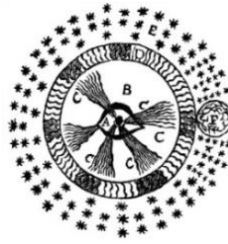

Spirit's Day Studies

The Writings of Jane Lead

Diane Guerrero, Editor

diane@janelead.org www.janelead.org



*Shake, shake your earthly dust away
Now it's the Spirit's Day,
that will admit of no delay.*

The Eight Worlds

JUNE 2024

Q & A

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- 7) **Lead or Leade:** On your site, shouldn't Jane's last name have an "e" at the end, as in "Leade?" And how is it pronounced? I always assumed it was "Leed." But I heard an English scholar pronounce it "Led."

Her first book published was [The Heavenly Cloud Now Breaking](#), where her last name was indeed spelled "Leade;" the same with her books that were published in Amsterdam and Germany. However all her other English published works use the spelling "Lead." The Prefaces and front matter in her books also omit the "e." In personal letters that Francis Lee wrote about his mother-in-law, he also omitted the "e." Finally, Jane's grave marker in England reads "Lead."¹

As for the pronunciation, I believe you are correct—it should be "Leed." Old English spellings often have an "e" tacked onto the end of certain words, and in updating to Early Modern English the "e" was often left out. If we consider the spelling ending with "e" then I believe that "Leed" would be the correct pronunciation. On the website I have chosen to use "Lead," which is the spelling she used in all her works published in England, with the exception of *Heavenly Cloud*.

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- 8) **Cognitive Thinking:** Jane Lead, like other mystics, would have us shut down our cognitive thinking ability, as supposedly standing in the way to spiritual unity and entrance into the Throne Room of God.

There is nothing wrong with casting out all superfluous thoughts when it comes to communion with the Lord. The fall has affected man's spirit, body, and soul.² The mind, which is part of the soul, is indeed tainted with evil thoughts, desires, motivations, etc. But the mind is also a factory of sorts, and is in a constant working motion, cluttered with all sorts of activities and concerns about job, finances, family, etc. At times it goes much too fast so that we cannot "slow down" and be still and at rest. Thus the *fallen* mind is a great hindrance to prayer, as well as to life in general.

The mind must at certain times be concerned with outward matters. At such times we do not shut out of our minds the things necessary for our ordinary and external life. The stillness of our minds is to be done in communing with our Lord, and in seeking a deeper understanding and intimacy. However, this is not the same as "emptying the mind," a practice that is used in some religious circles. No. We are simply shutting out are those voices that interfere with our time in prayer, that distract us, pressing at us to move away from God and back into the world. Prayer and communion should be a peaceful time with the Lord. Therefore we must hold a Sabbath for the mind as well as for the body.³

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- 9) **Reincarnation:** I know that Jane Lead studied Jacob Boehme—who studied Paracelsus, and Paracelsus believed in reincarnation, and I think Jacob did as well. What did Jane believe about reincarnation?

The word "reincarnation" is not found in any of Jane Lead's writings—nor is the idea ever suggested. Neither is reincarnation found anywhere in the Bible. I'm not too familiar with Paracelsus. But I have read a great deal of Jacob Boehme—who **did not** believe in reincarnation. He frequently speaks of the *Incarnation* of the *Indwelling Christ* as absolutely necessary for man, to not only be born again—but in order to recover all that was lost in Paradise.⁴

- 10) **Spiritual Truth:** I've been seeking and hungering after the deep things since my youth. I grew up a Methodist but always knew there was more. Went over to the Evangelicals and was baptized in the Holy Spirit. Then I went to Rhema Bible School but they did not have what I wanted. I knew there was more because Jesus Christ said "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." I started seeking the "I Am" in me, and I came to know that "I am that I Am;" and that I was one with the "I Am." I started studying intensively the writings of Warren Litzman, the Teachings of the Masters of the Far East, Jane Lead, the writings in the Gnostic Society Library, etc. I am seeking spiritual truth. By knowing myself, who I Am, I will know him who is my Living Spirit.

Thank you for your open and honest testimony, which was much more than I expected. Yet I feel that it has a specific purpose. I can truly see that you are searching. But this "something more" is easily found. I am reminded of what the lovely Madame Guyon wrote in her [Autobiography](#). After years of agonizing and searching for God, she found Him in an instant—for she discovered that she had been looking for Him in all the wrong places. Once she discovered where He was (and is), and once she threw herself fully into the faith, she immediately *possessed* the One who possessed her soul.

