

Book Summary for Review

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View from the Brink

Humanity is now quivering on the very brink of one of its most amazing ages. It is a time of social readjustment. It is a time of moral quickening. And, it is a time of spiritual enlightenment. Mankind is at the threshold! We are headed toward a higher evolving destiny. There is need of truth and deeper understanding.

Revelation is like looking through a divine lens. With each major revelation, the lens is widened to give us a broader picture of the truth of the reality of our existence. The new revelation I speak of serves to fill in the gaps in our planet's history and to detail a destiny of eternal adventure.

We are a confused world! You do not need a book to know this. But, knowing more about the universe can assist all of us through the maze of confusion. We have little knowledge beyond God and man with angels in between. We know little about our evolving souls and who is "out there" guiding us, much less who is inside us helping us to become the best we can be. We have thought, if we gave it thought, like "only" children; but we are really cosmic citizens within a friendly universe teeming with life.

We are unclear as to our origins. Science and religion *appear* to conflict. There has been no record of the first evolved humans. Evolution and creation theories have clashed. Man has not understood that evolution is a technique of creation. The source of mythology has also been unclear. The lives and mission of Adam and Eve are muddled. Melchizedek is mentioned only once in the Bible, yet his teachings spread all over the world. And, the list goes on to include a misunderstanding of Jesus, who he was then, why he really came here, and who he is now.

Revelation is a method used to save ages upon ages of time. It sorts and shifts the errors of evolution from the truths of spirit attainment. It fills in the gaps. It eliminates error. It restores lost knowledge of past epochal revelations.

Unlike other revelations, this most current revelation has been given to our world in the form of a book. The book I am speaking of was published in 1955, and I can almost say with certainty that you have never heard of it. The reason you have never heard of it is because there are no churches or temples; there is no clergy; there are no doctrines. And, there are no human authors.

But reading a million-plus-word book takes motivation and a lot of time. Even then, some of the concepts are complex and a stretch for even the most educated amongst us. For these reasons, I have written *Quivering on the Brink*. It is based upon the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. Urantia, (pronounced you-ran'-chah), is another name for our planet. It is the name we are known by in the universe.

Quivering on the Brink includes a lot of detail but uses more common words and shorter sentences. It provides pronunciations as you encounter new words. It includes a brief glossary as well as an index. *Quivering on the Brink* also has diagrams and a well laid out format. It has been divided into two parts described below.

Part One is about the personalities and organization of Creation. This helps us to understand where we fit into Creation. Part One also explains what happens after death. It details eternal life. It tracks our eternal career as a son or daughter of God. Part One is about God, celestials, and our destiny. It is a sort of who's-who of the various orders of beings and their natures and roles. You need this information in order to understand Part Two. You do not need to *learn* the information but you should be familiar with the material.

Part Two is a time-line of activities. It gives an account of the events that took place on our world and, at the same time, gives the known activities of the spirit world. Part Two covers our history, our origins. It includes a condensed account of Jesus and his teachings. (One-third of *The Urantia Book* is devoted to the "Life and Teachings of Jesus." It is in chronological order. It covers the missing years not documented in the New Testament of the Bible. It explains what happened to Joseph. It covers how Jesus helped his mother raise his brothers and sisters after Joseph's death and many other of his experiences.)

Within *Quivering on the Brink* are concepts and explanations that may fit nicely into your current religious beliefs. Some concepts may expand or clarify your beliefs. But some concepts might not find a place in your belief system and feel disturbing. *There is no penalty for not believing all or part of these teachings.* Faith in God, not faith in a religious practice or set of beliefs, is what assures eternal life.

The key to getting something meaningful from this book is to read with curiosity and an open mind. Again, you do not have to believe everything you read. But truths have a way of staying with us. Truths will crowd out errors over time. So, allow these new teachings and ideas either to fall away or to enlighten you.

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Quivering on the Brink

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[Excerpt from *Quivering on the Brink*]

[CLOSING THOUGHTS]

The Urantia Book is a revelation. It is the fifth epochal revelation to our world. It takes over a million words to expand our understandings. We are taught who God the Father is and our relationship to him. We learn how the universes are structured and how they are governed. The narratives provide a history of our origins as well as show us our future. We learn what becomes of mortals after death, our glorious destiny. It corrects misunderstandings. It tells us the source of myths. It gives us new facts, new meanings, and new values. It moves us beyond global thinking to cosmic citizenship. The Papers inspire us to become our spiritual best, to love, and to serve. So, what can be said after all of this? What is the closing to such teachings?

The *Urantia Book* sums it up in the final two paragraphs. Rephrased, the Revelators have the following parting thoughts.

The great challenge today is to achieve better contact with the divine Adjuster. A mortal's greatest quest consists in the wise effort to expand the borders of self-consciousness; then, it is to move through the dim realms of soul-consciousness to reach the borderland of spirit-consciousness. Such contact with the divine presence is God-consciousness; it is the religious experience of knowing God. It is the basis of actual sonship with God. Otherwise, the assurance of sonship is based on faith.

Only the spirit content of any value is eternal. That which is true, beautiful, and good in human experience will not perish. If a mortal does not choose to survive, then the Adjuster saves those realities born of love and nurtured in service. "And all these things are a part of the Universal Father. The Father is living love, and this life of the Father is in his Sons. And the spirit of the Father is in his Son's sons—mortal men. When all is said and done, the Father idea is still the highest human concept of God."