

Spirit's Day Studies

The Writings of Jane Lead,
17th Century Christian Mystic



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On Predestination #2

Response to a letter dated 8-30-2017.

Hello again dear Friend,

I pray that this very moment finds you enjoying many refreshments in the Spirit, as one who is solicitous of the coming Kingdom of God, and who loves the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ both on Earth, and also in you—as Christ is the hope of glory. As this response is rather lengthy, I have broken it down to address four statements you made in your letter dated 8-30-2017:

[Statement 1](#): That my view of predestination of the Firstborn Sons hard to accept.

[Statement 2](#): That I seem to indicate the Firstborn were created without possibility of failure.

[Statement 3](#): That Jesus Christ feared His own mortal death.

[Statement 4](#): That Jesus Christ was not fully descended from Adam in the flesh.

Statement 1: That you find my view of the Predestination of the Firstborn hard to accept; that you question its veracity. You said:

From Adam to John the revelator and even the Lord Jesus, that you noted to illustrate the predestination of the firstborn sons for salvation, in the sense you suggest, I find it hard to accept, in the light of equitable gospel principles, and question the truthfulness of the supposition. (par. 3)

As I was considering a response to your objections concerning my view of the Predestination of the Firstborn Sons of God, and the additional Scriptural examples I could provide (for you said you found it: *hard to accept, in the light of equitable gospel principles, and question the truthfulness of the supposition*, I believe I already listed a number of Biblical evidences—from the First Adam on down to the Second Adam Himself. Additional names that immediately come to mind are that of Jeremiah—who was called by God even before he was conceived in his mother's womb, and Judas Iscariot—who was *predestinated* to betray the Lord Jesus Christ!¹ And then there is Jane Lead—who was *predestinated* to receive and record amazing visitations and messages from the Divine Wisdom. The Bible contains too many other names to be included here.

As we closely examine the life of Jesus, His conception and virgin birth, His early childhood, the silent years, His earthly ministry, His suffering and death, the time in the grave, the empty tomb, His ascension, etc., we see a pattern for the calling, life, and ministry of the Firstborn Sons of God. Jesus is the *first* of the Firstborn: and as He is the first among many brethren,² everything in His life and ministry, from His nativity and growth to His ultimate death and resurrection—will be repeated and experienced by this holy, heavenly, and Royal Offspring. And as Jesus did not fail His mission, neither will the rest of the Firstborn fail in their mission. We know that these Firstborn Sons will succeed and overcome—because the Bible tells us so! These are the 144,000 of the Book of Revelation, who are sealed and protected by God; for as the Lord has declared, **All the Firstborn among the children of Israel are mine...I sanctified them for myself.**³

Indeed this Doctrine of the Predestination of the Firstborn Sons of God is a hard saying for those who have *an inability* to believe. But I fear that some may be guilty of *an unwillingness* to believe (Heb. 11:6). Dare any suggest that God has a special and elite group of Christians called the Firstborn Sons of God? Dare any suggest that these Sons are predestinated to not fail? Are not all Christians Firstborn? Are not all Christians predestinated to be conformed to the image of Christ? Are not all Christians now sitting in heavenly places in Christ Jesus? Does God place some before others? Does not God love us all equally? The teachings of Babylon are so deeply rooted that many true seekers *will not* allow for the possibility that 1) The Firstborn are a special and chosen group, and that 2) These Chosen Ones *will not* fail. (See Rev. 18:4) Pride and jealousy continue to be the greatest snare for those inside as well as outside the faith—something we should ever be guarding ourselves against. And as the Holy Scriptures encourage: **You shall seek me, and find me, when you shall search for me with all your heart...and with all your soul.** ⁴

Three hundred years ago the Divine Virgin-Wisdom made a special appearance to a devout and humble English woman, who was given certain revelations concerning the Predestination of the Firstborn Sons of God. But the doctrine was not new; for it lay tucked away in the Holy Scriptures, purposely hidden from those who would bring it into opposition and disrepute. To be fully and properly understood, one must possess the same Spirit that wrote those amazing prophecies in the first place. Therefore it is safe to say that *not all* will be able to receive this doctrine. Even sincere and well-meaning Christians may not understand—until they receive the *Birth of Life*. But those who possess this birth are an extremely low percentage of all TRUE Christians.