However, your testimony is different from Guyon's and so many others, in that once they discovered faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, they never again sought God outside of the Biblical Christian faith. For they knew without a doubt from their conversion forward that:

- ♦ Jesus alone is Savior (Is. 43:11, Acts 4:12).
- ♦ He alone died on the cross for our sins (Ps. 22: John 1:29; Rom. 6:23).
- ♦ Jesus alone rose from the dead, proving Himself to be the Son of God (Rom. 1:4).
- ♦ He alone ascended into Heaven, to sit exalted at the right hand of the Father (Acts 2:33).
- ♦ Jesus alone is the Door to Heaven (John 10:7).
- ♦ He alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:5).
- ♦ CHRIST alone is coming again to judge sin (Rev. 20:12-14).
- ♦ HE alone will set up the Kingdom of God and rule this world for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:4).
- ♦ HE alone is worthy of praise, honor and glory for ever and ever, Amen (1 Tim. 1:17).

Therefore, anything I say to you (and anything that Jane Lead writes), is based solely on this one foundation: That the God-Man CHRIST Jesus is the only hope of salvation, redemption, holiness and *fulfillment*. Therefore, it would be best if you settle the "Jesus question" once and for all. Only then will you be able find the rest that your soul so desperately needs. Then perhaps the Lord will be pleased to open your understanding of the Holy Scriptures, as well as the writings of Jane Lead—which can only truly be understood by the presence of the Indwelling Spirit of Christ Jesus.

This Christ is a PERSON—not a principle, a spiritual evolution, or a reincarnation. This Christ is Jesus—who was sent by God to save all mankind. And since you have looked for fulfillment in other religions, it appears that you have yet to encounter the Jesus of the Bible.

I empathize with your search; but for now Jane Lead's writings may not offer you much help.

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- 11) **Sacraments:** What were Jane's views on church government, sacraments, child baptism, communion, etc.?

I'm not sure if Jane ever addressed the question of child baptism; however, she indeed kept the outward rules of the Church of England, to the degree that her conscience permitted—that is, until she left the church system entirely. But I don't know if they practiced child baptism in her home fellowships or in the meetings of the *Philadelphian Society*.

As for church government and sacraments, in her [First Message to the Philadelphian Society](#), she divided the church into seven distinct groups and addressed their flaws—which included some aspects of their church government in general. This might be a place to look.

I'm not sure how JL outwardly observed the Lord's Supper (communion), or how often. The communion observance is only a *remembrance* and also a *type* of what we are pressing into.⁵ Once a person participates in the *Life of the Inbreathed Christ*, the type has to some degree been fulfilled—though initially only in a *Firstfruits* measure. Therefore it is appropriate to continue the observance until the promise of the *fullness of Christ* is obtained—which will be at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, when we no longer live under the *Firstfruits*, but now enjoy the full Feast.

- 12) **JL Website:** I was most interested in your reasoning for compiling the website and the works of Lead. Did you have any help in republishing the works of Lead or did you do it all yourself?

The Spirit's Day Project began in October 2004. When my request to use the 17th Century text from another website was denied, I decided to go it alone. Therefore, with a few exceptions,⁶ all manuscripts and texts used in the 17CV and the Spirit's Day Version were obtained and transcribed by me personally—and were not taken from any other website or source. I have worked alone in the process of locating manuscripts, scanning images, converting those images to text, transcribing, editing, proofing, layout, etc. This work was nourished by many hours of daily prayer; for the Lord opened a way for me to leave the mainstream workforce, allowing me to devote more attention to this work.

This project has been set aside many times, through various periods of doubt and confusion, as well as feelings of ineptness and unworthiness. I have been alienated by friends and family, and forsaken by brothers and sisters in Christ. And to make the pain more profound, this work has been publically attacked and libeled on the Internet. But the inward drive is such that I cannot think to do anything else with my life until this work is finished. The results are in God's hands.

- 13) **Similar Website?:** I have been strongly impelled to do something quite similar to the JL website on the works of an American Order, whose teachings are in much the same light as that of Lead and Pordage. Any inspiration or guidance would be much appreciated.

First of all both Jane Lead and [John Pordage](#) (Lead's close spiritual associate) were Christians, meaning that they were followers of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the God-Man, who came to earth to die for the sins of the world. His earthly mission was for the purpose of restoring mankind to the original glory that was lost by the Fall of Adam. They believed that the Holy Bible is the infallible Word of God, and that Jesus of Nazareth is the only way for mankind to be reconciled to God.⁷

As you study Jane Lead's writings, you will find that her teachings are not at all in agreement with Helen Blavatsky, the Ascended Masters, or any of the others have on your site. Blavatsky denied that Jesus Christ died on the cross for the sins of all mankind. But this very "Cross of Christ" is the foundation of the Holy Scriptures, and that which Jane Lead speaks of so eloquently yet urgently throughout her writings. To Jane there is no way to reach God the Father but through the Cross of Jesus Christ. This has historical as well as spiritual implications.

