented a moderate outlook on religious meanings and cultural developments; not too extreme and not too conservative.

One must consider the individuals who became the members of the contact commission as significant in the choice of where the revelation would originate.

5. The two doctors who were chosen to foster the revelation at first were versatile leaders of high moral character, professional ethics, and powers of persuasion.

Their son was an intellectual and creative teacher, as well as an outstanding organizational planner. Their sister- and brother-in-law were loyal and faithful servers. This group of humans was deemed worthy to constitute the “contact commission.”

6. The secretary for the Urantia project was a skilled and experienced individual who had background in detecting fraud as a chief clerk managing over 500 bank examiners. Additionally, she could take shorthand, was a rapid typist, and was extremely well-organized.

7. The Forum was comprised of average middle class midwestern people, professional and lay people who acted as a willing sounding board for the new concepts and meanings of the revelation.

8. The Forum remained unified until its dissolution in 1956, despite a brief attack upon that unity in the early 1940s. ³²

Phases of the Fifth Epochal Revelation

This history of the reception of the Urantia Revelation is portrayed herein as evolving through seven phases, beginning in the early twentieth century. Some of the phases overlap to some extent. The story ends with the establishment of the associated organizations, Urantia Foundation, Urantia Brotherhood, and finally, publication of *The Urantia Book*.

Phase 1. The pre-papers period lasted from approximately the first decade of the twentieth century until the new epochal revelation was announced in 1924.

Phase 2. The beginning of the Forum occurred and the first series of Urantia Papers arrived in response to questions posed by the Forum, from 1923 until 1929.

Phase 3. The text was enlarged as the Forum asked more questions, and the revelators responded with the second series, an enhanced version of the first series and the addition of *The Life and Teachings of Jesus*, 1930 to 1935.

Phase 4. A review was made by the “official” Forum and contact commissioners of the entire revelation, with minor additions and corrections provided by the revelators through the contact personality, 1936 to 1942.

Phase 5. Intensive preparation of the text and raising funds for printing occurred. Creation of Urantia Foundation. 1941 to 1955,

Phase 6. Creation of Urantia Brotherhood, 1937 to 1955.

Phase 7. Publication of *The Urantia Book*, 1954-1955

Divine Watchcare

Our world, Urantia, has undergone many unusual and heart-breaking setbacks in its million-year human history. Even the very beings who were charged with overseeing progress on our planet were not immune to the entreaties of those who would short-circuit material, cultural, and spiritual progress. Regardless of where revelations are situated geographically, courageous leaders and believers arise who undertake the sometimes arduous tasks of cooperating with celestial beings, as well as shepherding and stabilizing the latest revelatory presentations to humanity.

Once mutual trust with the small human group known as the contact commission was achieved after almost twenty years, the unseen celestial beings began providing a new epochal

revelation of truth, the Urantia Papers. With the papers came guidance concerning how and when the revelation would enter the evolutionary mainstream. An increasing number of humans participated by asking questions that enlarged the revelation and further amplified the teachings, in the years between 1930 and 1942. After the danger of another world war was diminished, in 1953, the revelators authorized the contact commission to publish the book in 1955.³³

Urantia has received four epochal revelations since the failure of the Planetary Prince's reign, including *The Urantia Book*, but the planet remains under isolation until the fate of the leaders of the Lucifer Rebellion has been adjudicated.

*Your isolated planet is not forgotten in the counsels of the universe. Urantia is not a cosmic orphan stigmatized by sin and shut away from divine watchcare by rebellion. From Uversa to Salvington and on down to Jerusem, even to Havona and on to Paradise, they all know we are here; and you are just as faithfully watched over as if the sphere had never been betrayed by a faithless Planetary Prince, even more so. It is eternally true, "the Father himself loves you."*³⁴

*Your planet is a member of an enormous cosmos; you belong to a well-nigh infinite family of worlds, but your sphere is just as precisely administered and just as lovingly fostered as if it were the only inhabited world in all existence.*³⁵

END NOTES FOR CHAPTER 2, THE GIFT OF REVELATION

¹ *The Golden Years: A Historic Perspective*, by Barbara A. Newsom, Carolyn Kendall, and Urantia Foundation Staff, (Chicago, IL, 2000).

² (p. 1109) [101.04.03] by a Melchizedek..

³ (p. 1107) [101.02.10] by a Melchizedek.

⁴ (p. 589) [52.00] by a Mighty Messenger.

⁵ (pp. 667-668). [58.04.01-03] by a Life Carrier.

⁶ (p. 1007) [92.04.01] by a Melchizedek.

⁷ (p. 741) [66.00] by a Life Carrier.

⁸ (p. 754) [67] by a Melchizedek

⁹ (p. 821) [73] by Solonia, the seraphic "voice in the Garden".

¹⁰ (p. 846) [75.08.04] by Solonia.

¹¹ (p. 1014) [93.01] by a Melchizedek.

¹² *The Golden Years, 100 Years of Revelation; A Historic Perspective*, by Barbara Newsom, Carolyn Kendall, and Urantia Foundation Staff, (Publ. by Urantia Foundation, Chicago, 2000).

¹³ (p. 1) [For. 00.02] by a Divine Counselor, the Chief of the Corps of Superuniverse

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- personalities who portrayed the Paradise Deities and Universes to Urantia..
- ¹⁴ (p. 1008) [91.04.04.06] by a Melchizedek.
- ¹⁵ (p. 2091) [196.02.01] by the Midwayer Commission.
- ¹⁶ (p. 2086) [195.10.16] by the Midwayer Commission.
- ¹⁷ (p. 1189) [108.03.06] by the Midwayer Commission.
- ¹⁸ (p. 2052) [193.00] by the Midwayer Commission.
- ¹⁹ (p. 598) [52.06.07] by a Mighty Messenger.
- ²⁰ (p. 1008.2) [92.04.09] by a Melchizedek.
- ²¹ (p.354) [31.10.15] by a Divine Counselor and One without Name and Number; authorized by the Ancients of Days.
- ²² (pp. v) by various iii – x local universe contributors.
- ²³ (p. 648) [56.10.19] and (p. 1319.02) [119.08.09] by a Mighty Messenger in collaboration with Machiventa Melchizedek, the vicegerent Planetary Prince (presumably Machiventa Melchizedek), and the director of the revelatory commission, Mantutia Melchizedek universe contributors.
- ²⁴ (p. 1109) [101.04.01] by a Melchizedek.
- ²⁵ (p.469) [42.02.01] by a Mighty Messenger.
- ²⁶ (p. 591) [52.02.03] by a Mighty Messenger.
- ²⁷ (p.01) [For.00.02] by a Divine Counselor.
- ²⁸ (p. 16) [Ack.01] by a Divine C
- ²⁹ (p. 1007) [92.04.01] by a Melchizedek.
- ³⁰ (p. 1007) [92.04.09] by a Melchizedek.
- ³¹ (pp. 1109-1110) and [104.04.05] by a Melchizedek.
- ³² Bedell, Clyde, *A Response to a Thinly Disguised Attack on The Urantia Book,*” 1976.
- ³³ Revelator communications. See Appendices.
- ³⁴ (p. 1259) [114.07.13] John 16:27; by the Chief of Seraphim.
- ³⁵ (p. 183) [16.14.09] by a Universal Censor.