Statement 2: That I seem to indicate that the Firstborn were specially created without possibility of failure. You said:

You seem to indicate that these firstborn sons were specially or specifically made or created without possibility of failure, to ensure the success of God's Plan for fallen man or that they were made saviors from the very foundation of their creation, never to fail! (par. 3)

This is doctrine not merely my opinion: for I was only expressing what is written in the Holy Scriptures. From the Gospels to the Epistles of Peter, to the Epistles of Paul, to the Revelation of St. John the Divine—the New Testament (NT) is saturated with specific calls to an elect⁵ group called the Firstborn. For the NT does not direct the soul to conversion only; it also directs the soul to respond to the call of the Firstborn Sons of God. Only the predestinated Sons (as well as the remainder of the Remnant)⁶ are able to *hear* this call;⁷ and therefore they alone can truly respond to the call. All are called to faith. All are called to repentance. All are called to become the Remnant.⁸ But not all are called to be Firstborn Sons.⁹

And as Jesus said His “meat” was to do the will of His Father,¹⁰ so also shall these Firstborn feed off that same meat; and will do the will of their Father, being predestinated to receive the Simplified Spirits (that you mentioned in your last letter). For as Jane Lead states, the Simplified Spirits will enter into “holy souls,” that have been sanctified and specifically prepared to receive them:

I was advised how that these spirits are reserved in this high Globe, till Wisdom’s Day should break forth upon this visible world as the Morning Star. Then they are to go forth to multiply and make a princely host, to display God’s wonders throughout all nations...It will infuse their powers, and qualify with souls that from before all worlds were **preordained** to be spirited after this kind...They will enter therefore into holy souls...For in this day, all faces of a covering shall be rent away, that so the true and right acting Spirit may be known. [EW 1:21a,b]

But to say that this chosen group will not fail does not mean they will not *experience failures*; For indeed these Elect will suffer—but they will be refreshed. They will misunderstand—but they will be given light. They will fall—but they will get up again—and again—and again. The 144,000 *will* succeed—*because God said they would!* And we know absolutely that they will succeed based on the many Scriptures concerning the Firstborn, the end times, and the coming Reign of Christ. The fact that this company is mentioned in so many places in the Bible *presumes* predestination: and the end result is all guided by God.

For the election upon the Holy Seed shall forever stand, and God will bring it forth as a rising sun, upon which shall be no cloud of the Fall.¹¹ (1M 7)

The Apostle Paul clarifies this for us: **For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.**¹² This Scripture *is not* about predestination for salvation (i.e. conversion). Rather it is about the progress and success of an elect group who are to make up Wisdom’s Temple:¹³ also known as the Firstborn Sons of God. These are they who *already* possess a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and are now going on to know the Lord in His sufferings, death and resurrection.

- ♦ **For whom he did foreknow:** This speaks firstly of the Son of God, who was in the Father before the creation of the worlds. But it speaks secondly of the *remainder* of the Firstborn, the followers of Jesus Christ, who are and will become Firstborn Sons of God as well.
- ♦ **He also did predestinate:** And as God the Father foreknew Jesus Christ, so God the Father foreknew these as well, as being present with Him in the Still Eternity, in the womb of the Eternal Virgin—before the creation of the worlds, and even the Angels.¹⁴ God directs their paths, leads them into the likeness of their pattern [Jesus Christ], and continues to lead them—till they are fully conformed to become God’s Firstborn Sons. These are they whom the Father “gives” to the Lord Jesus; and who Jesus will not turn away.¹⁵
- ♦ **To be conformed to the image of his Son:** Not all Christians are pre-destined to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ—in *this world*. This is a great mistake in Christian thinking and preaching. Certain and specific promises belong to these Firstborn Sons alone—in the same way that certain and specific promises belong to the nation of Israel alone. And as we cannot apply all promises for Israel to the church, so we cannot apply all promises exclusively meant for the Sons of God to all believers. The reason why these Sons must be conformed to the image of Christ Jesus is because it is through them that the world is to be saved! But is that not the work of Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world? Yes! Therefore these Firstborn Sons must be “in Christ,” and

therefore “are CHRIST.”¹⁶ They are “Christ” in that they are the “anointed ones.” They are not Christ Jesus; they are IN Christ Jesus; and they are the SONS of Christ Jesus. **Behold, I and the children whom Jehovah hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from Jehovah of hosts, who dwelleth in mount Zion. (Isa. 8:18) Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. (Isa. 53:10)**

