

v. 5-6-- In the beginning of Christianity, all Christians were born again and Spirit-filled, and Satan tried to get rid of them by persecutions, but he soon found that that served to strengthen the faith of the others, so he decided to delute the power, and he, through the leaders of nations, made it a rule to be Christian, and thus got many non-born-again, and non-Spirit-filled people in the Church, whom he could control, because they were worshipping with their minds instead of their Spirits. He can confuse our minds but not our spirits when we're indwelled by the Holy Spirit. So he managed to put the Word of God in the monasteries, away from the people, with the excuse that it was "too holy" for unlearned people to read. This way he greatly slowed the growth of the Body of Christ because there were relatively few people who could receive a revelation of Christ. The staff referred to in v. 5 is a walking stick, used to support oneself. From the Dark Ages, many people have been using the wrong support. They are disallusioned by Satan through their churches, and are not seeking the Word for themselves. God is using His people now to go against Satan in this, and to "tread them down ("them" meaning Satan's lies) like mire in the streets" that peoples' eyes can be opened to the real truth of Jesus Christ.

v. 8-9-- For Satan says that the ideas and leaders he has planted in the churches long ago have become the rules of the Christian Churches. For many years there were very few born-again Christians, and Satan did have a grip on the church. But now things are changing rapidly as the Holy Spirit is being poured out upon God's people.

v. 10-- God will not let His people be deceived for long. As in the old times He intervned to change things, now He is doing the same for His people.

v. 11-- God is no respecter of persons--Just because we're Christians doesn't mean we're o.k. If we think first of the things of this world, we're worshipping idols. Samaria was not God's country, and He punished her for worshipping idols, as He must reprimand non-Christians for worldliness, so must He do to us, His people (Jerusalem) if we put this world first. (See Jermiah 9:25-26)

v. 12-- The King of Assyria in this passage is Satan. In the end, Satan will, of course, be punished for his stout-heartedness.

v. 13-- For Satan has said he would be as the high God, and he claimed he could do it by his own prudence, wisdom, and hand-someness. He admits he's trying to rob God's people of our treasures--of health, prosperity, a one-ness with God. All of these are manifest in the Baptism of the Spirit and speaking in tongues, prophesy, word of knowledge, and all the other Gifts of the Spirit which come with the Baptism.