

The Precambrian Supercontinent

This essay explores the concept of epochal revelation, as presented in The Urantia Book, emphasizing its significance in bridging the gap between science and religion. I define epochal revelation as a rare, dramatic disclosure of divine truth that occurs after long intervals, profoundly impacting human understanding. The essay discusses how The Urantia Book integrates scientific and religious insights, creating a harmonious worldview that satisfies both intellectual and spiritual inquiries.

Mark McMenamin, a prominent paleontologist, is highlighted in the essay for his acknowledgment of The Urantia Book's authoritative discussion on the Precambrian supercontinent. McMenamin points out the remarkable accuracy of the book's description of a billion-year-old supercontinent, Rodinia, and its subsequent breakup, which was only validated by scientific consensus decades later. He notes that the book not only correctly identifies the age and existence of Rodinia but also links its breakup to the emergence of complex life in the ensuing rift oceans. This level of detail and accuracy, according to McMenamin, suggests an extraordinary level of geological knowledge by the authors, further supporting the notion of The Urantia Book as a significant revelation that bridges the domains of science and religion.

In this essay I re-introduce and support JJ Johnson's idea of the COSAR principle (Coordination of Science and Religion), highlighting how The Urantia Book synthesizes scientific facts and religious truths into a unified philosophy. The essay delves into the book's prescient scientific statements, particularly regarding the Precambrian supercontinent and continental drift, which were later validated by scientific discoveries. By comparing these revelations with modern scientific findings, the author demonstrates the book's credibility and its potential to guide future scientific and philosophical exploration. I ultimately advocate for an open-minded approach to integrating scientific and religious knowledge, fostering a deeper understanding of cosmic truth.

- Bob Debold
Fairfax, VA, July 2024

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The Unbroken Truth of Reality

I reiterate throughout my website of essays that The URANTIA Book¹ is a revelation of epochal significance. This raises the question, ‘just what exactly is an epochal revelation and why is it significant’? My American Heritage Dictionary Fifth Edition² defines “revelation” as: “the act of disclosing, especially a dramatic disclosure of something not previously known or realized.” It also has a theologically oriented definition described as “a manifestation of divine will or truth.” Revelation can also be personal: “A sudden insight or idea,” with an example: “I had a sudden idea that solved my problem.” And “epochal” is an adjective that is characteristic of a “highly momentous” milestone occurring after an extremely long-time frame that is “without parallel.” Thus, an epochal revelation is a dramatic disclosure of truth that has long periods of human generational time in-between presentations of consequential truth. Plainly, an epochal revelation occurs very rarely in human time frames and it is big, very big.

A manifestation of divine will or truth³ connotes a religious revelation – a truth that incorporates and transcends the material; it can manifest itself as an aha! or an insight that seems to come into consciousness out of nowhere. A high fever is a manifestation of an infection or a disease; it reveals that some deeper material truth exists. A religious revelation effects spiritual insight of those who are open-minded to discovering what a particular deeper truth revealed beyond the revelation itself. For example, in the New Testament, at Matthew 11:27 and Luke 10:11, Jesus reveals his mission to the apostles: to do the Will of the Father, and to reveal his loving character. This points to the deeper reality that Jesus was the truth of the Father’s loving character made manifest in the flesh.⁴

According to an author designated a Melchizedek,⁵ in paper 101 of *The URANTIA Book*, a religious revelation has deeper capabilities to “synthesize the apparently divergent sciences of

¹ Orvonton Divine Counselor., et al. *The Urantia Book*. Urantia Foundation, Chicago Illinois, 1955.

² “revelation,” noun. (1a,b,c).” The American Heritage Dictionary, Fifth Edition, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018, p. 1501.

³ Ibid. (2)

⁴ The Urantia Book. (143:1.4 (1608.1)); (120:4.3 (1331.3)); (153:2.4 (1710.2)) [Note: This last reference is in a section called “The Epochal Sermon”]

⁵ For the reader unfamiliar with the substantial designation of nonhuman personalities throughout the revelation, a glossary is provided in Appendix #xx, pg. yy with a small description of each personality mentioned in this book and what comprises his/her/its’ function in the Universal Father’s cosmos. While the structure appears to

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nature and the theology of religion into a consistent and logical universe philosophy, a co-ordinated and unbroken explanation of both science and religion, thus creating a harmony of mind and satisfaction of spirit which answers in human experience those questionings of the mortal mind which craves to know how the Infinite works out his will and plans in matter, with minds, and on spirit.”⁶

JJ Johnson refers to this as the COSAR principle: the **C**oordination of **S**cience and **R**eligion. The revelators weave the COSAR Principle exquisitely throughout the *URANTIA Book* with such sublimity that one is hardly conscious of the intellectual fusion. However, this coordination is much, much more than mere cerebral outcomes. I submit this revelatory proposition creates a harmony of mind and satisfaction of spirit which answers in human experience those cravings on how the Infinite functions in both the scientific (impersonal) and religious (personal) arenas of human endeavor.

The revelators completed the first three parts of the *URANTIA Book* by 1934-35 respectively. By then, the revelators asserted a large number of extraordinary declarations regarding scientific predicates that were not known or accepted by those knowledge-based communities until decades later after its 1955 publishing. Beginning with the topic in this essay as well, I demonstrate how the impersonal science the various authors declare is logically and beautifully harmonized with religious insights.

Make no mistake however, merely reading about these now accepted scientific facts (and maybe even suspending disbelief about them) along with the related philosophical support the revelation provides, doesn't necessarily assure securing coordination between science and religion. (Admittedly one has to desire to see the coordinated relationship between the two). This must come along with a test of one's *experience* of the truth of reality. Understanding what that means is no small feat however. The revelation has leavened the use of a significant number of conventional English words to a larger context. This new language's spatially broadened context includes a triunity wholeness of material, mindal, and spiritual experiences – cosmic truth

be a hierarchy with the Universal Father the uncaused cause of both infinity and finity, the papers reveal quite clearly the Father of All delegates everything except the bestowals of personality and thought adjusters while at the center of His creation. In effect, a better description of the apparent hierarchy is that of a holarchy. (cf. Koestler 1967). I refrain from explaining these details in the narration to meet space and clarity goals.

⁶ Ibid. (101:2.1 (1105.5))

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requires all three to instantiate. This is especially important to understand when processing the expanded context for each individual term “truth” and “reality.”

The real test for binding the truth of reality with the self is to allow one’s a priori logical acumen or cosmic intuition⁷ to foster the ability we humans have from grace to discriminate the *appearance* of reality from the *truth* of reality. We are all children of God by grace and possessed of a genuine religious nature through personality embracing of the Holy Spirit, consciousness augmentation by the Spirit of Truth, and moral quickening by the universal bestowal of Thought Adjusters. We humans have an embarrassment of riches as it concerns our personality progress; it would be a cosmic blunder to squander these gifts.

For example, the quantum world exposed and validated the appearance of matter as solid at the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth. The illusion of solidity is now a figment of our imaginations. With the advent of experimental verification of atomic theory and the atomic model⁸ by 1905, the current truth of reality is that “quantum foam” or constant motion of energy exists at the smallest atomic level science has been able to ascertain. Perpetual energy motion is all that really exists of matter! The revelation via a Melchizedek of Nebadon supports this understanding:⁹ “The eternal Isle is absolutely at rest; all other organized and organizing energy is in eternal motion.”

Cosmic Revelation for Evolution with Innovation

As I discussed in the introduction and detailed above, truth, as the fifth epochal revelation (FER) elucidates it, is a synthesis of a more comprehensive understanding of cosmic relationships, universe facts, and spiritual values. Its overall function co-ordinates both science and religion with the truth of reality. The existence of a Precambrian supercontinent, the substance of this essay, as we shall see, on the surface, is an example of the material components of the truth of reality. I demonstrate that while actuality of the revelation of a Precambrian

⁷ Urantia Book. (101:3.2 (1108.1)).

⁸ Wikipedia Contributors. “History of quantum mechanics.” Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, 26 December 2007, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_quantum_mechanics#Quantum_field_theory. Accessed 8 December 2022. Also cf. Green, B. (1999). The elegant universe superstrings, hidden dimensions, and the quest for the ultimate theory. W. W. Norton & Co., New York, NY. Ch. 4& 5. (French physicist Jean Baptiste Perrin used the model in Einstein’s paper to experimentally determine the mass, and the dimensions, of atoms, thereby giving direct empirical verification of the atomic theory.)

⁹ Urantia Book. (105:3.4 (1156.1) & (101:2.9 (1106.8)).

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supercontinent is now factually correct, the cosmic truth of that reality manifests all three components: facts, relationships, and values.

The Cambrian¹⁰ period in Urantia's geologic history is a time starting about 540 million years ago when life on Earth rapidly diversified and evolved into many new forms. It's called an "explosion" because a sudden burst of *innovative* animal traits and forms took place over a relatively short period of time, geologically speaking. Prior to the Cambrian Explosion, most life on Earth exhibits fossils of simple, primarily single-celled organisms. But during the Cambrian period of a mere 10M years, animals developed hard parts, like shells and skeletons, and new body plans, like the ancestors of insects, fish, and spiders. This was a key moment in the history of life on Urantia and helped set the stage for the *evolution* of all the complex life on the planet today.

No matter which internet search engine or methodology one uses to determine the usage of the dual term “epochal revelation,” one finds over ninety percent of returns bring back either The URANTIA Book itself or books, articles, blogs, forums, or websites related to The URANTIA Book. It is evident the term is uncommonly unique to *The URANTIA Book*. Owing to the miniscule known population of *URANTIA Book* advocates in relation to worldwide religions, sciences, and philosophies, the dual term itself has the capability to uplift the dictionary of human language to greater heights – reaching potentially cosmic¹¹ dimensions.

