

RESILIENT FAITH IN A TURBULENT WORLD



The Slow Build

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"Everything is poison, there is poison in everything.
Only the dose makes a thing not a poison."

(Paracelsus)

Genesis 50:20

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Genesis 50:20 & Genesis 45:1-2

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

There was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

"The resounding message of this sacred account is that despite every last pain and setback in the story of creation, the God of the Bible refuses to give up on what he has made."

(Swoboda & Gupta)

"It is a book about life the way it really is. It is a book about people who at one and the same time can be both believing and unbelieving, innocent and guilty, crusaders and crooks, full of hope and full of despair. In other words, it is a book about us."

(Frederick Buechner)

Romans 8:28

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Have you ever wondered why there's a snake in the Garden of Eden at all?



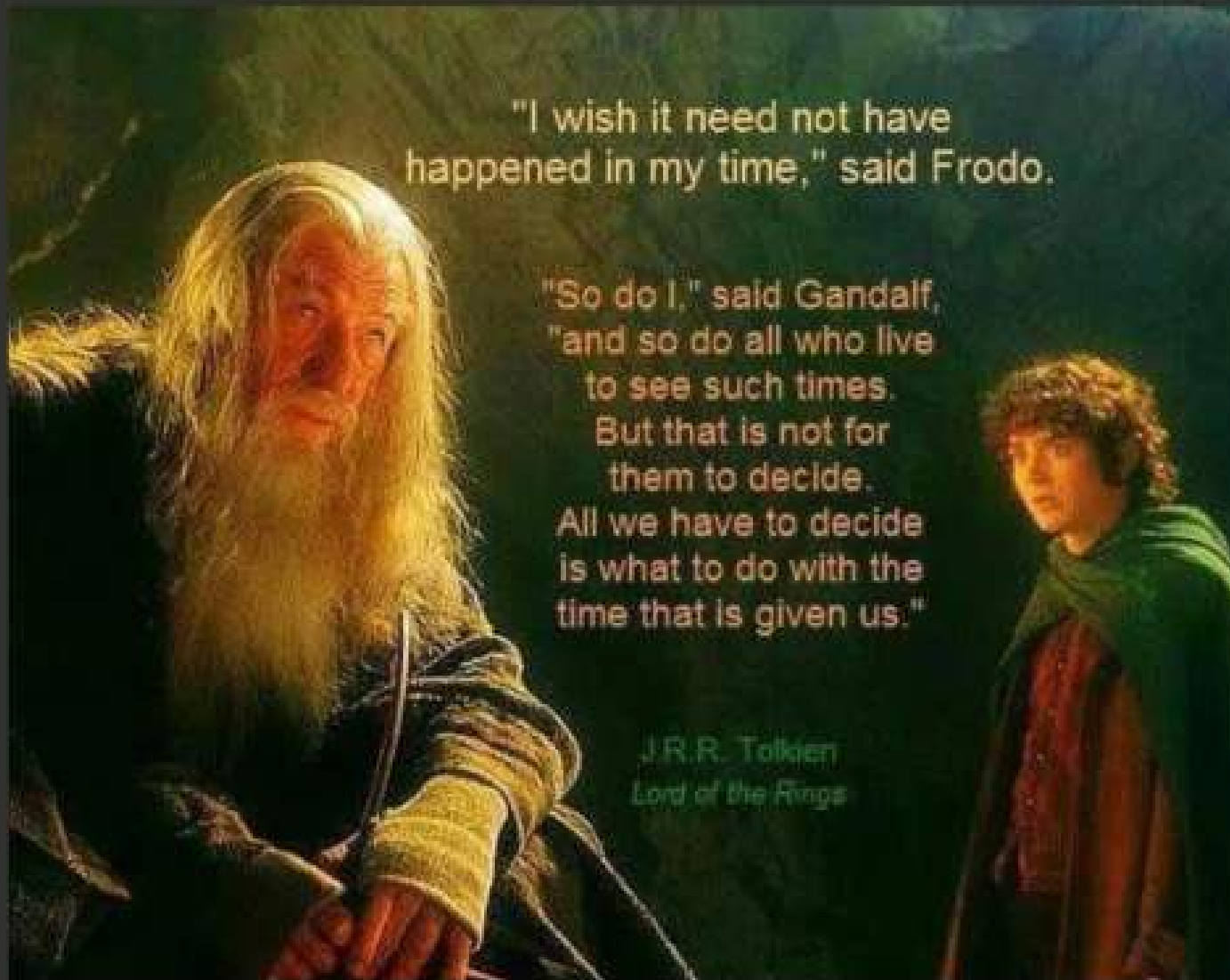
At the very least, why didn't God create a fence...
or a moat?!?