- ♦ **That [Jesus Christ] might be the firstborn among many brethren:** The “many brethren” are the remainder of the Firstborn Sons of God—Jesus himself is the first of the Firstborn, or the firstfruits of the Firstborn Sons of God. For Christ is the Head of the Body—and the Body is the Firstborn Sons of God. These Sons are the children that are given to Jesus by the Father. **Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion. (Isa. 8:18)**
- ♦ **Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called:** Who is the Lord calling? He is calling those who have been predestinated to be called! Deep from within the Still Eternity, God said, “Let there come forth many Sons of God;” and they were generated—not out of Eternal Nature (as were the Angels)—but out of the Holy Trinity.¹⁷ All indeed are capable of responding to a general call to the common salvation—but only those predestinated to become Sons of God can respond to a call that is meant for them only. They are called because they have been predestinated to be called! And while faith in Jesus and salvation is certainly available to all, and whosoever shall call upon the name of the lord shall be saved (Rom. 10:13); yet not all are called to become Firstborn Sons of God—except those who are predestinated to such a calling.
- ♦ **Whom He called, them He also justified:** Justified: meaning they now stand as acceptable to God. The next step listed is glorification; and these 3 steps (called, justified, glorified) includes all the other steps or states (death, resurrection, ascension, glorification).
- ♦ **And whom He justified, them He also glorified.** Here we have the several steps of Sonship from beginning to end: Predestinated, called, justified, glorified. All these make up the *process*, and glorification is the end result. This process of conformity to the image of God’s Son finds its fulfillment in the glorification (through death, resurrection, and ascension) of the body. Then (and not till then) is one fully and completely conformed to the image of God’s Son!

Paul also mentions these Predestinated Ones as being chosen *before* the world began: **According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will. (Eph. 1:4-5)**

- ♦ **Chosen us in Him:** That is, *in Christ Jesus*. This is not speaking of the common salvation, but rather of only those who are “in Christ.” (Let the reader understand!)
- ♦ **Before the foundation of the world:** BEFORE the creation of the world, the Eternal Nature, the Angels—and before the fall of Lucifer. Therefore we see that God did not *respond* to the fall—He *anticipated* the fall, and set measures in place to remedy a future situation.
- ♦ **Holy and without blame:** It is the will of God, and through an act of God, that His Sons are to be holy and blameless. And since it is His plan, His call, and His will and work—*it will be done!*¹⁸
- ♦ **In Love:** That is, in the *Birth of Love*, also called the Aurora, the Birth of Love, the Morning-Star, the Philosopher’s Stone, Christ in you the hope of glory, etc., etc. This birth reverses the fall, by destroying the corrupt and fallen nature, and making possible the resurrection of the tripartite man: first the spirit, then the soul, and finally the body—and in that precise order.¹⁹

- ♦ **Predestinated unto the adoption:** An adoption by Jesus Christ. So we see that not only God the Father—but Jesus Christ also has Sons! If God the Father is the Generator of these Sons,²⁰ and if these Sons consider Him as their Father (in the pre-existence), then we see how Jesus Christ becomes their adoptive Father while on the Earth, during the time they are fulfilling their role as the Firstborn Sons of God.²¹
- ♦ **By Jesus Christ Himself:** Adoption is a LEGAL process. And as Jesus was the legal son of Mary's husband Joseph, the Firstborn Sons of God must also be adopted—by Christ Jesus himself.²²
- ♦ **According to the good pleasure of His will:** He will accomplish His will! God will do it. Man can take no credit. Not even the Firstborn can take the credit or glory away from the Lord! (Isa.48:11)

Paul also mentions these Sons of the Living Testimony as receiving an inheritance: **That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: (Eph. 1:10-11)** So as not to turn this letter into a book, I will only break down the specific points of this passage, to emphasize the Doctrine of the Predestination of the Firstborn Sons of God:

- ♦ They will come forth in the dispensation of the fullness of times:
- ♦ God will gather in one all things in Christ. But only they that are *in Christ* can be gathered in one.
- ♦ In whom we have obtained an inheritance:²³ The inheritance that is belongs to the Firstborn.
- ♦ Being predestinated according to the purpose of Him: (See ST 25)
- ♦ Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will: Predestination and pre-determination.