Again, in paper 101, the Melchizedek expands and scales the definition to cosmic proportions. He indicates that “Revelation is a technique whereby ages upon ages of time are

¹⁰ The name "Cambrian" comes from the Latin name for Wales, "Cambria", which is where some of the first rocks of this age were studied and described. In 1835, British geologist Adam Sedgwick and Welsh geologist Roderick Murchison independently described a distinctive rock sequence in Wales and northern England that was characterized by abundant fossils of previously unknown creatures, including trilobites, brachiopods, and other types of animals with hard shells. The first scientific paper to validate the date of 540 million years ago with peer-reviewed approval was published in the journal "Science" in 1956. The paper, titled "The Age of the Cambrian Period," was authored by three geologists: Preston E. Cloud, Jr., Clair C. Patterson, and Harold Urey.

¹¹ The term “cosmic” is difficult to define in relation to the content in the *Urantia Book*. The most incorporative of what the word means for me is found in the description of true worship in Paper Five God's Relation to the Individual at: 5:3.8 (66.4): “True worship, in the last analysis, becomes an experience realized on four *cosmic* levels: the intellectual, the morontial, the spiritual, and the personal—the consciousness of mind, soul, and spirit, and their unification in personality.” (My emphasis). Since the statement doesn't say THE four cosmic levels, it can be inferred that there may be more. Personality, as can be synthesized by a student of the papers is not considered a level. Rather it precedes that which is cosmic; personality is revealed as a quality and value in cosmic reality. In fact, it may be THE most important concept the papers disclose; Jesus taught that God is a personality that is contactable. As an adjective qualifier, cosmic refers to a reality that can exist in the most expansive picture one can muster on any or all of the four levels as declared by the Divine Counselor of Uversa, and then some. “[Paradise] is the absolute of cosmic reality ...” 104:5.6 (1151.6)

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saved in the necessary work of sorting and sifting the errors of evolution from the truths of spirit acquirement. Truth is always a revelation but *epochal* revelation is presented by the function of some other celestial agency, group, or personality.” (My emphasis).

As *The URANTIA Book* declares itself to be the first *written* presentation of truth to this planet,¹² the Melchizedek is speaking generally about the process by which each of the previous four revelations to Urantian humans occurred. But, specifically, respective of *The URANTIA Book* as the fifth epochal revelation asserting this concept within its pages, the Melchizedek is emphasizing the sorting and sifting is crucial to understanding its significance and uniqueness related to the previous four epochal revelations the papers also reveal.

This sorting and sifting are especially critical due to the exponential growth of civilization since roughly the time the Sumerians appeared in history.¹³ In fact, the growth of civilization since the seventh century BC is as noteworthy as the Cambrian explosion of animals around 540-500M YA. The Cambrian explosion is a derivative and specially related Urantian life history topic as a result of the breakup of a supercontinent that directly preceded the explosion. This is discussed with greater detail later in this essay. It is a significant *cosmic* topic to reflect upon; it unites intellectual and spiritual cosmic truth, universe beauty, and divine goodness and assuredly co-ordinates both science and religion with the truth of reality.

The revelators use the verb *indite* (without the 'c') rather than *author* the various papers in the *URANTIA Book*. It is a word that is mostly out of use; it is an essential distinction, however, for understanding the task of producing an epochal revelation. They very clearly state that the language used is restricted to the use of the “circumscribed” language of English.¹⁴ They translate complex celestial language to English as a combined group of at least two dozen superhuman/transcendental personalities and a midwayer commission. A Divine Counselor informs the reader that revelator indicters can “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.”¹⁵

¹² URANTIA Book. (92:4.9 (1008.2))

¹³ Wikipedia Contributors. “History of Sumer.” Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, 1 September 2020, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=History_of_Sumer&action=history. Accessed 23 November 2022.

¹⁴ Urantia Book. Paragraph at 0:0.2 (1.2)

¹⁵ Ibid

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To call out this process of “sorting and sifting the errors of evolution” under the language restriction that constrains the revelators, is to announce within its pages the challenges and risks this particular textual revelation medium is subject to. A Mighty Messenger informs us that: “Such conceptual expansion would hardly be desirable as it would deprive the thinking mortals of the next thousand years of that stimulus to creative speculation which these partially revealed concepts supply. It is best that man not have an overrevelation; it stifles imagination.”¹⁶ I will return to this point later in this Chapter; it is a significant one related to the assuredness of *The URANTIA Book* as an epochal revelation. It is also significant to impending scientific discoveries since the publishing of the papers as a book. Impending scientific discoveries that are on a path to appear withing one to two generations, such as the supercontinent that preceded the Cambrian explosion, contain great aspects of credibility and provide a maser pattern that can shore up a partially revealed concept.

Evolution as a Cosmic GPS

To express how one might envision this challenge, I briefly return to the metaphor of the GPS (global positioning system). The GPS is a free utility that provides users with Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) services.¹⁷ It coordinates three components or segments: space, control, and user applications. For the everyday user like you and I, it sifts and sorts the optimal routes one can take to a desired destination. The user can choose from a variety of modes, such as, fastest, least traffic, or shortest route to mention a few. The user decides which mode serves him/her best and tells the system to determine a particular ideal route. It is extremely rare to find the GPS sending a user down a cul-de-sac without alternatives to reach a destination. Today, many GPS mobile applications (apps) include near real-time updates of road closures, accidents, speed traps, or debris in the road. This is all done in what is what is referred to as “crowd-sourcing.”¹⁸

The history of the GPS is a good example of the *unifying perfecting and innovating progression of evolution*. My working definition of evolution is: a process of change and development over time, characterized by the gradual accumulated *transformation* of systems,

¹⁶ URANTIA Book. (30:0.2 (330.2))

¹⁷ Rana, F. *Chromosome 2: The Best Evidence for Evolution?* <https://www.gps.gov/systems/gps/> (2010). Accessed 9 February 2023.

¹⁸ Wikipedia Contributors. “Crowdsourcing.” Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, 19 July 2022, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crowdsourcing>. Accessed 23 November 2022.

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structures, or ideas expressed through incremental adaptations, with a capability to radically *transmute* current structures into innovations. I believe evolution is an archetype itself and it contains within its processes the ability to generate innovations from archetypes, master patterns if you will. A different-in-kind innovation is an expression of an archetype or a master pattern; gradual incrementation produces different-in-degree improvements. A question then becomes ‘where do these archetypes exist’? And ‘how does evolution draw from an archetype’?

We see an example of dual or two-phased process methodology in evolution in the genetic analysis of what might have caused an unknown common ancestor to *transition* into a chimpanzee while *transmuting* into a human.¹⁹ The genomic hierarchy displays the chimp and human as arising from a common ancestor. However, the chimp has 24 pairs of chromosomes, whereas the human has 23. Upon inspection, the chimp’s genome (as well as the gorilla and any other primate) displays two number 2 chromosomes, labeled as 2A and 2B; the human genome has 2A and 2B fused head-to-head making one chromosome of the two. Evidence for this fusion comes from the close similarity of the banding patterns for human chromosome 2 and chimp chromosomes 2A and 2B when these two are oriented end-on-end. The combining of two chromosomes to make human chromosome 2 would have required a succession of several highly improbable events. So, what caused this apparently improbable fusion?

As knowledge evolution in science becomes more and more precise with its discoveries such as the fused chromosomes, it opens up intellectual and superconscious portals for both science and religion to take stock of their beliefs. For example, on the Biblical side, religionists are beginning to ask questions that learn to integrate science, theology, and philosophy so they can open the world of science to the gospel. With respect to the 2A&2B primate genome fusion, some religionists are going out of their strict creationist thinking to accept evolution exists, but apply the idea that God Himself fuses the chromosomes.²⁰ With science, Intelligent Design (ID) proponents maintain that intelligent causes rather than natural processes alone explain the appearance of certain features of the universe and living things. Many ID scientists overlap with the religionists that believe God is the designer. Where they differ is in the level of intervention

¹⁹ DNA Learning Center. (Jun 3, 2020). *Humans, Chimps, and a Missing Chromosome*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02I8tZwkmxs> Accessed 9 February 2023.

²⁰ <https://reasons.org/explore/publications/nrtb-e-zine/chromosome-2-the-best-evidence-for-evolution>

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of God in the process. Without a cosmic GPS, a revelation of cosmic proportions, answers may not be forthcoming too soon.

Evolutionary processes tend to be slow, well-nigh imperceptible. Evolutionary changes and adaptations mostly occur “naturally” as in the Darwinian concept of “fitness.” However, innovation, or rather an innovative change, while to Darwinists and Neo-Darwinists still claiming to occur naturally in biology, requires insight, purpose, and means, in other words, an intelligent design. It almost always appears *suddenly*. Even planned technology innovation does not appear until all required components integrate successfully. Clayton Christiansen coined socially significant types of innovations that sustain in the marketplace as “disruptive technologies.”²¹ A disruptive technology is an innovation that fundamentally changes the way that businesses or consumers operate, typically by replacing existing products, services, or processes with more efficient, cost-effective, or accessible alternatives. It is never obvious if a technology will emerge as “disruptive.” Disruptive technologies can cause significant disruption in markets as well as social intercourse, replacing established conventions while creating new opportunities for additional progressive growth. Most disruptive technologies are anathema to a steadfast conservative practitioner.

Conventional wisdom considers the GPS a disruptive technology.²² By the early 1970’s technology evolved to the point of having all the functional components for a GPS available. The individual components necessary for the development of GPS are: A network of satellites; ground stations; analog to digital receivers; atomic clocks; specialized navigation software; sophisticated control systems; and most importantly, small mobile devices (smart phones) for individual end-user consumption. To develop the first GPS, someone or some group of innovators must supply the insight hypothesizing combining the disparate components could produce a GPS. As for purpose, NASA describes²³ the military required a GPS to “... conduct satellite navigation experiments in the mid 1960’s to track US submarines carrying nuclear missiles.” (And this is the purpose for public consumption; one can only speculate upon an

²¹ Christensen, C. (1997) *The Innovator’s Dilemma: When New Technologies Cause Great Firms to Fail*. Harper Business, NY, NY.

²² Smith, T. *Disruptive Technology: Definition, Example, and How to Invest*.
<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/d/disruptive-technology.asp#:~:text=Recent%20disruptive%20technology%20examples%20include,and%20television%20were%20disruptive%20technologies>. Updated April 02, 2022. Accessed 3 February 2023.

