

March 13. 1678. a Continuance on the Altar's Discourse.

by Jane Lead

The sermon emphasizes the importance of purification from sin and preparation for the Lord's appearance, highlighting the rewards of faithfulness and the special immunities of the Lamb's Spouse.

Scripture: Genesis 15:6, Exodus 12:8, Psalm 30:11, Isaiah 61:3, Matthew 25:1, Hebrews 9:14, Hebrews 12:14, 1 John 3:2, Revelation 1:18

Topics: "Spiritual Purification", "Christ's Return"

Description

Jane Lead preaches about the importance of sacrificial offerings and sacrifices in order to purify ourselves from sin, preparing for the appearance of Christ. She emphasizes the need to be purified from evil consciences and to strive for spirituality in order to confidently expect Christ's return. Lead encourages believers to continue in their spiritual journey, seeking frequent visitations and communications from God to strengthen their faith and maintain acquaintance with Him, just like Abraham did. She highlights the promise of a glorious reward for those who are purified by altar-fire and dressed in God-like fashion, ready to see Christ without sin unto salvation.

Transcript

What more can be done, but to offer up the Beast, till it be consumed to Ashes, that here out may spring a Body all pure, in which can be found no more the relicks of Sin. This will be the Fruit of all Sacrifices and Offerings, which now in the second Degree, is our work to be Ministering, in order to Christ our great High-Priest his appearing to us. According as it is written, to them that look for him, he will be manifest to them, and who are those, that can with confidence expect his appearance, but them, who are purified from evil Consciences, being found all in an entire Spirituality.

But then it may be objected, if any one shall hereunto attain, to be so clear and Spotless in a Nature immaculate: What more can be added by the Lord's coming Personally? As to this very much may be expected, who are first prepared to such a degree, and have striven hard before others to obtain it. Therefore it is given us to know, there is more full reward, or else there would not be that encouragement to such, who are made willing, so to deny, forsake and hate all of this Body of Sin, as freely to give up it in Sacrifices: as hoping out of the Ashes hereof will rise, such a Seed-Life, as will be Mighty in our Heavens and Earth, and will be as a King and Priest in great Power and Glory for us, whether in the Body Corporeal, or out: which shall be determined when come to such a perfect Stature, as the good Spirit in us

is driving hard thereunto.

For this particular Word of Promise did sound in my Ear, agreeable to what is sounded in general. The Lord your God is not unrighteous to forget your Soul-Travels, and Labour of Love, Patience in Tribulations, and Altar-offerings for the expiation of Sin. Which certainly will bring in a Talent of great encrease, when the Lord shall descend in Altar-Flames into your Heavens, to bring down Faith's Conquering Crown. This fresh Rose-promise being blown in the espousal Garden, how Odoriferous is the smell to the Soul, that is ever listening to hear new Confirmations for her Bridegroom's return, while it doth abide without the New Jerusalem-Camp.

Upon which we do great satisfaction experiment, while moving upon our Pilgrim-State, though passing through a Land, where Gyants strong in the Apollyon might are, and at every step Scorpions are ready to Sting. So perilous is the way, which we must pass through, before we can set foot upon the Sea of Glass. That verily we have all need not only to have the Ministration of Angels, but the Lord and Prince of Angels himself to meet us in our journeying on. That so we may be delivered from the fear of the pursuing Esau, who doth so eagerly hunt for his Prey.

But oh how soon may he be checked, when he sees, who it is that is in our Company for a Guard. It was also reminded in me, the Truth and Faithfulness of God still manifested and maintained to Abraham, after he had made the grand Promise to him of Blessing him with Isaac, which was some considerable time, before the accomplishment came. But this observation is to be made, that though the time seemed to be long, yet Abraham was not left without frequent Visitations and Communications from God, to stay him up withal.

And such was Abraham's watchful, obedient Carriage, that he took no less care to maintain and keep up acquaintance with so great and potent a Friend, as God Almighty. Who made all Blessings, wherever he went, still to come plentifully into Abraham. This the Spirit would we should take notice of, as relating to the Mighty Messiah-Birth, which is to be Born again in another form, for a Blessing to the Earth. And while in Abraham's Spirit of Faith, we are waiting here for it, and looking out and yet prolonged, what shall or can support us, while the Kingly-Birth from us doth stay, but such like frequent appearances of God; whereby his Word of promise may still be established, as a means to keep off all staggering, while the thing may be prolonged.

