

CHAUCER'S PROPHECY

(note: modern scholars believe that Chaucer was not the author of this poem)

Middle English:

WHEN priestes failen in their saws,
And lordes turne Godde's laws
 Against the right;
And lechery is holden as privy solace,
And robbery as free purchase,
 Beware then of ill!
Then shall the Land of Albion
Turne to confusion,
 As sometime it befell.

Modern English:

WHEN priests fail in their profession,
And lords turn God's laws
 Against the right;
And lechery is held as secret delight,
And robbery as free purchase,
 Beware then of ill!
Then shall the Land of Albion*
Turn to confusion,
 As happens sometimes.

*Albion is a name sometimes given to England