²³ https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/heo/scan/communications/policy/GPS_History.html

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original more sophisticated purpose.) Regardless, GPS means developed through significant funding and US Presidential priorities. Without all three components present, evolution will often produce modifications that never combine to form an innovation. (For example, the segway; 3D printed food; and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles). Lewis Carroll highlighted this lack of a GPS quite poignantly in 1865 in the classic *Alice in Wonderland*.²⁴ In chapter six, a classically famous conversation between a bewildered Alice and the shadowy Cheshire Cat has Alice asking the cat: "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?" The cat famously replies: "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to." Unfortunately, in Wonderland in 1865 Alice didn't have the benefit of either a guiding north star or a GPS; she had no way of knowing where she was going, and the labyrinth of the rabbit hole was futile to navigate as the Cheshire Cat informs Alice. I use this fictional metaphor to say in real life we have both capabilities now with the FER. All Urantians have thought adjusters as guiding beacons and we have the capability, should humanity take advantage of it, of a true universal Urantian GPS that can help humanity from avoiding societal dead-ends.

Two-phased Evolution-Innovation

The occurrence of a new and never-before-seen trait "suddenly" in evolution (especially in organic evolution) suggests that there is a teleology, a purposiveness, behind the evolutionary process. The Cambrian explosion of 540 million years ago is *the* super-event in Urantia's history of geobiology that remains a conundrum to this day for science. Consider a flexible plastic ruler held between your hands. As you slowly press the ends of the ruler together, the ruler, at first, bends pliantly. This is similar to a set of gradual increments in evolution. Eventually, however, it snaps. This break is congruent to a sudden evolutionary transition, an evolutionary mutation that occasions an innovation. Such behavior exhibits two-phases; it is *the* primary paradox that perplexes both Darwinian evolutionary theorists and Intelligent Design hypothesisists. The nexus (a missing link if you will) presents an almost insurmountable disagreement surrounding the apparent incompatibilities between blind incremental change and mind-provisioned innovation.

Of course, Darwinists believe there are no "suddenlies;" all changes, even innovations, are the result of small incremental changes. Those changes that sustain, do so because of an

²⁴ Carroll, Lewis. *Alice in Wonderland (Collector's Edition) - With All the Original Illustrations: Alice's Adventures Under Ground and Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (With Carroll's Own Original Illustrations and Sir John Tenniel's Original Illustrations)*. e-artnow, 2017

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advantage to the organism (or a system in other domains) to sustain as the fittest. The Intelligent Designers²⁵ reason that irreducibly complex innovations are the result of design — deliberate design by an intelligent agent. Ironically, both camps believe a process-outcome called “evolutionary innovation” is abundant in organic evolution. “Evolutionary innovation” refers to the creation and emergence of new, heritable traits or adaptations. But *how*? So far, neither has a validated methodology. The URANTIA Book provides the GPS to begin exploring an answer; it requires a cosmic consciousness attached to a revelatory GPS perspective however. I tackle this in some detail in this essay and with more rigor in the next. It is abundantly clear to a URANTIA revelation student that this is not an either-or solution, but one that is assuredly an and-both!

The FER is all about God’s purposes – some explicit, many implicit, with much, much more still to be revealed. With respect to biological evolution a Life Carrier of Nebadon resident on Urantia writes:

65:0.7 (730.7) It is the integrated functioning of the Life Carriers, the physical controllers, and the spirit adjutants that conditions the course of organic evolution on the inhabited worlds. And this is why evolution—on Urantia or elsewhere—is always purposeful and never accidental.

Unpacking this statement by a Life Carrier unfolds all three degrees of revelation. The revelation explicitly declares that organic evolution on the inhabited worlds is “conditioned” and “always purposeful.” This *implies* that blind selection along with some form of provisioning exists in tandem. Either further revelation or human knowledge evolution itself will *in due course* reveal how these two apparently antithetical processes integrate. (Further integration of the cosmic picture in the FER provides clues). God’s *explicit* purpose known to all religions and philosophies is to be as perfect as He is (“Be you perfect as I am perfect”), which, in and of itself, ironically connotes far-reaching undisclosed implications that require revelation of some sort. What the Life Carrier provides in this pithy paragraph is a scaffolding, a GPS truth direction if you will, that intends to stimulate cosmic consciousness²⁶ to reveal untold disclosures of how

²⁵ The Discovery Institute. <https://www.discovery.org/id/> Accessed 7 February 2023. The mission of Discovery Institute’s Center for Science and Culture is to advance the understanding that human beings and nature are the result of intelligent design rather than a blind and undirected process.

²⁶ URANTIA Book. (0:0.2 (1.2))

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God works out his plans for humans as well as all personalities, human and divine, in the master universe.

By 1934/35, the revelators of the FER sifted the various hard-earned achievements of the human race; and as we can readily see, many have been around from the beginning! In fact, they have specifically "... selected as the basis of these papers more than one thousand human concepts representing the highest and most advanced planetary knowledge of spiritual values and universe meanings."²⁷ This statement occurs in the acknowledgement of the Foreword. Later in paper 101 *The Real Nature of Religion*, a Melchizedek provides four modest allowable obligations of revelation. In paragraph 101:4.7 (1109.8) he notes that while epochal revelation is "not at liberty to anticipate the scientific discoveries of a thousand years," it is able to perform the function of "co-ordination of known or about-to-be-known facts and observations" to transiently clarify knowledge. In other words, the revelators are allowed to clarify which about-to-be-known facts are on a knowledge path that will move friction-free as long as we trust our Spirit of Truth is working for everyone every moment of the day and night.

The Precambrian Supercontinent and Life

One of the best examples of this strategy and process of the FER can be seen in a review of the prescient revelatory statements a Life Carrier makes in paper 57 section 8: *Crustal Stabilization The Age of Earthquakes The World Ocean and the First Continent*. It is the ending section in the paper entitled: *The Origin of Urantia* which is the first paper in Part III The History of Urantia. This paper, and the two that follow it discuss in some surprising detail the structural formation of planet earth from an original nebula called Andronover almost a Trillion years ago (YA)!²⁸ The Life Carrier tracks this nebula to 6 billion YA which inaugurates the organization of the solar material that delivers the energy for life on Urantia.

In an article by long-time *URANTIA Book* student-teacher Dr. Chris Halvorson,²⁹ he summarizes this succinctly. Chris writes: "Thus, the sun was born 6 billion years ago; and by 5 billion years ago, it was an isolated variable star with a period of three and one-half days. Over

²⁷ URANTIA Book 0:12.12 (17.1)

²⁸ This hints at an extremely large gap between the revelation's depiction of the Universe of Universes and where science is today. At now 14.6B years since the "Big Bang," the known universe is nearly microscopic in relation to the cosmology the URANTIA revelation depicts. While the Grand Universe is finite and had a beginning, the revelation does not provide an age. Some have speculated at 175 trillion Urantia years.

²⁹ Halvorson, C. *History of Life*. https://urantia-book.org/archive/readers/halvorson_histlife.pdf (undated). Accessed 11 February 2023.

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the course of one million years, beginning 4.5 billion years ago, the Angona system passed by the sun and initiated the formation of the solar system. This event marks the beginning of the Azoic Era. By about 3.0 billion years ago, the embryonic stage of development was completed; so, the solar system was registered and given the name Monmatia, marking the beginning of the Middle Azoic. Monmatia literally means “the mother place of man,” which is correlated with the name Urantia, “(y)our heavenly place.”³⁰

But the 970-billion-year cosmic history is not the primary point I am making. A Precambrian supercontinent of 1 billion years ago on Urantia along with the fact of continental drift is the main theme of this essay. It took until the 1970s for science to “catch up” with the *URANTIA Book*. This relatively recently validated scientific knowledge has been written about extensively by Dr. Mark McMenamin in his 1998 published book called The Garden of Edicara.³¹ In chapter eight, *Reunite Rodinia!* McMenamin discusses, almost incredulously, that an “amazing passage” written in the 1930s, “anticipates scientific results that did not actually appear in the scientific literature until many decades later.” He goes on to say that “the anonymous members of the Urantia Corps hit on some remarkable scientific revelations in the mid-1930s. They embraced continental drift at a time when it was decidedly out of vogue in the scientific community. They recognized the presence of a global supercontinent (Rodinia) and superocean (Mirovia), in existence on earth before Pangea.”^{32 33} Mark then provides a bit more detail about the science on pages 174 and 175:

[The] concept of a billion-year-old supercontinent (the currently accepted age for the formation of Rodinia) that subsequently split apart, forming gradually widening ocean basins in which early marine life flourished, is unquestionably present in this book. Orthodox scientific arguments for such a proposal did not appear until the late 1960s, and a pre-Pangea supercontinent was never described until Valentine and Moores made the attempt in 1970. The Urantia Corps not only had the age of the formation of Rodinia approximately correct at 1 billion

³⁰ Halvorson, C. *The History of Urantia*. Unpublished.

³¹ McMenamin, Mark. *The Garden of Edicara*. 0 ed., Columbia University Press, 1998.

³² Ibid. Cf. *URANTIA Book*. (58:5.1 (668.3))

³³ Pangea is the name given to a supercontinent that existed about 300 million years ago, (a mere 700 million years *after* the Precambrian supercontinent) prior to its break-up that resulted in the formation of the modern-day continents. Pangea consisted of all the world's continents merged into a single landmass, and was surrounded by a global ocean. The concept of a supercontinent like Pangea was first proposed by the German meteorologist and climatologist Alfred Wegener in 1912.

