

Chapter 7

The Life and Teachings of Jesus, 1935

Reception of the Jesus Papers

More was in store for the contact commission and for the Forum. In his interviews with Forum applicants Dr. Sadler related the amazing tale about receiving Part IV, “The Life and Teachings of Jesus.” The human contact commission received hints from the midwayers that they anticipated that the story of Jesus would eventually be told. In Part III, the paper dealing with *The Midway Creatures*, there was a forecast of the story of Jesus that must have piqued the commissioners' curiosity:

Thus does the culture of a planet remain ever present on that planet, and in proper circumstances such treasured memories of past events are made available, even as the story of the life and teachings of Jesus has been given by the midwayers of Urantia to their cousins in the flesh.¹

The revelators themselves didn't know whether they would be permitted to include *The Life and Teachings of Jesus* because of the uncertain status of the Lucifer Rebellion and the pending case of *Gabriel vs. Lucifer* on Uversa, the superuniverse capital. The midwayers did not know whether there would be enough time to include the story of Jesus in the Urantia Revelation should permission come.

[W]e may record that, during the time of effecting this revelation, the first hearing in the pending case of Gabriel vs. Lucifer was held on Uversa.²

But the midwayers brought a separate case, a petition, to the Uversa court, to allow them to tell the story of the bestowal of Michael on Urantia:

The delay of one year in the reception of the Jesus Papers—Part IV of The Urantia Book—may be explained as follows: The midwayers were a bit apprehensive about becoming involved in the suit pending in the universe courts—Gabriel vs.

Lucifer—and they hesitated to complete their project until they were assured that they had full authority to retell the story of Jesus’ life on earth.

After some months’ waiting there came the mandate from Uversa directing the United Midwayers of Urantia to proceed with their project of revealing the story of the life and teachings of Michael when incarnated on Urantia, and not only assuring them that they were not in “contempt” of the Uversa courts, but instead granting them a mandate to do this service and admonishing any and all persons connected therewith to refrain from interfering with, or in any way hindering, the execution of such an undertaking.

And this is the explanation of why the Jesus Papers appear one year after the other Papers had been completed.³

This was the beginning of **phase three**.

Permission Granted

Approval was granted in 1935 to tell the complete story of the Son of Man on Urantia. The leader of the contact commission received a simultaneous narrative as the decision was rendered by the court of the Ancients of Days. It was arranged for Sadler to overhear the great celebration by the midwayer corps.⁴

The twelve secondary midwayers who were formerly associated with the Apostles of Jesus during his bestowal life on Urantia compiled the story of the life of Jesus. The leader of the midwayer group was:

. . . authorized to place on record the narrative of the life transactions of Jesus of Nazareth as they were observed by my order of earth creatures, and as they were subsequently partially recorded by the human subject [the Apostle Andrew] of my temporal guardianship.⁵

The midwayers were mandated to draw upon the highest human concepts, as well as from their own memories, in compiling *The Life and Teachings of Jesus*. The notes made by the

Apostle Andrew, which he began writing after the resurrection of Jesus, were among the sources used.

[T]he last copy was destroyed by fire at Alexandria about one hundred years after the original was written by the first chosen of the twelve apostles.”⁶

The midwayers began planning for a new revelation of the life of Jesus as far back as the Middle Ages. Much of the Master’s original teachings were lost when Christianity took hold in the West. Also, paganism and Mithraism in the 2nd century after Christ threatened Christianity with extinction.⁷ The narrative created by these twelve secondary midwayers, including input of the Apostle Andrew’s notes, as well as other members of the United Brotherhood of Midwayers, was held in readiness for the moment they received approval from Uversa to include it in the fifth epochal revelation.⁸

The first series of the Urantia Papers consisting of Parts I, II and III totaled 1,700 typewritten pages. When the Jesus papers were added, expansion of the first three Parts was still in process. The revised three Parts, plus the *Life and Teachings of Jesus*, now comprised the second series. The “third series” was a complete review of the Foreword, Parts I, II, III, and the Jesus Papers by the commissioners and Forum with new page numbering spanning all elements.⁹

