

Preface

Revelation affords a common meeting ground for the discoveries of both science and religion and makes possible the human attempt logically to correlate these separate but interdependent domains of thought into a well-balanced philosophy of scientific stability and religious certainty. ^{103:7.9}

Published in 1955, *The Urantia Book* is the fifth revelation of epochal significance bestowed upon our world. The stated purposes of its celestial authors are to expand cosmic consciousness, advance spiritual insight, and co-ordinate human knowledge. A minor portion of the many spiritual, philosophical, historical, and scientific truths presented concerns cosmology – the origin, history, and destiny of the universe. “Because your world is generally ignorant of origins, even of physical origins, it has appeared to be wise from time to time to provide instruction in cosmology.” ^{101:4.1} Cosmology is naturally part of a fuller understanding of the Creator, since it is an effort to understand His creation. It is a teleological principle that form follows function and function follows purpose. Natural philosophy arises from the physical principle that effect follows action and action follows cause.

The created universe is a thing of resplendent majesty. Cosmology is the pursuit of the beautiful: “...the pursuit of beauty – cosmology – you all too often limit to the study of man’s crude artistic endeavors.... The supreme beauty, the height of finite art, is the drama of the unification of the vastness of the cosmic extremes of Creator and creature.” ^{56:10.3} The supreme beauty of revealed cosmology illuminates the truths of the spiritual teachings in *The Urantia Book*. Reality embraces both the Creator and his glorious creation. “The progressive comprehension of reality is the equivalent of approaching God.” ^{196:3.3}

There is little beauty in the scientific cosmologies of the 20th century, since there is no place for the Creator in them. Science and religion are cosmically divorced from one another in the modern sensibility. These cosmologies describe a randomly ordered universe with no overall structure, meaning or purpose. They all begin with the assumption that the universe consists of eternally self-existent and uncreated energy, and the belief that space and time begin with a primal explosion of some sort. This Big Bang initiates the expansion of space, which necessarily results in the random and uniform distribution of matter

throughout the universe on the largest scales. The cause of this primal explosion is never described in empirically verifiable terms. But all versions of this cosmology agree that mindless and self-existent physical laws explain the evolution of self-existent energy-matter. There is no purpose or intent behind the origin and evolutionary history of the universe. Man is absolutely lost in a trackless chaos full of furious activity signifying nothing.

The beauty of revealed cosmology comes from its placement of the Creator, Controller, and Upholder of Reality at the physical center of the universe of universes. Everlasting energy is created here and there in the universe by various intelligent agents of Deity. Finite space expands and contracts in response to the will of Deity. Space expansion is not initiated by a mechanical Big Bang. The universe has a beautiful overall structure and order which flows from the truth that it is evolving toward divine physical perfection in response to the eternal purposes of God. This beauty is manifest in the concentration of the galaxies of the universe about a single universal plane of creation. The whole of reality is dynamically unified about the presence of God at the center of the universe of universes. An absolute gravitational attraction causes all of creation to revolve majestically about him. The universe of universes is supremely beautiful, because there are places in it for both man and God. Man dwells in a well-ordered and friendly universe under the sovereign rule of God.

Revealed cosmology describes certain cosmic structures and universe dynamics with enough specificity to be empirically tested against the data of astronomic observation. Scientific cosmology is of most value when it subjects itself to the objective verification of its ideas and interpretations. A fundamental assumption of all 20th century cosmologies is the cosmological principle, which asserts that energy-matter is distributed homogeneously and isotropically throughout the universe on the largest scales. Revealed cosmology presents the radically different concept of a preferential distribution of energy-matter about a universal plane of creation. Prior to the beginning of the 21st century, the available astronomic data was consistent with the cosmological principle, which is irreconcilable with revealed cosmology. There was no significant evidence supporting the existence of a plane of creation or of certain large and very large cosmic structures described by revelation.

From a religious perspective, the beauty of revealed cosmology is sufficient proof in itself. Its apparent refutation by the physical evidence is overcome by the deeper and more persuasive evidence of faith. From a scientific perspective, the lack of physical evidence supporting revealed cosmology has deprived it of any credibility. However, since the beginning of the 21st century there has been

an astounding increase in the quantity and quality of new astronomic data. Descriptions of certain cosmic structures first published in 1955, which seemed so impossible at that time, can now be seen and verified. Advanced telescopes and new discoveries finally make it possible to detect the plane of creation. Suddenly, there is enough objective hard data to scientifically confirm the essential structure and features of the cosmology first revealed in *The Urantia Book*.

An overall physical order can now be observed in the universe. The center of the universe of universes can be located. The plane of creation can be seen. The gravitational revolution of the whole universe about this absolute center can be confirmed. A hierarchical structure of galaxies, galactic clusters, and space levels can be discerned. The physical locations of the seven heavens, first revealed to mankind thousands of years ago, can be charted at last.

Some of your wise men saw the vision of the greater heaven, “the heaven of heavens,” of which the sevenfold mansion world experience was but the first; the second being Jerusem; the third, Edentia and its satellites; the fourth, Salvington and the surrounding educational spheres; the fifth, Uversa; the sixth, Havona; and the seventh, Paradise. ^{48:6.23}

With the guidance given by the celestial teachers who authored *The Urantia Book* “it is just as possible to find the personal presence of God at the center of all things as to find distant cities on your own planet.” ^{11:1.3} We no longer need be disoriented in the vastness of space. We can find the home of the Universal Father on the Eternal Isle of Paradise.