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years, but they also were first to link breakup of Rodinia to the emergence of animals (even if the mode of appearance was implantation by extraterrestrials). Furthermore, they even got the timing of that approximately correct at 650 to 600 million years ago (“These inland seas of olden times were truly the cradle of evolution”).³⁴

Mark’s very next paragraph (where he mentions my contacting him about these passages in the *URANTIA Book*) begins to take us full circle to the GPS metaphor mentioned above. He asks a very significant question about the apparent inexplicable veracity of the revelation. (He doesn’t specifically call it a revelation). Mark uses the term ‘precocious’ rather than ‘prescient,’ which I use. Both terms are similarly pointing to the future. *Prescient* is slanted toward foretelling or the prophetic; *precocious* is biased toward expressing something before it is expected.³⁵

This book was unknown to me until it was brought to my attention by J. J. Johnson in October 1995. I obtained a copy of the book from the Smith College library and noted the 1955 (eighth edition 1984) publication date. What could possibly explain such precocious insight from such an unexpected corner? Perhaps it has to do with a lively, unconstrained, but nevertheless informed imagination. John K. Wright has noted how outrageous hypotheses “arouse interest, invite attack, and thus serve useful fermentative purposes in the advancement of geology.”³⁶

With respect to this particular science, as of 1934, when the Life Carrier is allowed to reveal what he knows about the history of life on Urantia, by following epochal revelation guidelines he is more precisely acting precociously. This Life Carrier has sorted and sifted the various knowledges and theories up to 1934 and discloses in no uncertain terms that plate tectonics are the underlying geo-processes that are responsible not only for continental drift, but for the formation and breakup of the supercontinents. He is not foretelling that both plate tectonics and a pre-Pangea supercontinent will be accepted science in the future; he is revealing what he has observed when it occurred! In essence, the Life Carrier is revealing that out of all the various human hypotheses and peer reviewed conjectures regarding this science, the correct path to take is the one that moves in these directions of continental breakup, drift, and reuniting.

³⁴ McMenamin references pages 663-664 of papers 57 & 58.

³⁵ “precocious, noun. (1a,b,c).” The American Heritage Dictionary, Fifth Edition, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018, p. 1501

³⁶ McMenamin references J. K. Wright, “Foreword,” in C. H. Hapgood, *Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings*, pp. ix–x (Philadelphia: Chilton Books, 1966).

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The Wikipedia entry called “Continental drift” is extremely well referenced and clearly written.³⁷ It describes how long the concept of continental drift has been echoing around in human thinking as far back as 1596. One can speculate with some validity that the master seraphim³⁸ have been working diligently to keep this concept alive all these centuries. But that is a topic for another book. I Bring this up to stress the teleology of evolutionary processes at work once again, especially with respect to these two related topics. In this case, the master seraphim potentially supplement the voltage behind *purpose* by providing “mind focalization and project promotion.”³⁹ The most salient individual to propose the formation of a supercontinent (he called it Pangea) and subsequent breakup as a result of continental drift is Alfred Wegener.⁴⁰ His position and experience in science afforded the community to take notice, albeit with much skepticism, until the convergence of evidence becomes overwhelming.

Wegener provides the *insight* for this concept to take root, become accepted, and accelerate. His history offers what seems to be that he personally constitutes the primary catalyst for the ensuing confluence of events over the next forty years. It is reasonable to conclude that the confirmation of sea floor spreading during the International Geophysical Year (7/1957-12/1958) project⁴¹ created the “tipping point”⁴² for both concepts to be accepted into mainstream science. A recent article in the online magazine “Geoscience Frontiers”⁴³ shows data that interest in the supercontinent cycle continues to gain momentum and the literature is expanding rapidly (see figure 1).

Clearly, these science facts authoritatively narrated in 1934 by a Life Carrier, are “about-to-be-known.” All of the components for determining the truth of Wegener’s hypotheses were not available in 1934. At a minimum, validation of Wegener’s hypotheses requires: 1) the

³⁷ Wikipedia Contributors. “Continental drift.” Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, 6 January 2004, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_drift. Accessed 23 November 2022.

³⁸ Urantia Book. Cf. paper 114 section 6.

³⁹ Ibid. 114:6.19 (1256.9)

⁴⁰ Wikipedia Contributors. “Alfred Wegener.” Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, 15 February 2005, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_Wegener. Accessed 23 November 2022.

⁴¹ NOAA 200th Feature Story: The International Geophysical Year. celebrating200years.noaa.gov/magazine/igy/welcome.html.

⁴² “The Tipping Point.” *Malcolm Gladwell*, 23 Nov. 2022, www.gladwellbooks.com/titles/malcolm-gladwell/the-tipping-point/9780316316965.

⁴³ Nance, R. D., J. Brendan Murphy. (2013, January 8). *Origins of the supercontinent cycle*. Geoscience Frontiers. Retrieved November 25, 2022, from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1674987112001570>

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development of understanding paleomagnetism, 2) the confirmation of seafloor spreading, 3) computer numeric modeling of geo morphology, 4) the physics of advanced hydraulics, and 5) satellite imaging.

The Wikipedia article has a robust narration on Wegener's hypothesis published at the beginning of the twentieth century. McMenamin also points to Wegener as potentially the source for the Life Carrier to speculate fruitfully the relationship between evolutionary change and the breakup of a Proterozoic supercontinent. This rings true; the proscriptions mentioned above regarding epochal revelation require a revelator to use human concepts – whenever possible – for emphasizing which correct GPS path has been and is most fortuitous, and will be most optimal in the long run. I supply what Dr. McMenamin has said in its entirety here:

Assuming for the moment that space voyagers are not responsible for life's origin and history on this planet, one wonders how the Urantia Book authors arrived at the concept of a Proterozoic supercontinent, and the link between breakup of this supercontinent and the emergence of complex life in the ensuing rift oceans, 30 years before most geologists accepted continental drift and nearly four decades before scientists had any inkling that Rodinia existed. The anonymous authors responsible for the critical part of section 3 evidently possessed a high level of geological training, and while writing in the 1930s must have known of Wegener's ideas on continental drift. Perhaps he or she was, or had contact with, an expatriate from Nazi Germany. Whatever the identity of the author, this person proceeded to speculate about the relationship between evolutionary change and the breakup of a Proterozoic supercontinent in an exceptionally fruitful way. Perhaps this was because the thought and the writing of this person were not fettered by the normal constraints of the (too often highly politicized) scientific review process.

In my own "Up Close and Personal with *The URANTIA Book* - Expanded Edition"⁴⁴ on page 10, I list additional references that provide various viewpoints regarding the phenomenon of this prescient science. The article by the late Dr. Ken Glasziou⁴⁵ regarding continental drift provides the perspective of a long-time student of the revelation. (I update the book's reference in the footnote below). It is instructive to take notice of the juxtapositions between Glasziou and

⁴⁴ Johnson, J. Up Close and Personal With the Urantia Book - Expanded Edition. JJ Johnson, 2010.

⁴⁵ Science, Anthropology and Archaeology in the Urantia Book: Part II. urantia-book.org/archive/readers/doc182.htm.

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McMenamin. Many of the issues and inconsistencies Glasziou reports as conundrums of science were resolved during the time McMenamin and others discovered specific paleobiogeographic evidence that correlates animal fossils between North America and Australia/Antarctica. Mark and his paleobiologist wife Dianna, reconstructed the Rodinia supercontinent (Pangea I in Glasziou) based upon finds that they wrote about in their book “*The Emergence of Animals: The Cambrian Breakthrough*.”⁴⁶

Breakup to Makeup

The thrust of this topic has been about the relationship between the prescient URANTIA Book statements about a *Precambrian* supercontinent and continental drift which is propelled by plate tectonics. The subsequent nearly four-decades later validation by science is more than noteworthy because of the high degree of initial disbelief by many scientific scholars and experts in the field. Many if not most of the references I’ve provided as well as the ones that include additional source reference citations, discuss the history of how these ideas have evolved. Many go into great detail of how the science has steadily improved the understanding of the processes involved. However, there is one derivative topic that to my understanding, only Dr. Mark McMenamin has highlighted. A snip of Mark’s quote on page 175 of *Ediacara* is worth repeating. “The Urantia Corps not only had the age of the formation of Rodinia approximately correct at 1 billion years, but they also were first to link breakup of Rodinia to the emergence of animals.”

Four paragraphs later Mark makes the prescient statement himself where he wonders how the *Urantia Book* authors arrived not only at the concept of a Proterozoic supercontinent but “link [the] breakup of this supercontinent [to] the emergence of complex life in the ensuing rift oceans.” What Mark didn’t mention is the revelation describes in surprising detail the precise geophysics for how the process of tectonics functions.⁴⁷ Section five *The Continental Drift* of paper fifty-eight puts a special emphasis to state that volcanos are *not* responsible for this process as it was one that was at the pinnacle of the early theories. It took nearly a century for scientists to finally coalesce their theories into a full understanding of just how this process occurs. The

⁴⁶ McMenamin, Mark, and Dianna Schulte McMenamin. *The Emergence of Animals: The Cambrian Breakthrough*. 1st ed., Columbia Univ Press, 1990. P. 95.

⁴⁷ URANTIA Book. Cf. (58:5.5-8 (668.7-669.1))

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mechanism behind plate tectonics has since become one of the most important and widely accepted theories in the Earth sciences.⁴⁸

I now come back to a promise I made on page one. I said that the Cambrian explosion is a derivative and specially related Urantian life history topic as a result of the breakup of the first supercontinent, the one McMenamin and his wife Dianna named “Rodinia.” I committed that I

