



# The Massacre of the Innocents

Nicolas Poussin, *Le Massacre des Innocents*,  
1625-32, Musée Condé, Chantilly



Herod the Great  
72 - 4 BC



Nicolas Poussin, *Le Massacre des Innocents*, 1625-26, Le Petit-Palais, Paris

**Naming the question:  
“Why does God allow this?**

“A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled  
because they are no more.”

*Jeremiah 31: 15*





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- Léon Cogniet, *Le Massacre des Innocents*, 1824, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rennes



# Theodicy

How can an all-knowing, all-powerful,  
all-loving God coexist with  
horrendous evil and atrocious suffering?

God is present  
even when evil acts

God's response to evil  
is not distance or indifference, but  
incarnation

# Responding to Rachel's tears “

“Rachel weeping for her children and refusing  
to be comforted,  
because they are no more.”

*Jeremiah 31: 15*





# Responding to Rachel's tears “

“Keep your voice from weeping ... your children will return.”

*Jeremiah 31: 16-17*

God's answer  
to innocent suffering:

The Cross

Our calling:  
To resist evil and  
embody God's compassion

We are called  
to protect  
the vulnerable and weak

We are called  
to comfort  
those who weep

We are called  
to speak truth  
to Herods of our time





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**In 2025**

180,000 – 350,000 excess  
deaths worldwide

45% of whom were  
children (aged < 18 yo)

33% aged 0-5

Source: Boston University

**By 2030**

14 million excess deaths  
worldwide  
of whom 4.5 million will  
be children

Sources: *The Lancet* and UCLA

We are called  
to speak truth  
to Herods of our time

We are called to  
oppose violence and stand firmly on  
the side of justice and mercy

*Break my heart  
for what breaks yours*

# Conclusion

# God's response in a weeping world