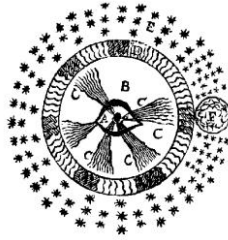


Spirit's Day Studies

The Writings of Jane Lead,
17th Century Christian Mystic



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Seven Signs Forerunning the Kingdom

From the Jane Lead's *Signs of the Times, SDV*

[Signs 9a] §. Now as there were *signs* literally given by Christ of His coming, in His kingly power, which had its *First* accomplishment, in His coming to deliver His persecuted and oppressed Ones, and bringing down severe judgments upon His and their enemies, as in the destruction of the *Jews*: So now it turns into that which is more spiritual and internal. For the Mystery of Iniquity does work after various ways and manners, in the commotions of various kingdoms: as *First* the Kingdom of the *Beast*, which consists in sensual pleasures, and worldly advantages, stretching themselves upon their Ivory Beds, not only neglecting and disregarding, but opposing the Spiritual Kingdom, for fear it should supplant them of their transient and temporary kingdom. And that this supineness in pleasure and voluptuousness, which reigns now so universally at this day, in a more than ordinary manner, is indeed a Sign of the near Approach of the overthrowing of the kingdom of this Antichristian Beast, may very well be hoped. Yea, there can be no manner of doubt made hereof, by them who are wise to search into the Calendar of former Ages, or who have but an open ear to hear and receive what has been delivered by Truth's Infallible Oracle itself.

[Signs 9b] For *as the Days Noah were, so shall also this Coming of the Son of Man*, be to destroy and overturn the whole Bestial Kingdom. They did eat, (and feast) they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, and went on secure and unmoved in their voluptuous courses (notwithstanding the warnings given, and preaching of repentance for above an hundred years), until the very day that he entered into the Ark: And they knew not until the Flood came, and took them all away, destroying them all. Likewise also it was in the days of *Lot*. They were feasting and making merry, buying and selling, planting and building; till a sudden destruction overtook them out of Heaven. Now even thus it is to be, for certainty in the day when Christ shall be revealed, *for Salvation* to them that wait for this His Appearance; but for confusion and desolation to the unbelievers and disobedient, and all that have the *Beast's Mark*, and that worship his Golden Image. This is the *first* sort of forerunners.

[Signs 10] §. The *Second* is under the *Dragon's* Regency, who does assume and take up persons in a particular manner in This day, and vaunt himself very high with great arrogancy, persecuting and spewing out his fury most impudently against the Saints of the Most High: this is also a forerunning sign.

[Signs 11] §. There is *another [third]* sort of persons that are very serious and pious, according to their present understanding, but cannot bear any *Spiritual Dispensation*, that might prepare for the *Reign of Christ*: as coming contrary to their expectations and traditions. This sort being repugnant and opposite to all that may, in an extraordinary way, be appropriated to the Spirit of Wisdom, and Revelation breaking out at this Day. Now upon the Spiritual Ministration at this time opening, these are more stirred up and awakened, as the righteous Jews and Pharisees, who ignorantly in their day denied the Appearance of God in the Humanity of Christ; so these after the same manner, out of an

ignorant zeal would persecute the Spirit of Christ in His Resurrection in Spirit, in the Children of the Kingdom: of which sort there will be found a great spreading, and high swelling before the coming of Christ's Kingdom.

[Signs 12a] §. There is a *Fourth* sort that do suddenly expect the *Personal* Glorious Reign of Christ, before He has accomplished His preparatory Reign in Spirit. These raise a mighty cry in the world: but are too hasty to fetch down Christ, before He has a Church and Bride prepared for Him. Such as stand gazing here must frequently be frustrated of their expectations.

[Signs 12b] Another [*Fifth*] *Sign* will be, that by and through the opening of the Living Testimony, which proclaims the Approach of Christ's Kingdom. And which shall be guarded and fenced with such power and authority from the Holy Ghost, as shall convince and invite the monarchs and nobles of the earth to listen thereto, and look into the deep Mysteries relating to it, and preparing for it; by whose countenancing and improving all their power to promote this Super-eminent Kingdom, they will be great Presidents and Leaders to their Subjects. Hereby also there will be mighty stirring for the bringing in of the Scattered Tribes of *Israel*, that will begin to come in at the hearing of this joyful sound, to give a resurrection out of their deadness in unbelief, which will be marvelous and wonderful.

[Signs 13] §. There is *another* [*Sixth*] sort that may have hit the right Mark, and do profess and own the regency and dispensation of Christ in His Spirit, that are promoters of it, and avouching themselves to be under the teachings and leadings of it: but these must not pass without being weighed according to the Balance of the Sanctuary. These are such as have sprung up too quick, and suddenly, in the true light and notion of it. But they have not taken deep Root from the Central Wheel, and Essence of Christ the Eternal Word in themselves. Among such there will be a mighty shaking and falling away in the time of Trial and Probation. And among them there will great subtlety and treachery of spirit be found, against those of the same profession and alliance with them, even to the betraying of the Spiritual Life; which is a stratagem of the Serpent more subtle to hurt than any other. Of this there is too doleful an appearance at this time, which cries for vengeance against those *Satanical* powers, who have thus craftily crept into the minds of those that were enlightened, and had tasted of the Heavenly Gift.

[Signs 14] §. Now all these *Signs* being amplified and made good at this time, do certainly presage that the Kingdom and Dominion to the Daughter of Sion is drawing near: which will constitute the *Seventh Order*, which consists of such choice and virgin minds, in whom there shall be found no guile, who have passed through the probation-state, and have possessed the conquering *Bow of Faith*, to that degree that they are strong to go on in an overcoming might: whereby they put all opposing powers to flight, whether in invisible dark regions or in the visible and temporary.

[Signs 15a] §. Now it remains that the government, and power, and dominion of the kingdom, will rest upon such a Select Number, who have first passed through great Tribulations, for the Witness and Testimony of the expected reign of the Spirit. Which being kept yet in suspense and delay, does awaken a mighty cry, and ardent and vehement intercedings among the Sanctuary-Waiters and Worshippers. Which has entered and deeply pierced the Heart of Him that is to descend as the Mighty Savior and Deliverer. Insomuch that there was heard from the heavens a voice saying, "Behold I come; with a full recompense of reward to the patient waiters and holders out in this Hour of Probation: Yet a little while, and the judgment shall fit, and the decision be given. For there shall be a sealing go forth in the Father's Name, and my Name, and the Holy Ghost's, that shall be the true living draught drawn, that shall put an end to all prophetic worded testimonies, turning them into pure act and power.