
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

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Abbreviations used in this study

www.janelead.org/SDS_Abbreviations.pdf

Jane Lead's 60 Propositions

Proposition 2, Part 1

A Hidden Mystery

or,

The “Mysticism” of Mrs. Lead

**This is an hidden mystery, not to be understood
without the *Revelation* of the Holy Spirit.**

At first reading it might be assumed that this *hidden mystery* is the *total and full redemption* that was mentioned in Proposition 1. However there is nothing hidden or mysterious about that. Much of the world already believes that everyone will be saved, although not through the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ. But this Proposition is not addressed to the world—or to the Christian that has no heart to believe in the wonderful Redemption that God has planned for the world.¹ For this mystery is not *what* will happen, but *how* it will happen—a mystery that was given to Jane Lead, Christian Mystic.

Jane Lead: Mystic or Mysticism

Jane Lead biographer Julie Hirst correctly observed that Mrs. Lead defied common categorization, and that she could not be relegated to any particular type of mystic.² Even so, researchers often label her as a feminist mystic, a universalist mystic, or an apocalyptical mystic. The common factor is that they all incorrectly assume that as a mystic she engaged in *mysticism*. It is without question that Jane Lead was unique: She was a mystic—who *did not* engage in mysticism.

The great mistake is that people often consider a mystic as one who *practices* mysticism.³ This is incorrect interpretation. By definition a mystic is one who understands mysteries, and searches out things that are hidden or obscure.⁴ A mystic is someone who seeks understanding of the spiritual and unseen as compared to what is natural and visible. In this regard Jane Lead was clearly a mystic; for she had a deep knowledge of the things of God—much deeper than most. And she had direct, inward, and intimate encounters with the Divine: for she was personally invited into the presence of God.

However the *practice* of mysticism represents the *human* effort to tap into the divine. Mysticism is simply prayer to an unknown God,⁵ by whatever name he is called, whether Krishna, or Buddha, or any of the 300 million names of Hindu deities; whether they perform stylized breathing or repeat a

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mantra; whether they empty the mind, or visualize the divine. Any practice of mysticism, without the mediation of Jesus Christ, *through the Holy Spirit*, is nothing more than an attempt to reenter the Garden of Eden without an invitation—not knowing that a *Flaming Sword* guards the entrance.⁶

Mystics in the Bible

Joseph was a man of deep devotion and highly favored by God. He was given certain “secrets;” such as the interpretation of the dreams of the butler, the baker, and even Pharaoh’s himself, *and* the wisdom to know what to do with that knowledge.⁷ Joseph was a mystic!

Daniel, during a time of fasting and prayer, was visited by the Angel Gabriel, who was assigned by God to give him understanding of one of the most important prophecies in the Bible.⁸ Later in life Daniel was present when the Hand of God appeared and wrote on the wall of King Belshazzar’s palace. Daniel alone was given the interpretation.⁹ Daniel was a mystic!

Saul (later Paul), while in route to Damascus, was knocked off his *high-horse* and blinded. He saw a bright light and heard the voice of Jesus speak to him.¹⁰ Later in his ministry, Paul was caught up to the Third Heaven, where he heard unspeakable things which were not lawful for a man to utter.¹¹ Paul had no need to practice *mysticism*; he was personally invited up to Paradise. Paul was a mystic!

The Apostle John was also taken into heavenly places, where he witnessed of the *Day of the Lord* thousands of years before it would happen.¹² He spoke with Angels, Elders, and even the Lord Himself.¹³ John was not engaging in mysticism. He was praying in the Holy Ghost! John was a mystic!

Perversion of Words

All mysticism is secular. There is no such thing as Christian mysticism—or at least there shouldn’t be. There may be Christians who are mystics; but a true Christian mystic does not (and should not) *engage* in mysticism; for a true Christian mystic prays *in the Holy Spirit!* This is the great difference between mysticism and true Christian prayer. Therefore all mysticism is secular because it represents man’s efforts to experience an encounter with God—*without* an invitation from the God of Heaven.

