

## Introduction to the Publication Mandate

COMPILED BY: Certain members of the General Council of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD

FOR: The files of the Executive Committee of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD

PRESENTED: 4 April, 1955. Read to the Forum by William S. Sadler, Jr.

“It seems appropriate, a second time, to bring to the attention of the Executive Committee certain wise comments and advices which have been gathered over a period of years and which pertain to the future problems of the URANTIA BOOK. These advices could well be presented under the general caption:”

### “The Timing of the *Urantia Book*.”

*We regard the Urantia Book as a feature of the progressive evolution of human society. It is not germane to the spectacular episodes of epochal revolution, even though it may apparently be timed to appear in the wake of one such revolution in human society. The Book belongs to the era immediately to follow the conclusion of the present ideological struggle. That will be the day when men will be willing to seek truth and righteousness. When the chaos of the present confusion has passed, it will be more readily possible to formulate the cosmos of a new and improved era of human relationships. And it is for this better order of affairs on earth that the Book has been made ready.*

*But the publication of the Book has not been postponed to that (possibly) somewhat remote date. An early publication of the Book has been provided so that it may be in hand for the training of leaders and teachers. Its presence is also required to engage the attention of persons of means who may be thus led to provide funds for translations into other languages.*

*You who have dedicated your lives to the service of the Book and the Brotherhood can little realize the import of your doings. You will doubtless live and die without fully realizing that you are participating in the birth of a new age of religion on this world.*

*The future is not open to your mortal comprehension, but you will do well to diligently study the order, plan, and methods of progression as they were enacted in the earth life of Michael when the Word was made flesh. You are becoming actors in an ensuing episode when the Word is made Book. Great is the difference in these dispensations of religion, but many are the lessons which can be learned from a study of the former age.*

*You must again study the times of Jesus on earth. You must carefully take note of how the kingdom of heaven was inaugurated in the world. Did it evolve slowly and unfold naturally? or did it come with sudden show of force and with spectacular exhibition of power? Was it evolutionary or revolutionary?*

*You must learn to possess your souls in patience. You are in association with a revelation of truth which is a part of the natural evolution of religion on this world. Overrapid growth would be suicidal. The book is being given to those who are ready for it long before the day of its world-wide mission. Thousands of study groups must be brought into existence and the book must be translated into many tongues. Thus will the book be in readiness when the battle for man's liberty is finally won and the world is once more made safe for the religion of Jesus and the freedom of mankind.*

### **Comment Concerning the Publication Mandate.**

In May 1942 all opportunities for asking further questions by members of the Forum ended. Authority had been given in June 1941 to the contact commissioners to begin the process of printing *The Urantia Book*. The first pages of the Foreword were set in type in November 1941. Over the next nine years typesetting of Parts One through Four occurred incrementally. For example: as enough money was received to print Part Two of the book, typesetting for that part was begun and completed. The painstaking work of proofreading and checking the typeset pages

of each part stretched the process longer than anticipated. This was all taking place during wartime in America.

Finally, the work was finished. The revelators waited until the Forum had completed a full reading of Part 4 in their Sunday afternoon meetings before authorizing typesetting of Part 4. The last paper of Part 4, the Jesus Papers, was read January 8, 1948. Plating of Part 4 was completed in June 1950. The contact commissioners waited for the revelators to authorize publication of the book.

One year after the arrival of the New Regent of the Acting Planetary Prince, whose name is Norson, in August 1951, he announced to the contact commission, (who notified the Seventy and the Forum), that: "I, and I alone, will direct the time of the publication of *The Urantia Book*." and, "If I do not provide such information on or before January 1, 1955, then the Trustees of the Urantia Foundation should proceed with plans for publication in accordance with their own judgment. I reserve the right to intervene at any time."

This Publication Mandate of Norson was read by Bill Sadler to the Forum on Sunday, September 21, 1952. Bill expressed the personal opinion that they probably would not hear anything further from "our friends," saying, "I guess we are on our own from now on."

The Publication Mandate arrived in the same manner as all other written messages and final versions of the Urantia Papers. The Mandate was read again to the Forum on April 4, 1955. Copies of this statement were placed in each of the Urantia Brotherhood departmental committee secretary's notebooks, and copies were also given to various leaders. It was read to many individuals as they assumed leadership roles in the years after publication. Nothing further was received in writing.

Carolyn Kendall, 07/31/14