Blavatsky also taught reincarnation, and that Jesus was Himself a reincarnation. But both the Bible and Jane Lead teach that every soul and body is individually distinct. Upon death it goes to "a place" specially reserved for that soul for further purging and perfecting—so that the "Body of Sin" (the indwelling sin principle) can be fully destroyed.⁸ The Bible states that, **It is appointed unto man to die once—then the judgment.** (Heb. 9:27)

I see absolutely no common ground between Blavatsky, Weinfurter, the Ascended Masters, with that of the teachings of Jane Lead or John Pordage. In order to fully understand Lead's writings, you must be born again. According to the Bible, this can only happen through repentance toward God, and faith in the God-Man, Jesus Christ of Nazareth—as the only way of salvation.⁹

- 14) **Recommended Reading:** Even for a King James reader who has no trouble with “ye olde English,” Jane Lead can be a laborious read. But your modernized version is not only easy to read, but for some reason it actually brings out more luster in her writing style. Now that you have rendered Lead accessible to the impatient reader, I am looking forward to plunging in. Is there a particular work you recommend to start with?

As a starting place I can only recommend what Jane herself recommended: [The Heavenly Cloud Now Breaking](#). This book is foundational because it describes the four-fold mystical (spiritual) progression of the soul through death, resurrection, ascension, and glorification.

But I also always recommend [Madame Guyon’s Autobiography](#), where she describes her own mystical (spiritual) death process. This book may serve as an additional source of testimony to the process that Jane Lead describes. Often after one reads Guyon, they tend to shy away from Jane Lead. *Why?* The inward crucifixion that Guyon and Lead describe is not pleasant, but quite necessary. Unless a Christian truly desires his own death (that is, the death to “self”), the mystical (spiritual) process that JL describes will not be attractive.

- 15) **Conversion of the Jews:** Did Jane teach a future conversion of the Jews?

Jane indeed wrote of a future conversion of the Jewish Nation of Israel, which is also confirmed by the Holy Scriptures.¹⁰ In her spiritual dairy she states that “God will yet call the Jews to salvation.”¹¹ Her [Third Message to the Philadelphian Society](#) is addressed to the “Seven General Churches,” which includes “the Ancient Church of the Jews;” and she refers to them as the church which “was, and is not, **and is to be.**”¹² She invites them, along with the several other Churches, “to fly out of the confusion of Babylon, and to come under the orderly and peaceable government of the Sion Kingdom.” In [The Glory of Sharon](#) she gives the interpretation of the *12-Leaved Rose of Sharon*, and writes that the leaves “signify the twelve gates (into the Holy City): which renews the calling of the twelve tribes, **not only of the Jews**, but out of all nations.”¹³ †††

NOTES & SCRIPTURES

Scriptures are from the KJV. Unless otherwise noted all references are to the Spirit's Day Version (SDV). [Index of Abbreviations.](#)

- 1 Sperle, Joanne Magnani. (1985). *God's Healing Angel: A Biography of Jane Ward Lead*, p. 17. Unpublished thesis, Kent State University.
- 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Rom 12:2)
- 3 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Php 4:6-7)
- 4 Boehme, Jacob. (1620) *The Incarnation of Christ*, Set Out in Three Parts: 1. How the Eternal Word has become man. 2. How We Must Enter Into the Suffering, Dying, and Death of Christ. 3. The Tree of Christian Faith.
- 5 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you. (Luk 22:19-20)
- 6 Exceptions:
Theologia Mystica text was granted by Adam McLean of the Alchemy Website.
The Aurora by Jacob Boehme was copy edited by a kind soul who made the generous offer of his time and knowledge.
Fountain of Gardens, Vol. 2 was copy edited by a faithful student of Jane Lead's writings who graciously offered.
 Text for following were from a 1816 Edition of *The Wars of David*, digitized by Google Books:
 - ♦ The Wars of David and the Peaceable Reign of Solomon (Jane Lead)

- ♦ A Living Funeral Testimony (Jane Lead).
 - ♦ The Real Nature of Regeneration (Francis Lee).
 - ♦ Short Exercise of the Spiritual Warriors (Francis Lee).
- 7 For more about their beliefs, see [About Jane Lead](#) on the website.
 - 8 See Jane's *Eight Worlds* and Romans 6:6)
 - 9 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. (Act 20:21)
 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (Act 4:12)
 - 10 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. (Rom 11:25-27)
 - 11 *Fountain of Gardens, Vol. 1* (1F P:26).
 - 12 *Third Message to the Philadelphian Society* (3M 2).
 - 13 *Glory of Sharon* (GL 8).