



URANTIA BOOK ACADEMY

Critical Studies • Liberal Theological Education • Publishing

Special AAR Reception

For the launch of our new journal and first title

Sunday, 5:30–7:00pm • Manchester Grand Hyatt, Regatta AB



International Journal of
Urantia Book Studies

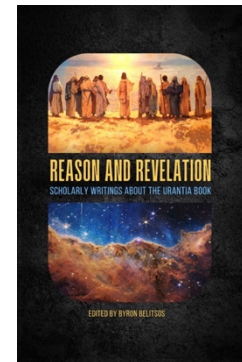
Discover The Urantia Book • Meet our scholars

Reason and Revelation: **Scholarly Essays about The Urantia Book**

240 pages • Origin Press/Academic, 2024

- Introduces the Urantia text to scholars and university students
- Suitable for readers entirely new to the Urantia material
- Builds bridges to current knowledge in numerous fields

*An anthology of fifteen leading research essays in one volume.
Designed as an introductory text for classroom study.*



First AAR Paper

“The Factionalized Urantia Movement: Ripe for Scholarly Inquiry”

Byron Belitsos, M.A., Systematic Theology, Union Theological Seminary



The Urantia Book, a purported revelatory text, was first published in 1955 in Chicago. Over one million copies of this tome of 2,097 pages have been distributed in more than 20 languages. Almost a third of the text, Part IV, claims to provide an authoritative new version of the life and teachings of Jesus that builds on the New Testament accounts. Three “fellowship” organizations have now arisen, each populated by many educated professionals.

This paper reflects upon the conflicting responses to a rare claim of epoch-making revelation. It argues that each major response clusters around one of the classic three levels of interpretation first identified by Origen of Alexandria, who distinguished the literal, moral, and spiritual dimensions of scriptural texts. The new religious movement growing around the Urantia teaching has distinctive, idiosyncratic, and sometimes baffling characteristics requiring more scrutiny by researchers and scholars.

New Religious Movements Unit • Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM • Convention Center-30C (Upper Level East)