Clarence Bowman wrote in his diary in 1937 that he read Papers 120 to the end of 126, and that the last typewritten page number of Paper 126 was 3016. Other than that page number, we don’t have the total number of typed pages for the entire book.¹⁰

The biggest surprise was the Jesus Papers. We never expected to get a whole new story of Jesus’ life. This was a big shock.¹¹

Forum members were also surprised when told that the Jesus Papers came in 1935 “all at once.” Some later readers assumed that they arrived already typed and neatly stacked next to the typewriter. It was not unusual for all of the pages in a paper to come all at once in the handwriting of the contact personality, but it would be extremely unusual for all of the papers in Part IV to arrive already typed. It is more likely that all of the papers in Part IV came either in one day, or within a few days, in the handwriting of the subject. Christy told an associate that the

midwayers still expected humans to do the work of typing the papers and reviewing them. Any corrections or additions were made with permission of the revelators. Christy did admit that her favorite part of the book was the Jesus Papers. “Less paper,” she added.¹²

The Forum celebrated Jesus’ birthday for the first time on August 21, 1935. The selections read at that first observance concerned “The closing years of Jesus’ life,” indicating that all of the papers in the fourth part had been received.¹³

In 1948, when the Jesus Papers were being printed, an order came to “stop the presses!” The revelators wished to insert the story of Jesus’ caravan trip to Lake Urmia with a more contemporary version of Jesus’ teaching about sovereignty and international affairs. The content of this material was later found to have been drawn from a then recently published book in 1945 and 1946.¹⁴ The midwayers had adapted Jesus’ remarks to equivalent modern-day political situations to make the concepts understandable. This was in keeping with their mandate concerning revelation:

*[W]e are to be guided by the mandate of the superuniverse 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.*¹⁵

There was one indication of disagreement between the seraphic religious guardians and the Angels of Progress in Part Four, and their inability to come to a compromise. This occurred when the story of Jesus’ caravan trip to the Lake Urmia region was being prepared for printing. The revelatory commission chairman, Mantutia Melchizedek stepped in and made the decision between two possible viewpoints for the midwayers to relate Jesus’ teachings concerning world governance, war, peace, and sovereignty.

Finally, the Melchizedek chairman of the revelatory commission appointed a commission of three of our number to prepare our view of the master’s Urmia teachings as adapted to twentieth-century religious and political conditions on Urantia. Accordingly, we three secondary midwayers completed such an adaptation of Jesus’ teachings, restating his pronouncements as we would apply them to present-

*day world conditions, and we now present these statements as they stand after having been edited by the Melchizedek chairman of the revelatory commission.*¹⁶

This was the heretofore unknown story of Jesus' visit to Lake Urmia and his lectures to students attending Cymboyton's academy. The Melchizedek revelatory commission director ruled to modernize the text rather than cite first century examples, and gave permission for Jesus' lectures to be presented in modern phraseology

The Search for Human Concepts

The modern phraseology employed in Jesus' address to students at Cymboyton's school is an example of the . . .

*. . . thought gems and superior concepts of (his) teachings assembled from 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, more correctly restatements.*¹⁷

These thought gems selected for the Lake Urmia paper came from a 1946 book dealing with sovereignty and world political conditions. Printing of *The Urantia Book* was temporarily suspended while an agreement was reached by the seraphim, midwayers and Melchizedek director.¹⁸ The final review of the Jesus Papers was not concluded by the Forum until January 1948.¹⁹

Many contemporary human concepts have been identified by readers over the years, both before and since publication. These were ideas the midwayers appropriated from existing writings to better express concepts understandable to human minds, and to incorporate into the text of *The Urantia Book*. The concepts are not attributed as to authorship, though a few of the complete sentences have quotations marks. Bill Sadler found a few of the human concepts. Matthew Block is one of the most prolific "sourcerers." Stephen Dreier and Gard Jameson keep their eyes open for likely human concepts. Christy collected Rufus Jones's books which she recommended to visiting friends and relatives before the book was published.