For should we nothing still hear anew from our Alpha and Omega, we should sink into doubt and fear. Therefore we may hear his Voice through the Golden Vial of the Spirit, if thereto we can lend a single Ear to hear, what is considered from the Counsel of the Holy Trinity, for us further to do in our process. This indeed will make out great Friendship unto us, while we must pass through an Enemies borders, for the countenance of a God will cause great awe, as we did see in Abraham's Case.

These advantages are not all, but only somewhat to sweeten our way. We are to look after a more rich Prize than all this, as the full income and reward, after we have gone through all our Spiritual Course. Which are the high Qualifications, and Spouses dresses with Ornaments, which all do excel, in them who are found in the God-like fashion. Who but these can look with any Confidence, for Christ the Lord to appear? Who shall be able to see him, as he is, until all purified by Altar-Fire?

For that Scripture in the Hebrews was in the Spirit's own sense thus opened unto me, which I shall not omit to Write after the Copy given, the Words are thus expressed. To them that look for him, he shall appear the second time without Sin unto Salvation. It was opened, that it is not a bare expectation that will

bring the Lord down to any, who are found in the Body of Sin, to such no Crown of Salvation will be fixed upon, as the Diadem of a full reward; which is assigned and appropriated only for the Virgin-Spirit, that is clothed upon in the clear and white Robe, as looking out with Doves Eye, full of pure Innocency, that cannot be dazzled at an open face of Glory.

When she shall him see for the Consummation of all that rich Dowry, which hath been shut up in the bud of a Promise. For the Inheritance will be given out to such, who are actually come to the Unity of Faith's purifying dress, to be all Spiritual. But here it may be Queried, What are the special Immunities that do belong to the Lamb's Spouse? Why sure they are both great and innumerable, as hath been revealed, well answering and requiting all Sufferings, and Dyings, which the Soul can possibly go through in this tempting afflicting Region, they are no way equivalent, to what Glory shall be revealed.

Therefore that we might all be Strong to hold out, and by no evil occurrence happening be at all terrified. Let us further enquire hereinto in the Spirit what will come in, at our Lord's second Appearance unto us? His first Appearance we have already known in that Spirit, which is now making of us all ready through the Baptisms of Life, purifying Water, Blood and Altar-Fire, by all which, we may be prepared in a good degree in some suitableness, that so as a Sun the Bridegroom may run his Race toward us, and the Jerusalem's Glory may first open upon us in Vision, thereby assuring us of Fruition.

The Elijah is now upon the restoring work, and upon any ones Person, in whom it shall be first finished, the Salvation of the All-hail, and Highly favoured in the Lord, will be heard Sounded again in the Earth, because the Mighty God and Saviour is revealed, to change from out of the weak State, though in pure refined Corporeity, and Spirituality of Mind. This is but the first degree, but when he appears, we shall be like him, Glory for Glory in Personality. And verily no less will be attributed unto the Dead, and risen with him, but what the Lord hath declared, that the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, shall be freely given to open the Gates, and to enter into Mount-Sion's Glory.

And henceforth and for ever to take Power, Wisdom, and Strength, Honour, Rule and Government. For the Lamb is come to give right over the Earth to Reign, to them, who under and upon the Altar have given the Beast to be slain thereupon. And greater, and more highly advancing dignities, than what yet is understood and comprehended. But this may be sufficient, to edge, and to put us into an Holy fixed Emulation, to proceed on in our Altar-Sacrifices, that so we may be found in the Lord's number-Roll, as the first wise Virgins, that may go to meet him, and with him Celebrate, in unspeakable Joy, the Tabernacle-Feast.

Where nothing of the sour Leaven is to be mixed any more, or our Passover eaten with bitter Herbs, but the Oyl of Joy, with the Body Coelestial, and the Spirit-Wine of Strength, and the Jubilee-Harvest of Praise, none of these shall fail us, if we can bear up Faith's sail, against the World's flowing Stream, that beateth so hard upon us.

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