Now, predestination of certain souls to become Firstborn Sons of God, *does not* state, suggest, or imply that they have no free will: For they are patterned after their head Jesus Christ, who indeed possessed a free will. Jesus is the Head—the Firstborn are His body. And both Head and Body must operate in harmony with one another—for they are indeed ONE.²⁴ On the other hand, man will never seek God on his own; Man must be helped! Man *requires* God in order to *find* God! God must reveal Himself to the heathen through the wonders of nature. He must reveal Himself to the pagan through the marvels of His personality. He must reveal Himself to the legalist through the graces of compassion and mercy. He must reveal Himself to the backslider through the heartache of longsuffering and forgiveness. But to the wicked He reveals Himself through the justice of punishments and wrath. God is sovereign. But God *can* and often *does* interfere with man's designs, in order to influence hearts and minds to accomplish His perfect plan!

God promised His people a kingdom. He promised a reversal of the curse. He promised eternal life in resurrected and perfected bodies. *God will accomplish His will!* And in order to do so, He will use men and women of God—as well as men and women of the world—and even Satan himself! When finite beings talk about man's sovereign free will, I wonder if we do not push that too far, and therefore place God in a box. Since ALL are dead in trespasses and sin, and NO ONE would desire or seek God on their own, therefore God MUST woo us to voluntarily (re) turn our faces toward Him.²⁵ The free will of man is and must be influenced by the God who gave it, for the express purpose of causing that soul to turn toward its Creator. Therefore, God *must* intrude on man's life and will: For if He didn't, mankind would NEVER look to Him: and mankind would therefore be eternally lost.

Yes, the Firstborn are *free* to refuse the call. But the Firstborn *will* not refuse the call! For they follow their pattern Jesus Christ, who did not refuse His calling. Yes, the Firstborn will struggle with their calling. But the Firstborn will not *ignore* the calling. For they follow their pattern Jesus Christ, who though He struggled with the calling, yet He did not ignore His calling. The drops of blood that He sweat in Gethsemane, along with the prayer, “If it be possible take this cup from me,” is proof that He indeed felt the weight of the call upon His life, and felt the burden of carrying the world’s sins to the cross. Yet He surrendered His will to that of the Father, saying, “Not my will but thine be done.”

By all this I mean that the Firstborn will do the same as Jesus. Will they fall? Absolutely! Will they retreat in fear? Absolutely! Will they experience failures? Absolutely! Will they overcome? Absolutely! Will they ultimately fail to become Sons of God? *Absolutely not!* Otherwise what need is there for the Lord to rebuke, warn, encourage and exhort the churches of Asia to overcome and receive their rewards? God is calling forth His Firstborn Sons! And everything we need in order to hear and recognize this call, and to follow on to know the Lord in His resurrection, has been made available to us in the Bible, in the Holy Spirit, and now also in Jane Lead.

I do not say that the Firstborn cannot sin. But as God has preselected these, as God has chosen them—not based on what they do, but on HIS own choice and call—God will make certain that these Firstborn will become qualified to do His will on earth. This means that God himself has predetermined that they **WILL** complete the Firstborn process. All through the Scriptures (and also in Jane Lead) we see warnings and exhortations toward accomplishing all that is necessary to achieve the Prize of a resurrection life. And as we know, the resurrection is not limited to the Firstborn. There is also a Remnant at this very moment pursuing this resurrection-life as well. The Remnant is made up of both the Firstborn and also those who will enter the kingdom *after* the Firstborn. For the Kingdom of God will begin with the Firstborn, then go on to include the rest of the Remnant, and then ultimately spread to the rest of the world. (See 1F P:6)