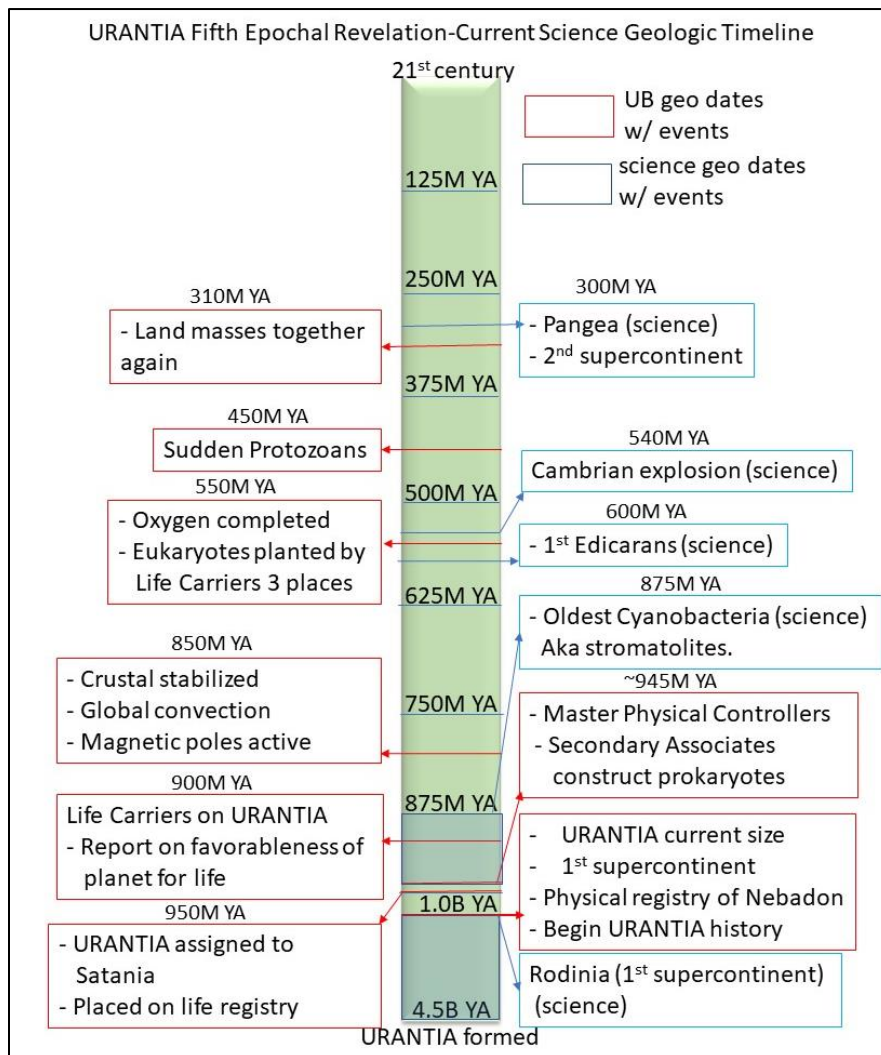


Figure 1 - Science and the URANTIA Revelation are very much in lockstep. This connectedness is only recent; in 1934 the revelation would have been considered too radical, certainly on the fringes of pseudoscience. Science has now "caught up" with the revelation in this matter as well as multiple others.

would discuss this in more detail later in this essay. Stay with me now, I believe you will see the revelation's GPS operating here. I urge you to call on your Spirit of Truth to provide voice in case you have to focus more consciously on the road ahead or some busy oncoming traffic.

The Garden of Ediacara is a metaphorical derivative of Eden – the Garden of Eden. Mark tells us that he named the book as he did because “I have called this book *The Garden of Ediacara* because the Garden of

⁴⁸ The mechanism behind plate tectonics is considered a scientific theory, not a hypothesis, or a law.

In science, a theory is a well-substantiated explanation of some aspect of the natural world that is based on a large body of evidence. A scientific theory is considered to be a broad and comprehensive explanation that has been confirmed through multiple lines of evidence and is widely accepted by the scientific community.

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Eden religious story and the scientific analysis of the Ediacarans form an inseparable pair, a diadic coupling that must remain intact in order for science (construed as real, if incomplete, knowledge about things) to thrive. If we try to purge science of the irrational and to banish intuitive approaches in science, as many orthodox Neo-Darwinists have tried to do, we risk destroying science.” The Cambrian explosion is close to an anomaly for classical evolutionists. Although Darwinian and neo-Darwinian evolutionists picture a gradual evolution of animal life from soft-bodied to hard-bodied forms, the shelled creatures of the Cambrian explosion stick out like a sore thumb. There is a suddenness about them, one not explicable on the basis of gradual evolution.

Life, Genes, Lots of Time

The Ediacarans were set adrift in the rift oceans upon the breakup of Rodinia.⁴⁹ From fossils science has determined they are a strange and diverse collection of often symmetrical soft-bodied forms. The Ediacarans are enigmas of the Australian headland where science found the first such fossils. A good example of this are the stromatolites.

The Ediacarans’ global “garden,” as described by McMenamin is more than a play on the idyllic fertility of the garden of Eden. It primarily refers to their largely vegetable-like existence. However, when the continents shifted, Ediacarans suffered, but to the benefit of evolution. The primeval Garden lost both the metaphorical innocence - or at least the tranquility the safe inland havens provided. The Ediacarans are now extinct.

Evolution was now in full swing. As the continents separated, large shallow seas formed in the breaks. When these seas reached the proper state of development, they harbored “the inauguration of the evolutionary cycle.”⁵⁰

This is prescient GPS for sure! For many decades now, settled science has reached agreement that the ancient life on the planet was prokaryotic.⁵¹ Prokaryotes (bacteria, cyanobacteria, archaeobacteria, mitochondria, and chloroplasts) are machines, single-celled power

⁴⁹ Glaessner, M. F. “New Fossils from the Base of the Cambrian in South Australia,” Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia 81 (1958):185–188.

⁵⁰ *Urantia Book* 58:1.2 (664.3).

⁵¹ Prokaryotes, which include bacteria and archaea, were first observed and described by Anton van Leeuwenhoek in the late 1600s using a simple microscope. However, it wasn't until the late 19th century that prokaryotes were scientifically classified and recognized as a distinct group of organisms. In 1872, German biologist Ferdinand Cohn published a landmark paper in which he described the classification and characteristics of various bacteria, including the distinction between rods and spheres. This marked the beginning of modern bacteriology and the scientific study of prokaryotes.

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plants designated as “premind life”.⁵² This is life, mechanistic energy-driven life, but life devoid of the vitality spark from the Creative Mother Spirit.⁵³

Here’s how a Vorondadek Son stationed on Urantia as an observer reveals this piece of knowledge:

36:6.3 (404.1) Life Carriers can organize the material forms, or physical patterns, of living beings, but the Spirit provides the initial spark of life and bestows the endowment of mind. Even the living forms of experimental life which the Life Carriers organize on their Salvington worlds are always devoid of reproductive powers. When the life formulas and the vital patterns are correctly assembled and properly organized, the presence of a Life Carrier is sufficient to initiate life, but all such living organisms are lacking in two essential attributes—mind endowment and reproductive powers. Animal mind and human mind are gifts of the local universe Mother Spirit, functioning through the seven adjutant mind-spirits, while creature ability to reproduce is the specific and personal impartation of the Universe Spirit to the ancestral life plasm inaugurated by the Life Carriers.

When the first Life Carriers came to Urantia 900 million YA, we impute their favorable report to the System Sovereign told of the prokaryotes adaptation on Urantia was going well enough to gain an entry on the life-experiment registry on Jerusem.⁵⁴ This sounds like a really big cosmic deal! However, prokaryotes reproduce by simple fission (DNA replication and cell division); their design precludes any capability of evolving. But science has determined that the prokaryotes are an essential building block for evolution and apparent self-organization to proceed for further complex life implantation at a later date. This domain of organism is designated eukaryotes.⁵⁵ They reproduce by sexual reproduction. I can just imagine a lead Life

⁵² URANTIA Book. cf. (65:0.1-5 (730.1-5)).

⁵³ URANTIA Book. (36:3.4 (399.6))

⁵⁴ URANTIA Book. (36:6.3 (404.1)). We make this imputation because of the timing of 950 MYA when Urantia was place on the “life registry of Norlatiadek.” (57:8.6 (660.8)). Master Physical Controllers are responsible for the creating and sustaining of the Prokaryotes. This is life, just not reproductive “life activated” life. Apparently, this was not a done deal since 50 M years later a Life Carrier scouting party was sent to assess the progress for true life. ... “before this age was over, Urantia had found entry on the planetary-life registry of Uversa.” (57:8.10 (661.4)).

⁵⁵ The date of 1.5 billion years ago for the emergence of eukaryotes was first proposed by biologist Roger Stanier in the 1960s, based on the fossil record and molecular clock estimates. However, it was not until the late 1980s and early 1990s that molecular and genetic evidence began to support this date. Cf. Margulis, Lynn (1970) *Origin of Eukaryotic Cells*. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, and Keeling, P. *The tree of eukaryotes*. *TRENDS in Ecology and Evolution* Vol.20 No.12 December 2005. <https://www3.botany.ubc.ca/keeling/PDF/05ToE.pdf>. Accessed 14 February 2023.

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Carrier getting up to speak about their combined report with Lanonandek Sons, Melchizedeks, and seraphim, all excited that they found the Master Physical Controllers did a splendid job with the design of the single celled, fissionable prokaryotes. He/She would recommend that the System Sovereign consider Urantia heavily for an experimental world in our Master's local Universe. The approval apparently happened forthwith from this review. Obviously, as the revelation chronicles, it was ironically Lucifer who approved the Life Carriers begin designing a more advanced kind of sodium chloride life for Urantia.

Thus, the role of eukaryotes in this cosmic picture is extremely significant. Eukaryotes reproduce by both meiosis and mitosis. The Ediacarans are certainly an anomaly to understand as to how they fit into the geologic evolutionary timeline. Nevertheless, science has determined that they appear on the scene with a totally different reproduction methodology (meiosis) from the simplistic prokaryotes. They come with a way to repair damaged parts on the fly (mitosis) - albeit in limited fashion. Their replication/reproduction constitutes a totally different-in-kind transition from fission, and it occurred in a blink of a geologic eye!

There are essentially three types of organismic reproduction strategies on Urantia: *fission*, *meiosis*, and *mitosis*. Fission involves the division of a single cell into two or more separate daughter cells. This process functions predominantly in single-celled organisms where the cell splits in two to form a pair of genetically identical daughter cells. Fission is a mode of asexual reproduction that is predominant in organisms such as bacteria and protozoa (prokaryotes), and is not for the most part seen in multicellular animals or plants.⁵⁶ Meiosis, on the other hand, is a special type of cell division that only occurs in cells that produce gametes, such as sperm and eggs. It results in four genetically heterogenous daughter cells, each with half the number of chromosomes as the parent cell. Meiosis is important for sexual reproduction and the maintenance of genetic diversity in a species. It is the foundation for how organisms create uniqueness, variety, and improvements. Science considers meiosis to be a key factor in the evolution of new phyla. Asexual organisms, although plentiful, essentially remain simple and primitive.

Through the process of meiosis, variations in the genetic material can arise due to changes in the distribution of chromosomes during cell division, as well as through mutations

⁵⁶ Some fungi still retain a function called "budding" which is close to fission.