"By walling ourselves off, we are unable to hear the voice of a hurt and wounded world, and also cut off from the possibility of being heard."

(Swoboda & Gupta)

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Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

Matthew 7:24-27

²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

2,249 square foot house - 2 hours, 52 minutes



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“A life built wisely and well is designed to withstand harsh conditions like flooding and heavy winds. The wise person follows Jesus closely and listens to him and only him. But the foolish person doesn’t lay a solid foundation and is unprepared for harsh conditions, and their life and faith can be ruined all too easily... The fool builds for quick comfort today; the wise person wants sturdiness for a lifetime.”
(Swoboda & Gupta)

“Buildings shouldn’t just remain standing after a big earthquake. They should remain structurally sound.”

“Kit” Miyamoto

Psalm 23:1-3

¹The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³he refreshes my soul.

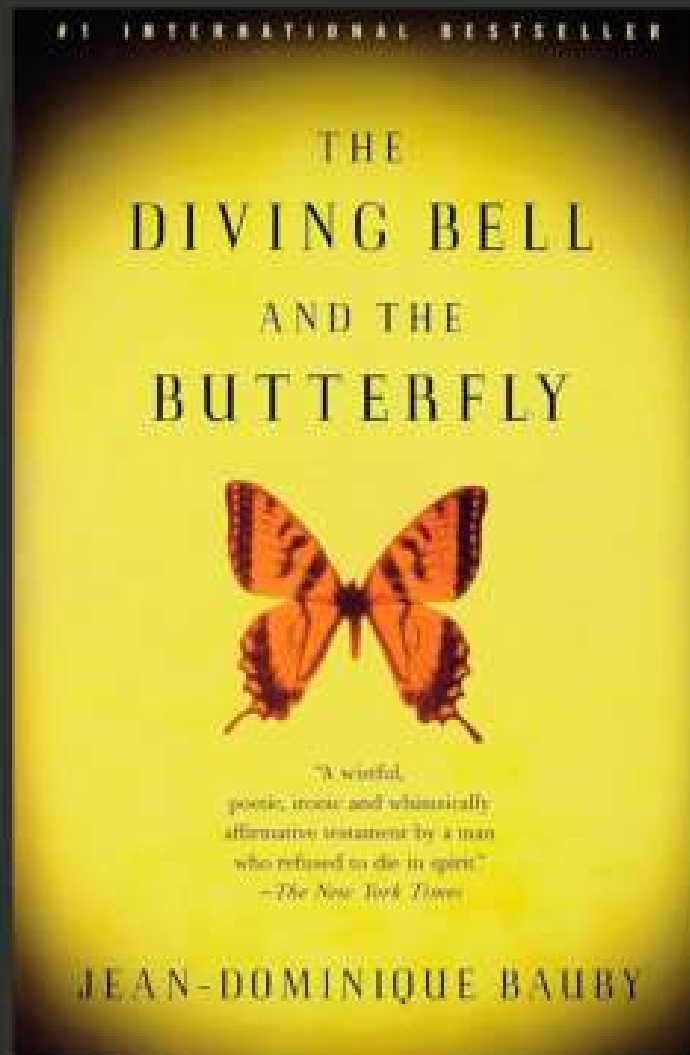
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“By narrating the inner life of someone who literally was slowed down to stillness, he invited his overworked, over-scheduled, overly busy reader to consider what life may look like for the person who must stay still.”

(Swoboda & Gupta)

Closing Reflections

What kind of disruption, chaos, or turbulence have you been facing recently? How have you been handling it?

Closing Reflections

Have you been spending time building fences to keep you safe? Or, are you willingly engaging the world in order to hear the hurt and let your voice be heard?

Closing Reflections

What foundation are you building your life on—the words of Jesus, or other voices clamoring for your attention?

Closing Reflections

Invite the Spirit to teach what “lying down” looks like in order to find your soul refreshed.

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