And as a Virgin Woman brought forth Christ after the Flesh, so *likewise* a Virgin Woman²⁶ is designed by GOD to bring forth the firstborn *after the* Spirit, who shall be filled with the Holy Ghost and with Power (See PR 17 and 1M 8). These Firstborn sons ARE NOT ordinary men and women of God. They have their genealogy and origin IN THE STILL ETERNITY!²⁷ They were generated from out of the Holy Trinity. This is why Jane Lead states that they do not have their origin in the genealogy of men. Their origin is from the Still Eternity—where there is no sin! Therefore these have not been tainted with the sin nature *in their origin*:²⁸ Thus they are inferior to Jesus, in that they are tainted with the sin nature once they are conceived and then birthed into this world.

That these persons existed in eternity, before they came to the earth, is evident by the fact that they were *already* named, and their names were ALREADY found in the “crown number roll.” And we know absolutely that Jane Lead was one of those very names that were written in the crown number book.²⁹ There is a specific number in the “crown number roll.” These are to be “called” to respond to their predestinated election. JL tells us that the sealing will be a gradual process, and that the souls who are to make up this Elect Company will be added “one by one:” (2F 3/7/1677; Rev. 17:8)

Statement 3: That Jesus was afraid of death. You said:

Consider also that Jesus was afraid of death before being made perfect. Heb.5:7-9. (Par. 4)

I believe the fear mentioned in that Scripture passage is not a fear of mortal death, but rather a godly, reverential fear toward God.³⁰ Neither were the drops of blood that He sweat in Gethsemane from any fear of the mortal death of the cross, but rather was a demonstration of the anguish He experienced was over the thought becoming “sin” for us, and as a consequence being forsaken by God.

Statement 4: That Jesus was not fully descended from Adam in the flesh. You said:

Although Jesus Christ, the author of eternal salvation is not fully descended from Adam in the flesh, it is evident that even he also was a free agent who had to choose obedience. (Par. 4)

You also stated that Jesus was not fully descended from Adam in the flesh. We already addressed this in my previous email asking for you for further clarification. I am satisfied that you are not in agreement with the false teaching that Jesus was not fully human, and that somehow by not possessing a sin nature, that made Him less than fully human. I believe we can agree that the sin nature is something spiritual—not physical—and that therefore Jesus was fully human. He would have to be in order to qualify not only as the King of the Jews, but also as the Savior of mankind. Therefore it is Biblical and quite proper to say that Jesus was fully descended from Adam as to His flesh.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Diane

- 1** Jer. 1:5; Acts 1:16-20.
- 2** Rom. 8:29.
- 3** Num. 8:17.
- 4** Jer. 29:13; Deu. 4:29.
- 5** “Predestination” = “Election.” See 3FL 11:30.
- 6** PR 31.
- 7** Mat. 13:9, etc.
- 8** Mat. 22:1-14.
- 9** RR E:15.
- 10** John 4:34.
- 11** They are predestinated to fully die to the Body of Sin, to become partakers of the First Resurrection.
- 12** Rom. 8:29-30.
- 13** 2F, 3/7/1677.
- 14** EW 1:21a.
- 15** John 6:37.
- 16** When Jane Lead uses all caps for Christ (as in “CHRIST”), she may be referring to the “corporate Christ.”
- 17** See also TM 233.
- 18** 2Cor. 6:16.
- 19** 1Thes. 5:23.
- 20** TM 233, 235, 237, 238.
- 21** RL P:2,3.
- 22** As the Father transfers this adoption to His Son, so Jesus transfers this adoption to the Divine Virgin-Wisdom, as typified in the transfer of the Apostle John to Mary. See John 19:26-27 and EN 5:16.
- 23** Paul considered himself to be a predestinated Son of God.
- 24** 2M 6, 8.
- 25** HC 1:10, 2:1, 4:13.
- 26** The Virgin Mary was a “type” of the Wonder in Heaven, and was a precursor of what will happen in the last age, or the time of the manifestation of the Man-child.
- 27** TM 224; EW 1:20, 1:21a.
- 28** See PR 17 & 18.
- 29** LA P:3; 1F 1:5.
- 30** See various Bible translations of Heb. 5:7-9: ASV, ESV, KJV, NIV, NKJV, NLT, RSV, etc.