

times. Although some of the Greek cities had frequent changes of government, some of which involved periods of despotism, democracy was the most frequent type of government in many of them. During much of the history of Athens all its citizens had equal rights, and any citizen could be elected to high office. (It is true that this was restricted to citizens. There were great numbers of slaves in all the ancient civilizations).

At a very early time Rome became a democracy and developed an extensive system of popular government. It was while this system of popular government was a reality that the Roman state made most of its great conquests. Even after Augustus established the system that has generally been called "the Roman empire," he strictly maintained the forms of democracy, and these forms continued to be scrupulously observed until A.D. 284, when Diocletian became emperor. During the very period when the Roman power could be most truly characterized as crushing and destroying like iron, democracy was its type of government. By the time that democracy had largely become a mere form in Rome, the Roman empire had completed most of its conquests, and had absorbed the various parts of the third kingdom.

In view of these facts it would seem very unlikely that the insertion of clay into the feet and toes of the image could represent the rise of democracy.

While intermixture of peoples may be an important factor, the language of the passage suggests that there may be other factors of equal importance that have not been revealed.

During the years from A.D. 400-600 Rome's internal strength declined greatly and its territory was successfully invaded by a number of wandering tribes. Some historians consider this to be the end of the Roman empire and it has even been suggested that it might be the period represented by the feet and toes of the image. Yet the interpretation clearly stated that during that period the kingdom would have in it the strength of iron as well as the brittleness of baked clay. It is hard to find evidence of strength in the