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that occur in the DNA. This genetic intermixture allows for the evolution of new traits and adaptations to different environments, and can lead to the evolution of new species and even new phyla over time. Thus, science considers meiosis to be one of the key drivers of the process of evolution through the admixture of chromosomes and alleles in the genome. Mitosis on the other hand, is a type of cell division that results in the production of two genetically identical daughter cells from a single parent cell. This process is important for growth and repair in multicellular organisms. So, while both fission and mitosis involve the division of a cell into daughter cells, the mechanisms and outcomes are vastly different. Fission is a simple division of a single cell, while mitosis involves a more complex process of nuclear division and chromosome segregation.

So, what would one speculate as to why fission was the foundation for replication in the early formation of the planet? It seems so primitive by comparison, what might possibly be the purpose? Also, an analysis of the time frame prokaryotes replicated rapidly beginning from a revelation of 945 MYA, shows that they functioned for nearly 400 million years before the Ediacarans appeared. Science and the revelation agree on the 400 M period of gestation. We believe there are many reasons for the prokaryotes existing alone for so long, but one word – *oxygen* – provides the basis for a primary purpose. It must be emphasized that the estimated scientific radiometric timeframe for the appearance of prokaryotes on Earth is around 3.5 to 4 billion years ago. This timeframe corresponds to the Life Carrier's revelation of between 875 M to 945 MYA.⁵⁷

Erich Jantsch, in his treatise on *The Self Organizing Universe*,⁵⁸ postulates “The first primitive life forms set the stage for the development of more complex life forms. They created the preconditions which, above all, included free oxygen in the atmosphere. ... The nucleus-free prokaryotes, however, went to work to produce this oxygen.” Jantsch provides abundant evidence in Chapter six, *Biochemical and Biospherical Co-evolution* as to how and why science believes this is a fact. The oxygen in the atmosphere is the result of photosynthesis, which is the

⁵⁷ Chris Halvorson, in his *History of Life* referenced earlier makes a reasonable and profound conjecture on why this difference in estimates is so far off back beyond 1 BYA. He attributes the Master Physical Controllers as responding with changes in the subelectronic energy activities in the environment. He writes: “Radioactivity is proportional to subelectronic activity (42:4.5,7). Hence, both mutation and radiometric dating are indirectly affected by the spatial environment.” There are many other clues supporting this contention, such as why it took until 850 MYA for the poles to become active.

⁵⁸ Jantsch, E. (1980). *The Self Organizing Universe: Scientific and Human Implications of the Emerging Paradigm of Evolution*. Oxford: Pergamon.

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process by which plants and other photosynthetic organisms produce oxygen as a byproduct of converting light energy into chemical energy. The first organisms known to perform photosynthesis were prokaryotes, specifically cyanobacteria, which appeared according to science, in the vicinity of 3.5 – 4.0 billion years ago.⁵⁹ Cyanobacteria produced oxygen as a byproduct of their photosynthetic capabilities; science now teaches they have been nearly exclusively responsible for the bulk of atmospheric oxygen.

It is way beyond my pay grade to get into a full description of genetics and genetic processes along with the micro-macro co-evolution the planet obviously has established. Once again, our goal is to show the convergence of how the revelators of the URANTIA Book leavened mid-twentieth century knowledge to push the envelope just far enough to provide the truths science was about to discover essentially a mere two generations hence – specifically in this essay revealing the truth about the Precambrian supercontinent, plate tectonics, and the establishment of two different kinds of life. And by doing so, the COSAR of the early formation of Urantia and the life on it will be obvious. I do want to make two general observations however, related to some very interesting geologic events and dates as depicted in Figure 1.

I draw your attention to the extremely short time between the planting of “life” by the Life Carriers and the Cambrian explosion. The total time from lighting the fuse to explosion is a mere 10 M years. This represents a miniscule 1% of the total time (1 billion) that the revelation states inaugurate the history of Urantia. In a presentation in 2016 at the Urantia Foundation’s Science Symposium, Dr. Ralph D Zehr M.D. indicated that “fossil deposits in the Burgess Shale in eastern British Columbia, Canada, discovered by Charles Doolittle Walcott in 1909 and the more detailed Cambrian period fossils found in China near Chengjiang in 1980, show a surprisingly similar picture of a Biological Big Bang in which many phyla and recognized body plans, made their appearance.” What is noteworthy about these geographically globally widespread biological modifications is the extraordinary simultaneity of their mutation.

Observation number 1: The Cambrian explosion exhibits innovative features that show great stability and remain functional today. The appearance of many Cambrian key adaptations

⁵⁹ Dodd, M. et. al. Evidence for early life in Earth’s oldest hydrothermal vent precipitates. Nature volume 543, pages60–64 (2017). <https://www.nature.com/articles/nature21377>. Accessed: 14 February 2023

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remains as apparent master patterns or archetypes in modern animals. Some of these innovations include:

1. **Eyes:** Eyes are among the evolutionary innovations exhibited by many of the animals that emerged during the Cambrian explosion. Science considers eyes an innovative evolutionary trait because they represent a significant advance in the sensory capabilities of animals. Before the evolution of eyes, animals relied on simple sensory structures, such as tentacles or simple photoreceptors, to detect light and navigate their environment.
2. **Hard body parts:** Many of the animals that emerged during the Cambrian explosion, such as trilobites and brachiopods, had hard shells that protected their bodies and allowed them to withstand predation and environmental stress.
3. **Complex nervous systems:** The evolution of complex nervous systems, allowed animals to sense their environment and respond to stimuli more effectively.
4. **Jointed appendages:** The evolution of jointed appendages, such as legs and arms, allowed animals to move more efficiently and exploit new habitats.
5. **Filter feeding:** The evolution of filter-feeding adaptations, such as gills and tentacles, allowed animals to feed more effectively on small particles in the water.

Observation number 2: While the chart has a not-to-scale empty block showing 3.5B years of planet formation, the actual history of life constitutes 25% of the overall time Urantia life has been revealed to be in existence.⁶⁰ While this is a significant amount of time (1B years) for humans to get their mind around, the deep geologic time that science has estimated for the advent of the prokaryotes (3.5 BYA) is off by nearly a factor of 4x from the URANTIA Life Carrier revealed times. Please refer back to footnote 54 for an explanation of how this is so. The revelation even provides an answer for why the estimates of Rodinia are in agreement with science and the URANTIA Book.⁶¹

Only A Beginning

Regardless of the extraordinary COSAR we just described, if we just look up and around, there is a huge scaffolding that rises so high and expands so wide we can't see the end of either

⁶⁰ URANTIA Book. (57:8.1 (660.3)) "1,000,000,000 years ago is the date of the actual beginning of Urantia history."

⁶¹ URANTIA Book. (57:7.3 (659.2)). "Urantia is more than one billion years old on its surface."

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structure. There is much, much, more to build upon these platforms; should we follow the GPS to this point, we realize a cosmic knowledge portal has just opened.

For instance, many questions come to mind to conjecture upon and research further. These questions should be considered by Urantia students and scientists as well. Some examples include: Are Ediacarans merely prokaryotes or since they are multicellular organisms, are they some kind of hybrid between single-celled prokaryotes and full-blown eukaryotes; or are they evolved prokaryotes? Just how does evolution abruptly transition to a sudden new “killer app”⁶² or disruptive trait⁶³? Are prokaryotes an example of an energy system organizing matter, or a matter system organizing energy? Is the appearance of prokaryotes like the Big Bang? Or is Professor McMenamin’s setting aside extraterrestrials something science should look at? If the revelation is providing the oldest prokaryotic organisms as not older than about 945 MYA, then how will science rectify the large differential (in some cases 4x) radiometric dates? Do the Master Physical Controllers leave any telltale evidence that can prove their functions? Does the revelation of Master Physical Controllers have some GPS path research should take? And the most difficult of all: what mechanism is at work that produces innovations without selection of the fittest evolution? These are just a few of the known-unknowns that I pose for reflecting. (However, in some cases these are unknown-unknowns for scientists).

I want to return to what might appear to be an anomaly in Figure 1 to some and an area for further research for others. Maybe you noticed that there is a relatively small geologic gap (10 million years) between when the revelation connotes the Life Carriers planted eukaryotes in three separate locations and the Cambrian explosion estimated by science.

58:4.2 (667.6) 550,000,000 years ago the Life Carrier corps returned to Urantia. In co-operation with spiritual powers and superphysical forces we organized and initiated the original

⁶² The origin of the term "killer app" is not clear, but it is widely credited to the computer industry in the late 1980s and early 1990s. It was used to describe applications that were so innovative, useful, and valuable that they drove the widespread adoption of personal computers and other new technologies. The term was popularized by journalists, industry analysts, and technology enthusiasts, and became widely used to describe a wide range of applications and technologies. The exact individuals responsible for inventing and popularizing the term "killer app" are not known, but it has been widely adopted and used by the technology community and the media over the past several decades.

⁶³ See “Evolution as a Cosmic GPS” above on page 5. I specifically use the term “disruptive” to introduce the concept of “evolutionary innovation” as a more global idea in the subsequent section. “Killer app” is specific to the technology industry. All three have analogous characteristics that point to evolution and sudden innovation as an “and-both” tandem, further demanding the COSAR. (See Downes, L. & Mui, C. (1998) *Unleashing the killer App*. Harvard Business School Press, Boston, Mass.)

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life patterns of this world and planted them in the hospitable waters of the realm. All planetary life (aside from extraplanetary personalities) down to the days of Caligastia, the Planetary Prince, had its origin in our three original, identical, and simultaneous marine-life implantations. These three life implantations have been designated as: the central or Eurasian-African, the eastern or Australasian, and the western, embracing Greenland and the Americas.

The Cambrian explosion was 540 million years ago, whereas according to the rock record of oxygen-rich uranium and iron ores, atmospheric oxygen began to build up far earlier, some 1800 million years ago.⁶⁴

Maybe this narration has caused you to ask some others? At a minimum, if one is interested, now knowing that that the revelation has a scientific "unique quality of credibility"⁶⁵ (and there are more to come; read on through the next essays!), then in this instance digging out what the revelation says about Master Physical Controllers is a must! I guarantee it will set you intellectually free. And if not free, then it should confound you to ask for spiritual guidance to work out these truthfully correlated issues, even if you are not a scientist, or a religionist. If it makes your "brain hurt," well then, we've accomplished something, haven't we?

