

The purposes of our discussion

Remarks by Neal Waldrop excerpted from webinar 4 on topic 8 of *Revelation Revealed* (Saturday, December 15, 2018)

If the rest of you are patient with me in my role as the moderator and also as the author of the underlying document *Revelation Revealed*, I will then try to respond as best I can to the points that Steve made and those that Marvin just made.

Yes, I agree with Marvin that our audience is readers of *The Urantia Book* and, I would say, predominantly committed readers of *The Urantia Book*, not simply casual readers. There is nothing that would impede someone of another faith — Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, whatever — from looking at our programs if he or she wishes to do so. They are available, and will remain available, on YouTube. But I think the message that we have, the message that we are exploring, is of greatest interest to committed readers of *The Urantia Book*; and thus if they are not our entire audience, they are the overwhelming majority of it.

Now the context of these questions comports with the title of the document, *Revelation Revealed*; and it was my task, when writing that document, to try to dig deeply into what the revelators were telling us, to overcome misunderstandings, possibly, and indeed to reveal items, aspects of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, that in my judgment had not received enough attention up to now.

So the word *revealed* in the second half of the title has to do with making known, whereas *revelation*, the first word — even though it is a linguistic cognate — has to do with the spiritual purpose that the revelators were undertaking. So if my purpose in writing that document was to reveal aspects that were not appropriately understood, then you can go through the twelve topics that the document covers and interpret the meaning of each of these topics. In other words, I was seeking to point out aspects that need to be understood better, at least from my perspective.

Now we get to the question in front of us. Topic 8 is as follows: “Comparing and contrasting the true teachings of Jesus with the traditional tenets and practices of organized, institutional Christianity.” If we are going to compare and contrast, it is necessary, first, to start with the true teachings of Jesus and then go through, as best we can, at least some of the traditional tenets and practices of organized, institutional Christianity.

And I believe that these ten questions — I’m sorry, these ten statements that I’ve compiled — do embody the general spirit and overtones of some statements that have been made by various Christian believers throughout the history of Christianity. Therefore I believed when I made up the ten statements, and believe now, that evaluating these statements is part of the overall task of comparing and contrasting the true teachings of Jesus with the traditional tenets and practices of organized, institutional Christianity.

It is not my purpose to conduct a crusade directed against organized, institutional Christianity. That was not why I wrote this material; that is not why we are discussing it. But it is important to try to point out the differences, the comparison and the contrast, because I am not certain that committed readers of *The Urantia Book* have absorbed these differences with the care that would behoove them.

And that’s part of our purpose today — not only to exchange views, but perhaps to provide additional grist for reflection on the part of committed readers of *The Urantia Book* in the event that one of us, or several of us, say something that they find interesting or useful, and preferably both interesting and useful. That, at least, is my aspiration, and I hope that I have answered your points.

(NOTE: These remarks began at about 36:47 minutes of the recording available in YouTube, and ended at about minute 41:38.)