

3. Does the Statement in v. 43 simply mean an unintegrated mixture of peoples?

a. If so, it will fit the whole history of each of these empires. The Babylonians not only conquered many nations but they mixed them together and carried people out from one section to another and from that to a third, etc. So they were all mixed. The statement of v. 43 about the feet being mixed with iron and clay . . . they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men but they shall not cleave one to another. The mixture of iron and clay is clearly a statement it is brittle. But this verse seems to go beyond that.

The most simple suggestion is that it is an unintegrated mixture of peoples. But if ~~it~~ so it would fit the Babylonian empire; it would fit the Persian empire which conquered many kingdoms and mixed them together to some extent. It would fit the Hellenistic empire which conquered the whole Persian empire and made a great conglomeration of people instead of a small group of Greeks or Macedonians controlling the whole.

It would certainly fit the Roman empire. So it does not seem to be anything distinctive. All it means is an unintegrated mixture of peoples, except that perhaps the mixture became greater between 400 and 600 A.D. than before. At that time Germanic tribes were marching back and forth across the Roman empire totally destroying and settling down here and there. But ~~there~~ there had been Germanic peoples entering the ~~Roman empire~~ Roman empire in the previous six centuries -- entering in small groups and being assimilated. So it might fit that period a little better but it might fit any period.

b. The possibility remains that v. 43 points to something that is not obvious. (Reading KJV of v. 43). Some have tried to make out that it shows inter-marriage in ruling families. Well, there was that in all the kingdoms. So that would not be a distinctive feature. There was that in just about every period. It's a peculiar statement. It may simply mean an unintegrated mixture of people that became more pronounced between 400 and 600 than ever before.

Or it may include some element that is not clear. If any of you have any good suggestions as to what it might be I wish you would write them out and give them to me. I confess that at present I'm not sure that it does represent something more than that, but the peculiar language suggests that to me very strongly. What it is I do not know.

4. The ~~xx~~ Marked Similarity of this (the 5th part) of the feet and toes ~~witxxxx~~ to the condition of the Roman empire between A.D. 400 and 600 should be noted. At that time you had the western half of the Roman empire being crossed by various barbarian tribes, conquering, pillaging, destroying, settling down for a period at one time and moving to another. You have a condition of intermixture of peoples far greater than ever before. You have weakness along with strength. You have the violence of the conquering tribes. You have a certain amount of strength remaining in the Roman empire, but not much.