An Embarrassment of GPS Riches

There is a cornucopia of potential paths to take with this cosmic and revelational scaffolding. However, it is beyond the scope of this essay to dig any deeper into the connections and unity of what this apparent diverse material alludes to. One could easily scoff at the idea that paleontology and its diverse cousins of archeology and paleobiology, to mention a few, have any connection to humanity's religious and cosmic domains. But as Chris Halvorson has said in his concluding remarks of *History of Life* are instructive of this concept: "... the history of life on our planet can finally be contemplated from a logical framework. All that comes from the First Source and Center of all things and beings is inherently logical. God and his "hosts of hands" are behind the unfolding of life. Evolution truly is "creativity in time" 105:6.5 (1159.5)." Chris was pointing to a Melchizedek of Nebadon discussing aspects of this philosophy in the paper *Deity and Reality*.

⁶⁴ McMenamin. Pg x.

⁶⁵ Ibid. Katzen.

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105:6.5 (1159.5) 4. The divinity response to the imperfection inherent in the time lag of evolution is disclosed in the compensating presence of God the Sevenfold, by whose activities that which is perfecting is integrated with both the perfect and the perfected. This time lag is inseparable from evolution, which is creativity in time. Because of it, as well as for other reasons, the almighty power of the Supreme is predicated on the divinity successes of God the Sevenfold. This time lag makes possible creature participation in divine creation by permitting creature personalities to become partners with Deity in the attainment of maximum development. Even the material mind of the mortal creature thus becomes partner with the divine Adjuster in the dualization of the immortal soul. God the Sevenfold also provides techniques of compensation for the experiential limitations of inherent perfection as well as compensating the preascension limitations of imperfection.

For me, this presages what Mark McMenamin has said about the precociousness of *The Urantia Book's* GPS for life's history:

Cases such as this one (which is by no means unique) are an exercise in humility for me as a scientist. How can it be that discovery of Rodinia, plus a fairly sophisticated rendering of the evolutionary implications of the rifting of Rodinia, falls to an anonymous author engaging in a work of religious revelation decades before scientists find out anything about the subject? Perhaps this is an important aspect of religion—a creative denial of certain aspects of reality in order to access a deeper truth.

I am not advocating an abandonment of a disciplined scientific peer review process, but I can't help but wonder whether science would benefit by having scientists themselves or friends of science systematically scan the various nonscientific literatures for writings such as those appearing in *The Urantia Book*. Scientists would ordinarily ignore and dismiss such writings, but a discerning eye might pick up some gems. (*Underlining added*).

While Mark reasons *The URANTIA Book* constitutes a religious revelation, I identify it as a philosophical revelation of cosmic dimensions. It contains scores of religious insights and scientific disclosures. A Divine Counselor of our superuniverse, Uversa, while writing on the topic of *Co-ordinate Trinity-Origin Beings* in paper 19, philosophizes that: “The true perspective of any reality problem—human or divine, terrestrial or cosmic—can be had only by the full and unprejudiced study and correlation of three phases of universe reality: origin, history, and destiny. The proper understanding of these three experiential realities affords the basis for a wise

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estimate of the current status.” While expecting a heads-down scientist to incorporate this triad into his/her scientific process, the Divine Counselor words clearly mimic Mark’s idea of a discerning eye.

Notice the order of this particular triad; it is important to reflect upon. And if at least any one is missing, the wholeness of the truth of reality is partial and most likely erroneous in degree, if not in kind. Any one domain processed exclusive of the other two produces a condition like looking through the wrong end of a telescope – presbyopia. Science, religion, and philosophy constitute three circles in a Venn diagram with the truth of reality existing in the center of their intersections. The stool of reality needs three legs to stand firm.

The Divine Counselor teaches that to avoid a “philosophical blunder” of cosmic proportions, the correct path is to proceed from the top – the Infinite – and proceed down through the historical truths to circle back to final destinies subsumed in the origin! The arc is eternal; the result is a logical whole; the information is cosmically philosophical. One sees that this approach avoids a circumscribed (secular/materialistic) view leading potentially to a distortion of facts, a perversion of truth, and to a misconception of eternal purpose - destiny.⁶⁶ Again, all three are critically important to effect a triunity of wholeness – which IS the truth of reality.

We most certainly agree with Mark’s perspective of humility along with the incorporation of pluralism and diversity for potential sources of truth. A “discerning eye” is EXACTLY what we are referring to with respect to the embarrassment of spiritual riches, specifically the Thought Adjuster.

God Consciousness

The 1997 movie Contact stars Jodie Foster as Dr. Eleanor "Ellie" Arroway, a SETI scientist who finds evidence of extraterrestrial life. A NASA committee chooses her to make first contact with the extraterrestrials. Carl Sagan and his wife Ann Druyan wrote the story outline for the film. It themed science and religious analogies as a metaphor of philosophical and intellectual interest in searching for the truth of both humanity and alien contact.⁶⁷ The film explores head-on the relationships between religious faith and science, especially with regard to

⁶⁶ Urantia Book. Cf. 19:1 (214.10-215.9)

⁶⁷ Wikipedia Contributors. “Contact (1997 American film).” Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, 22 May 2005 , [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Contact_\(1997_American_film\)&action=history&dir=prev](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Contact_(1997_American_film)&action=history&dir=prev). Accessed 9 December 2022.

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technology and its role in human life. At a number of points in the film, the movie delivers the audience a message that a positive relationship is possible between faith and science.⁶⁸ And this coming from a man who purported to be an atheist!

I bring this movie up to point out that there is a visceral desire of most that science and religion can and should exist even if it is only symbiotically.

There is a poignant scene in the story when a youthful Ellie's father passed away. Ellie is despondent on her front stoop while a repass is going on in the living room. A cold Fall wind is blowing the leaves off the trees. A minister comes out from the house, stops at Ellie, and says something to the effect of '... sometimes we have to accept the things that just happen as God's Will.' To that Ellie responds 'should have kept the medicine in the downstairs bathroom, then I could have gotten to it sooner.' She abruptly walks away and the minister looks totally perplexed. He is speechless.

Here the movie sets the stage for subsequent resolving talking past each other from one's own domain. Ellie is too young to be anything but subjectively viewing the world of technology (medicine) as providing a rationale to her situation; the minister from a purely theological viewpoint. There is no reason to discuss this any further. What was needed at that moment was a harmony of mind and a satisfaction of spirit to assuage both Ellie and the minister to begin to see how the Infinite works out His Will and plans in matter, with minds and on spirit. Ellie finally does meet an alien who, strangely enough, appears in the form of her father later in the movie, one would believe rectifying her youthful affliction with an experience that appears entirely religious to her, but seemingly intersects her three Venn circles.⁶⁹

When she does return to earth, it appears to her associates she didn't get off the planet. Ellie now must explain her experience not merely in the face of a lack of evidence, but in the face of controverting evidence. Ellie the atheist essentially transmutes herself to the status of those who have had a religious experience (Ellie has had all three components occur) who have no proof for their claims, but must simply live by faith and bear witness to their lifechanging

⁶⁸ Stone, B. *Religious Faith and Science in Contact*. Journal of Religion and Film. Volume 2, Issue 2, October 1998.

⁶⁹ Contact. Dir. Robert Zemeckis. Perf. Jodie Foster, Matthew McConaughey, South Side Amusement, 1997.

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experiences in an unbelieving world. As I said, it is hard to move the needle; the movie does a good job of bringing this to light – and with a double entendre to boot!

In concluding this essay, let me bring up once again the Spirit of Truth. The Spirit of Truth, accelerates the rate of religious development. It began functioning on Urantia at Pentecost, and will continue here as long as this planet remains an inhabited sphere. It is different-in-kind from the Holy Spirit; the Bible refers to it as “another comforter.”⁷⁰ Much of the potential of this particular divine agency has not yet gained expression; the ages to come will reveal much as mortal religion ascends, level by level, toward the supernal heights of morontia value and spirit truth.⁷¹

The ensuing prescient science examples that follow will continue to unfold just how significant the revelation’s GPS can be to humanity’s understanding of the truth of reality.

Epilogue

In this essay we have seen the realization that the sagacious statements the URANTIA book makes regarding the Precambrian supercontinent four decades before the scientific community validated it and related topics are accurate and precise. But this is only the tip of a very big iceberg. And we’re dealing with only one area; there are more than a dozen we still plan to cover. The fact of the breakup of the supercontinent Rodinia is now known to science as the key starting point to the beginning of complex life as we know it today. Everything before it is either non-evolutional single-celled prokaryotes or these strange planimals designated Ediacarans.

The planet is becoming understood as one gigantic micro-macro co-dependent organism.⁷² While this concept remains controversial at the end of the first quarter of the twenty-first century, there is strong momentum moving science in that direction. There seems to be some softening of the secular-materialistic stronghold on the domain, especially as science comes to gain a big picture perspective of not only the planet and the moon’s geologic history, but the deeper understanding of the quantum world that has most certainly blown away any hard deterministic notions that free will doesn’t exist.

⁷⁰ John 14:16

⁷¹ Urantia Book. (92:0.5 (1003.5)).

⁷² Lovelock, J. E. (1979). Gaia: A New Look At Life On Earth. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK. Also, Cf. Jantsch Chapter 6.

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Table 1 below provides a short summary of the mappings between the URANTIA Book and science related to the concurrence on the Precambrian supercontinent, its breakup and the ensuing development of complex life suddenly after the breakup. I have also provided a companion two-by-two chart that lists the known-unknowns that we claim if one follows the revelation's GPS will move humanity in a positive direction in all areas of human development.

