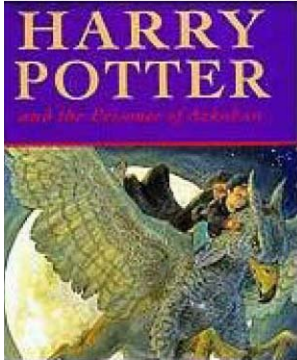




The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Warnings about “Harry Potter” novels vindicated



A growing interest in sorcery and witchcraft, generated by the Harry Potter stories, has prompted an Australian university to launch a special course open to the public. The 12-week course at Adelaide University will explore the witch-doctors of Africa, shamans from the Amazon and Zambezi valleys, witches from the 16th century and others who practise magic rituals. Just two students have signed up so far, but the university said there had been dozens of inquiries.

From the appearance of the first “Harry Potter” book, there have been warnings issued by Christians that the novels are “anti-Christian.”

The critics of these children’s books have said that they could encourage young people to dabble in the occult. It seems that such a criticism fell short of what their full impact would be, since it is adults that the Adelaide university has in mind.

Some schools and teachers took the decision to ban the books in class and a toy shop - run by a Christian - refused to stock Harry Potter merchandise.

The public course in Australia will be led by anthropologist Dr Kingsley Garbett, who has recently retired from Adelaide University. “Witches, sorcerers, magicians and shamans are credited universally with extraordinary powers to kill or cure, to bring rain, to make crops grow and often to foresee the future,” said Dr Garbett. “People credited with such ritual powers are often poor, politically weak and, frequently, women.” These factors prompted many questions, said Dr Garbett. “How do the politically weak and marginal come to be credited with such extraordinary powers?” “How do they justify and protect their powers against the sceptical and the curious?” “These questions and more will be answered during the course,” he said.

Dr. Garbett is, of course, speaking garbage! Doubtless it will sound intellectual and “high-falutin” but it’s garbage just the same!

If there were those who possessed such “extraordinary powers” as to make it rain, make crops grow, foretell the weather, as Dr. Garbett claims, then I should think a lot of national governments would be queuing up for their services!

There is such a person as the devil and he does have his disciples, but the power he is able to delegate to them is exceedingly limited by the Lord. Not until the appearance of the antichrist (Revelation 13) will God permit the devil to empower a man as he would desire.