

Thought for the Day 31st July - John Reed

Read Daniel 2:1-45

When I was young, I remember the excitement when we got our first taste of this new technology – the VCR [Video Cassette Recorder, for the uninitiated]. How exciting it was to think that we could record our favourite TV show and watch it again and again – or even set it to record while we were out and watch it later! Of course, the big question was: VHS or Beta? Beta was, by all accounts, the better technology. But VHS was the one that won its way into every home.

Now, according to this article, the humble VCR which was once standard in just about every home, is now a museum piece.¹ It belongs with the wired-in, ring-dial telephone as a device that was once ubiquitous and essential but is now a historical curiosity.

In this passage, Daniel interprets the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar as meaning that his mighty kingdom which rules over all the children of men, the beasts of the fields, the birds of the heavens (v. 38) will one day be usurped by another, inferior ruler. And then another, and then another. Many scholars identify these four kingdoms as being the Babylonian Empire being followed by the Medo-Persian Empire, the Greek Empire, and then the Roman Empire; however there are different interpretations.

Without quibbling over the details, the message is clear: kingdoms – even great empires – rise and fall.

But there is a kingdom that will never fail.

The angel told Mary that Jesus would reign over the house of Jacob forever, “and of his kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:33). And the book of Revelation tells us: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever” (Revelation 11:15).

Investing in the kingdom of God is a far better long-term investment than in any of the technology of this world!

¹ <https://www.smh.com.au/culture/movies/once-in-almost-every-home-now-the-vcr-is-a-museum-piece-20200729-p55gme.html>