A true Bible-believing, Spirit-filled Christian *is a mystic* in one degree or another. For a Christian is not only exhorted to *pray in the Spirit*—a Christian is encouraged to *search out God’s mysteries!*¹⁴ But the Enemy has done an excellent job of not only banishing the Spirit-filled life, but also injecting confusion into the Church concerning the word *mystic*. Therefore we need not rely on the interpretations or practices of those who know nothing of the deep things of God.¹⁵ For they have turned the offering of Isaac into human sacrifice; the Mazaroth¹⁶ into astrology; Cain’s offering into vegetarianism; prayer in the Spirit into rhythmic breathing, chants, and mantras;¹⁷ Alchemy¹⁸ into occultism; Christ into Christ-consciousness;¹⁹ and the new birth into a “decision for Christ.”²⁰

Conclusion

Jane Lead freely used the words *mystic*, *mystical*, and *mystically*. But she never used the word *mysticism*.²¹ Neither will you find the words *alchemy*, *chanting*, *mantra*, *occult*, or *Gnosticism*—words and methods that are commonly used among *mysticism* practitioners. She did not perform breathing exercises or chant the names of God in order to enter into His presence. She had no need to. She was personally invited into the intimate presence of the Lord. She was truly a mystic—*who did not* practice mysticism. Therefore, any so-called “mysticism” of Mrs. Lead was this and this alone—She prayed in the Holy Ghost! †††

To be continued...

NOTES & SCRIPTURES

Scriptures are from the King James Bible. Unless otherwise noted all references to Jane Lead's writings are from the Spirit's Day Version (SDV).

- 1** When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? (Luk 18:8)

Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. (Luk 8:10)

- 2** Julie Hirst, *Jane Leade: Biography of a Seventeenth-Century Mystic* (Ashgate Publishing, 2005, p. 5,7,9,136)

- 3** For example a definition from Wikipedia: “A mystic is a person who practices mysticism, or a reference to a mystery, mystic craft, first hand-experience or the occult.” (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mystic>)

- 4** John Bullokar, *An English Expositor*, 1616.

Another definition: “secret, obscure, or mysterious.” (Joseph Nicol Scott, *A New Universal Etymological English Dictionary*, 1755)

- 5** For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. (Act 17:23)

- 6** So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. (Gen 3:24)

- 7** And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you. (Gen 40:8)

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it. (Gen 41:15)

- 8** The prophecy of the 70 Weeks of Daniel. (Dan 9:24-27)

- 9** Daniel, Chapter 5.

- 10** Acts, Chapter 9.

- 11** 2Corinthians, Chapter 12.

- 12** The entire Book of Revelation.

- 13** Rev. 1:9-11, 15, 17-20; 22:13.

- 14** It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter. (Pro 25:2)

And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. (Mat 13:10-11)

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. (1Co 2:9-11)

Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: (Col 1:25-26)

Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ, Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; (Eph 3:4-5)

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For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither anything hid, that shall not be known and come abroad. (Luk 8:17)

That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Col 2:2-3)

The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law. (Deu 29:29)

And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: (Mar 4:11)

15 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. (1Co 2:10)

16 Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? (Job 38:32)

See also *Witness of the Stars*, (E.W. Bullinger, 1893).

See also Chuck Missler video, *Signs in the Heavens*.

17 A prayer method that focuses on repetition of mantras and emptying the mind. Used in Eastern Religions, the New Age—and unfortunately in some Christian churches as well.

18 Late medieval tradition of alchemy would go on to play a significant role in the development of early modern science (particularly chemistry and medicine). (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alchemy>)

Alchemy is a precursor to modern chemistry. (<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-alchemy.html>)

See also *Women and Alchemy in Early Modern England*, especially Chapter 5, *The Housewife as Alchemist*. (Jayne Archer, un-

published Ph.D. thesis, University of Cambridge, 1999).

19 Christ Consciousness is, “the highest state of intellectual development and emotional maturity.” (Center for Christ-Consciousness). See also GotQuestions.org

20 See Paul Washer video, *War on the Sinner’s Prayer*.

21 The word “mysticism” did not appear in English until the mid-1700’s, when mysticism was imported from the East.