

Chapter 02

As not only Prophets, but also Falso-prophets were in the old Testamēt, so now likewise there shall be Maisters of Heresie, to the damnation of themselves, and of their followers. 4. And of their damnation he pronounceth by examples (as he comforteth the vertuous Catholikes or true beleeuers with the example of Lot) because of their railing at their Superiours and Prelates, their blaspheming of Catholike doctrine, their voluptuous liuing, their lecherie, their couetousnes, their manner of seducing, and the persons seduced, 20. for whom it had been lesse damnable, if they had neuer been Chriftians.

1. *Tim.* 4.

Iude.

δεσπότην

But there were also Falso-prophets in the people, as also in you there shall be lying maisters which shall bring in Sects of perdition, and denie him that hath bought them, the Lord: bringing vpon themselves speedie perdition. ² And ^a)many shall follow their riotousnes, by whom the way of truth shall be blasphemed. ³ And in auarice shall they ^b)with feined words make merchādise of you. Vnto whom the iudgemēt now long since ceaseth not: and their perdition flumbereth not. ⁴ For if God spared not Angels finning: but with the ropes of Hel being drawen downe into Hel deliuered them to be tormented, that they should be referued vnto iudgement: ⁵ and he spared not the original world, but kept the eight, Noe, the Preacher of iustice, bringing in the deluge vpon the world of the impious. ⁶ And bringing the cities of the Sodomites & of the Gomorrheites into ashes, he damned them with subuersion, putting an example of them that shall doe impiously: ⁷ and deliuered iust Lot oppressed by the iniurie

Gen. 7.

Gen. 19.

Gen. 19.

^a Heretikes (of whom he prophecith here) doe gaine scholers, by preaching libertie, and by their owne licentious life, which is specially ioynd to the heresie of these daies.

^b Al the sweet words of heretikes, speaking much of the word of the Lord, the Ghospel, IESVS CHRIST &c. are but termes of art to buie and sell poore mens soules.

and luxurious conuerfation of the abominable men. ⁸ For
Gen. 16. in fight and hearing he was iuft: dwelling with them
who from day to day vexed the iuft foule with vniuft
workes.

⁹ Our Lord knoweth to deliuer the godly from ten-
tation, but to referue the vniuft vnto the day of iudge-
ment to be tormented: ¹⁰ ^{a)}and efpecially them which
walke after the flefh in concupifcence of vnclēãneffe, and
contemne dominion, bold, felf-pleafers: they feare not
to bring in Sects, blaſpheming. ¹¹ Whereas Angels be-
ing greater in ſtrength and power, beare not the exe-
crable iudgement ^{b)}againſt them. ¹² But theſe men as
vnreaſonable beaſts, naturally tending to the ſnare and
into deſtruction, ^{c)}in thoſe things which they know not,
coinquinationes blaſpheming, ſhal periſh in their corruption, ¹³ receiuing
& *maculæ* the reward of iniuſtice, eſteeming for a pleaſure the de-
lights of a day: *coinquinationes* and ſpots, flowing in
delicacies, in their feaſtings rioting with you, ¹⁴ hauing
Nu. 22. 23. eyes ful of adulterie and inceſſant finne: alluring vnſta-
ble foules, hauing their hart exerciſed with auarice, the
children of malediction: ¹⁵ leauing the right way they
haue erred, hauing followed the way of Balaam of Bofor,
which loued the reward of iniquitie, ¹⁶ but had a check
of his madneffe, the dumme beaſt vnder the yoke, ſpeak-
ing with man's voice, prohibited the fooliſhnes of the
Prophet.

¹⁷ Theſe are fountaines without water, and clouds,
toſſed with whirle-winds, to whom the miſt of darkeneffe
is referued. ¹⁸ For ſpeaking the proud things of vanitie,
they allure in the deſires of fleſhly riotouſnes, thoſe that
eſcape a litle, which conuerſe in errour, ¹⁹ ^{d)}promiſing

^a The ſpecial properties of Heretikes.

^b From our Lord.

^c So heretikes blaſpheme the higheſt myſteries of our faith through
ignorance.

^d Who euer promiſed more libertie to their followers then Luther,
Caluin, and the like, taking away penance, faſting, continencie or
chaſtitie, keeping of vowes, neceſſitie of good workes (becauſe faith
doeth al) obedience to Eccleſiaſtical Paſtours and Councels, and
ſuch like?

them libertie, whereas themfelues are the flaues of corruption. For wherewith a man is ouercome, of that he is the flaue alfo. ²⁰ For if flying from the coinquinations of the world in the knowledge of our Lord and Sauour IESVS Chrif, they againe intangled with the fame be ouercome: the later things are become vnto them worfe then the former. ²¹ For it was better for them not to know the way of iuftice, then after the knowledge, to turne backe from that holy commandement which was deliuered to them. ²² For, that of the true prouerb is chanced to them, The dogge returned to his vomit: and, The fow washed into her wallowing in the mire.

Io. 8, 34.
Ro. 6, 16.
Mt. 12, 45.
Pro. 26, 11.
 εἰς κυλισμὸν