URANTIA Revelation – Science Agreement Mappings	
URANTIA Book (1955)	Science
PreCambrian supercontinent @ 1B YA [57:8 (660.3)]	Rodinia supercontinent @ 1B YA
Fact of Continental Drift [58:5.1 (668.3)]	Fact of Continental Drift/Plate Tectonics [~1958]
Method of Continental Drift + Volcanos have no part in drift [58:5.1 (668.3)]	Method of Continental Drift + Understanding that volcanos have nothing to do with plate movement. [~1960s]
Master Physical Controllers responsible for initial life @950M YA [57:8.5 (660.7) / 29:4.25 (327.1)]	Ancient life starts with prokaryotes. Oldest cyanobacteria @3.5B YA ~ 875M YA [2017]
Life Implanted by Life Carriers 550M YA	Cambrian Explosion @540M YA [1956]
Life Implanted (eukaryotes) by Life Carriers 550M YA [58:4.2 (667.6)]	The first evidence of eukaryotes is generally assigned to a period of approximately 2.1 – 1.8B YA (548 – 471M YA) [1960/2005]
450M YA transition from plants to animals [58:6.1 (669.2)]	Ediacarans are considered “planimals” [1958]
Cambrian rocks evidence to be found eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, near the Canadian border; prelife stone layers shoved out over the recent Cretaceous deposit. [60:3.14 (690.5)]	Burgess Shale site (eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, near the Canadian border) include weird wonders, such as the Hallucigenia, the Anomalocaris, and the Opabinia, which have challenged understanding of early animal evolution. [1909/1985]
URANTIA Revelation – Science TBD Mappings	
URANTIA Book	Science
Spatial Environment	Radiometric Dating
Two kinds of “life” established	Is artificial intelligence moving to a Turing machine?
How “suddenly” occurs punctuating evolution	Missing links
Did Pangea exist?	Did Pangea happen?
Do bacteria learn?	Do bacteria learn?

Table 1: Mappings between the URANTIA Book statements regarding planetary history and recent discoveries and validations of same. There remain areas that will in the near future become mapped; these are listed as TBD (to be determined). These lists are a work-in-progress. We assume updates will occur frequently.

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There is one TBD mapping that I do want to draw some revelation-GPS speculation upon as a takeaway for the reader. It's the one that asks: "How [does] "suddenly" occur punctuating evolution"? "Suddenly" is the most italicized term in The *URANTIA Book*. We assume the revelators do this to make the reader-student aware that this is an extremely important concept to reflect upon. It is generally associated with discussions concerning evolution. With respect to the material in this essay, the mechanism of how evolution transmuted what appears to be a very long period of time showing slow incremental changes into rapidly producing the complex and abundant phyla that appear during the Cambrian explosion is a known-unknown for both *URANTIA Book* adherents as well as science in general. The good news is that there is a GPS path provided in the revelation.

The revelation does not provide an explicit answer to this question. It does however, provide a revelation of a mindal-spiritual cosmology designated the "adjutant mind-spirits." The adjutant mind-spirits are seven subordinate spirits that are associated with the functioning of the human mind and are primarily involved in the evolution of human consciousness. The local universe Creative Spirit bestows the adjutant mind-spirits upon the worlds; the revelation describes them as involved with "life activations."⁷³ At some point in the early evolution of life on a planet, the Creative Spirit superimposes the adjutant mind-spirits on the nonteachable or mechanical levels of mind, i.e., the prokaryotes.

If we look at the long period the Master Physical Controllers minister to the prokaryotes in the history of life on Urantia, we infer that this is a long period of premind life, mechanical life. Visualize the flagellate of a bacteria; it provides the best example of what I am referring to. It is literally an outboard motor that bacteria use to swim. The flagellum has a large number of parts that are necessary for its function — a propeller, hook, drive shaft, and more. Studies show it requires upwards of 30-40 protein parts. And in the absence of virtually any of those parts, the flagellum doesn't work. Its gradual evolution by unguided natural selection therefore is a difficult complication for Darwinian theory to overcome. Since premind life is nonteachable, it is not evolutionary; it is the ultimate mechanical life that demands a design. This is what we find with the prokaryotes. They remain unevolved even today. The adjutant mind-spirits appear with

⁷³ *URANTIA Book*. (16:4.10 (190.4))

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the Life Carriers when they “life activate” the eukaryotes for evolution. Eukaryotic mind now is teachable and learns from experience.

But the adjutant mind-spirits, while predominantly functioning as mind developers, also have a function that involves conditioning the evolution of life to conform to both superuniverse and local universe “life patterns.” There are a number of clues the revelation provides that I believe reveal a GPS scaffolding describing how the presence of the seven adjutant mind-spirits on the primitive worlds conditions the course of organic evolution, explaining why evolution is purposeful and not accidental.⁷⁴

42:12.13 (484.1) Physical, spiritual, and mindal energies, as such and in their pure states, do not fully interact as actuals of the phenomenal universes. ... And from there on out through the realms of time and space, wherever a divine spirit reality is present, whenever a real spirit-mind is functioning, there always tends to be produced a material or physical counterpart of that spirit reality.

42:12.11 (483.11) The liaison of the cosmic mind and the ministry of the adjutant mind-spirits evolve a suitable physical tabernacle for the evolving human being.

36:2.18 (398.5) The life patterns are variously responsive to these adjutants and to the different spirit ministries operating throughout the universes of time and space. The capacity of material creatures to effect spirit response is entirely dependent on the associated mind endowment, which, in turn, has directionized the course of the biologic evolution of these same mortal creatures.

The first quote is from a Mighty Messenger on duty in Nebadon and by the request of Gabriel. His statement refers to spirit – hyphen – mind as opposed to the adjutants as mind – hyphen – spirit. This refers to the dominant component listed first. The spiritual Life Carriers remain “on duty” during evolution up to the time a human pair has evolved. Subsequent to that cosmic event, they cannot function as assisting evolution in any shape or form. They assist with the production of the physical counterpart of spirit reality, the universal life patterns.

The second quote is somewhat obvious but begins to open the door to the second function of adjutant mind-spirits. The cosmic mind essentially takes over the Life Carriers responsibilities

⁷⁴ Ibid. (36:5.1 (401.5))

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when a human evolves. This makes sense since free will is active now and the human is “on duty” cosmically as it were.

The last quote, while it appears six papers earlier that discusses the nature, obligations, and roles of the Life Carriers, is the most salient I believe. I place it third in this sequence because it more closely points to the second function which is the point I want to emphasize. It is not obvious that this particular function is one the adjutant mind-spirits subsume. It is clear the revelation discloses that the adjutant mind-spirits function in the mind arena first and foremost, but, while they serve from the most basic function of primitive physical and inherent reflex instincts to that of helping an individual discern spirit from matter (achieve wisdom), they also play a role in the human’s biologic lineage. In a word, the adjutant mind-spirits act as master pattern repositories that have the capability to “govern” or “condition” biologic evolution. I believe they are a GPS cosmic framework that evolution makes missing link innovations similar to when the ruler snaps from its physical breaking point. In 1935 they were revealed as “circuits.” I think it is best to envision the adjutant mind-spirits as fields.⁷⁵

With this paradigm as our intellectual backdrop, the sudden appearance of biological innovations during the Cambrian explosion produces archetypes. An archetype is a standard pattern that maintains fitness in the environment from which it arose. An archetype is an original pattern, model, or form of which all things descending from the archetype are representations or copies. An archetype describes a different-in-kind pattern; everything else that descends from the archetypal form is different-in-degree. It is worthwhile to note that a Melchizedek of the Jerusalem School of Planetary Administration reveals that “all mortals of will dignity are erect animals, bipeds.”⁷⁶ Bipedalism is an archetype. An archetype typically has resilience. I have provided a handful of archetypes on page 17 that are resilient master patterns from the Cambrian explosion.

This takes us to our final thought regarding forms, i.e., structures of organisms. Plato considered that the forms in the world of sense-experience were like imperfect reflections of

⁷⁵ The current understanding of how fields work in field theory is a combination of quantum mechanics and relativity, and it has led to the development of many successful models of physical systems, including the Standard Model of particle physics and the theory of general relativity. The basic idea of field theory is that the physical properties of a system are determined by the values of the fields at each point in space and time. According to quantum field theory, fields are quantized, which means that they are made up of discrete units of energy called quanta. These quanta are described by particles, such as photons or electrons, that can interact with each other and exchange energy.

⁷⁶ URANTIA Book. (49:4.1 (564.3))

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transcendent, archetypal Forms or Ideas. Aristotle on the other hand, regarded forms of things as immanent, rather than transcendent. Specific forms were inherent in the souls of living beings and actually caused them to take up their characteristic forms. From that dichotomous beginning all sorts of ideas from Driesch, to Whitehead, and on to Penrose.

I will get into genetics much more in other essays like *The Genes of Adam & Eve*, but for now, and to draw this composition to a close, I mention that a global Human Genome Project originating in the launched in 1990 with a projected budget of \$3 billion. On 26 June 2000, President Clinton and the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, together with Craig Venter and Francis Collins, the head of the official genome project, announced the publication of the first draft of the human genome. It brought many surprises to say the least. The first surprise was that there were so few genes. Rather than the predicted 100,000 or more, the final tally of about 25,000 was very puzzling, and all the more so when compared with the genomes of other animals much simpler than ourselves. There are about 17,000 genes in a fruit fly and about 26,000 in a sea urchin. Many species of plants have far more genes than we do—rice has about 38,000, for example.

In 2001, the director of the chimpanzee genome project, Svante Paabo, anticipated that when the sequencing of the ape's genome completed, it would be possible to identify "the profoundly interesting genetic prerequisites that make us different from other animals." Four years later, his interpretation was more muted: "We cannot see in this why we are so different from chimpanzees."⁷⁷ So far, after mapping the entire human gene, the capability of how DNA produces form is still unknown. The problem of how does an archetypal structure arise if not from DNA itself, then what? In fact, how is it possible that the biologic developmental process can bring forth a phenotype—human intellect—of such astounding complexity from the far simpler genotype? What in the maturation of development accounts for the added complexity? How can the rather miniscule quantitative differences between the DNA of humans and chimps result in such a qualitative gulf in intellectual capabilities?

⁷⁷ M. V. Olsen and A. Varki, *The Chimpanzee Genome—A Bittersweet Celebration*. Science 305 (2004): 191–92.

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We believe a serious study of the adjutant mind-spirits as morphic fields will begin a true GPS path to some startling new discoveries – much like the Cambrian explosion provided so many eons ago.