

2Peter chap. 2

Council of Laodicea

1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. 4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; 7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) 9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: 10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. 11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. 12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; 13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; 14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: 15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. 17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. 18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. 20 For if after they have escaped the

pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, We have discussed many of the Christian false prophets but it's important to look at the modern false prophets who speak of aliens and UFOs and abductions. The UFO/alien pop culture is a blend of evolutionary atheism and paganism all rolled into one. Basically, the belief is that if evolution happened on our world then it must have happened on other worlds as well. Well, evolution never happened on our world so it didn't happen on any other world either. God does not create bug-eyed or reptilian creatures so why do so many people claim to see these things? What people are seeing and experiencing are demonic delusions. Satan and his fallen angels are very real and their sole purpose is to deceive, obfuscate and fill the world with error. Fallen angels can appear as beautiful beings of light or bug-eyed and reptilian creatures with the latter being more powerful to deceive and lower the conception of God in mankind. Those who haven't accepted Christ as their savior are very much under the influence of evil angels who can show them secret alien technology or give them magical powers or even abduct them to some alien spacecraft. I am very certain that what many of these people are seeing and experiencing is very real to them but only the power of Christ can break these kinds of demonic delusions.

Another demonic delusion that has endured through the centuries are the vampire, werewolf and witch folklores that are the subject of endless movies and TV shows. The world is still very much at war with Christ and his gospel. The bite of the vampire or werewolf is a caricature of the gospel minister who preaches the word and someone is converted. The world has no experience with the spiritual nature of the gospel so conversion is mockingly portrayed as the transmission of the strain of a virus or disease. Vampires would be Protestant ministers who preach grace. Werewolves would be Catholic and Orthodox priests who preach grace. Witches would be females who preach grace. Christians actually do feed on blood but they feed on the blood of Christ that cleanses them from all sin. In many of these wild yarns the vampires and werewolves are mortal enemies but sometimes they are friends which perfectly mirrors the history of Protestants and Catholics over the centuries. Often there will be a mad scientist vampire who is working on something called a hybrid which is a crude way of illustrating a

blending of the faith. A Protestant who converts to Catholicism or Orthodoxy would be a hybrid and the reverse would be a hybrid as well. It's very difficult to make a real hybrid because the Protestant gospel is against human works and the Catholic/Orthodox gospel is built around good works and the stigma of swapping religions is more than most can bear.

The modern application of this theme can be found in the wizarding world of spells and magic. A wizard would be a male that preaches grace and once again a witch would be a female who preaches grace. The powerful wizard uses his wand to cast spells over people with the wand representing the bible translation and his spells being the verses and arguments he uses to win the unbeliever over to Christ. Good spells would be those that lead to conversion while evil spells and dark magic would be those that cause people to be lost. Dispensationalists would be examples of evil wizards and witches who use dark magic and write Christians completely out of the new covenant leaving them without a sacrifice for sin. Adventists would be other examples of evil wizards and witches who weave the Sabbath into their gospel and revive the Galatian heresy causing believers to fall from grace. Satan who is the inspiration for many of the blockbusters that come from Hollywood mockingly portrays genuine faith as magic. A pure-blood would be a Christian who grows up in a believing family. A half-blood would be a Christian with unbelievers in the family. And a muggle is someone with no faith at all because they have been deceived from birth. Often the pure-bloods will go to Christian schools and have Christian friends and get Christian jobs so they have to contact with the outside world. They can see the world but they have no connection with the spirit that is in the world whereas the half-blood and muggle are very familiar with the spirit of the world.

The year was 363 and the Council of Laodicea a regional synod was convened in Laodicea, Phrygia and attended by some 30 clerics. The council took place soon after the war between the Roman Empire and the Persian Empire, waged by the Emperor Julian. The major concerns of the council related to the conduct of church members which included: maintaining order among bishops, clerics and laypeople; restrictions during Lent; specifying a Biblical canon; and outlawing the keeping of the sabbath (Saturn's day) and encouraging rest on Sunday or the Lord's day. Christ, while observing the Sabbath, set himself in word and act against this absurd rigorism which made man a slave of the day. He reproved the scribes and Pharisees for putting an intolerable burden on men's shoulders (Matt. 23:4), and proclaimed the principle that "the sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath" (Mark 2:27). He cured on the Sabbath, and defended His disciples for plucking ears of corn on that day. In His arguments with the Pharisees on this account He showed that the Sabbath is not broken in cases of necessity or by acts of charity (Matt. 12:3; Mark 2:25; Luke 6:3;14:5). St. Paul enumerates the Sabbath among the Jewish observances which are not obligatory on Christians (Col. 2:16; Gal.

4:9-10; Rom. 14:5). The gentile converts held their religious meetings on Sunday (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2) and with the disappearance of the Jewish Christian churches this day was exclusively observed as the Lord's Day or Holy Sunday.

For in respect of the observance of the eighth day in the Jewish circumcision of the flesh, a sacrament was given beforehand in shadow and in usage; but when Christ came, it was fulfilled in truth. Ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath Lev. 23:39. For because the eighth day, that is, the first day after the Sabbath, was to be that on which the Lord should rise again, and should quicken us, and give us circumcision of the spirit, the eighth day, that is, the first day after the Sabbath, and the Lord's day, went before in the figure; which figure ceased when by and by the truth came, and spiritual circumcision was given to us. The Lord's day, however, has been made known not to the Jews, but to Christians, by the resurrection of the Lord, and from Him it began to have the festive character which is proper to it, nevertheless before the resurrection of the Lord, it was reserved and hidden. The same reason enables us to understand why, in regard to the day of keeping the passover, on which the Jews were commanded to kill and eat a lamb, which was most clearly a foreshadowing of the Lord's Passion, there was no injunction given to them that they should take the day of the week into account, the reason being, that the Lord might rather in His own Passion declare the significance of that day, as He had come also to declare the mystery of the day now known as the Lord's day, the eighth namely, which is also the first of the week.