I was fortunate to find one of the so-called sources—a collection of concepts in one book—in a church rummage sale across the street from Alvin Kulieke’s home in Prospect Heights, Illinois. This was in 1963, and the book was *The Religion of Jesus*, by Walter E. Bundy.²⁰ Kulieke was the church choir director. He was also president of Urantia Brotherhood. When Edith Cook, a trustee of Urantia Foundation, visited our home, she looked at the Bundy book and pointed out sentences that were clearly used by the midwayer editors in the last paper of *The Urantia Book*. The first sentence in *The Religion of Jesus* is “Jesus was God’s Galilean.” The same sentence is in Paper 195. Others: “Christianity from the moment of its birth was a religion about Jesus rather than the religion of Jesus,”²¹ and, “Jesus’ faith was childlike, but it was in no sense childish.”²² Most exciting was a paragraph on page 208 in which Bundy recited what prayer meant to Jesus, presenting in the same order, phrase for phrase, what prayer was for Jesus, in *The Urantia Book*.²³ Dr. Sadler and Christy were delighted beyond words when I showed it to them. Besides the Rufus Jones books, they had never seen such precision in how well the concepts were spliced into the text.

END NOTES FOR CHAPTER 7, THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS

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- ¹ (p. 866) [77.09.09] by an archangel.
 - ² (p. 616) [54.04.08] by a Mighty Messenger.
 - ³ Sadler, W.S., M.D., oral remarks to several Forum members.
 - ⁴ Contact commissioners’ 1960 *History of the Urantia Movement*. See Appendix II
 - ⁵ (p.1332 & 1343) [121.00] by the Midwayer Commission.
 - ⁶ (p. 1549-50) [139.01.09] by the Midwayer Commission
 - ⁷ From a revelator message in 1951. Also, see (p. 2075) [196.03 and 04] by the Midwayer Commission.
 - ⁸ (p. 1332) [121.00] by the midwayer formerly attached to the Apostle Andrew.
 - ⁹ Contact commissioners’ 1960 History of the Urantia Movement, See Appendix II.
 - ¹⁰ Bowman diary, November 27, 1937.
 - ¹¹ Contact commissioners’ 1960 History of the Urantia Movement.
 - ¹² Christensen, E.L., oral remarks to Barbara Newsom.
 - ¹³ Bowman, C.N., Forum member, diary..
 - ¹⁴ Reves, Emery, *The Anatomy of Peace*. (Harper & Brothers, London and New York, 1945 and 1946) Reves was a native of Hungary, and an agent and friend of Winston Churchill’s.
 - ¹⁵ [p.16] [*Foreword, Ack. 01*].
 - ¹⁶ (p.1486) [134.03.08] by the Midwayer Commission.
 - ¹⁷ (p.1343) [1221.Ack.02] a secondary midwayer one time attached to the Apostle Andrew.
 - ¹⁸ *The Anatomy of Peace*, by Emery Reves, (Publ. 1945 in London and 1946 in New York) by Reves.
 - ¹⁹ Contact commissioners’ 1960 History of the Urantia Movement.

²⁰ Bundy, Walter E., *The Religion of Jesus*, (The Bobbs Merrill Co, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1st. ed, 1928) Professor of English Bible at DePauw University, Greencastle, IN. Both Dr. Meredith J. Sprunger (Ft. Wayne, IN, and Vern Grimsley, Culver Military Academy, Culver, IN) had heard of Bundy. Dr. Sadler had not heard of him, and was greatly surprised when he examined the book.

²¹ Religion *about* Jesus vs religion *of* Jesus: (p. 277) in the Bundy book; (p. 2083) [195.10.15] in *The Urantia Book*.

²² The child mind (pp. 218-229 in the Bundy book); (p. 2089) [196.00.11-12] in *The Urantia Book*.

²³ What prayer was to Jesus: Bundy: (p. 208); (p. 2089) [196.00.10] in *The Urantia Book*.