



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





- 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:

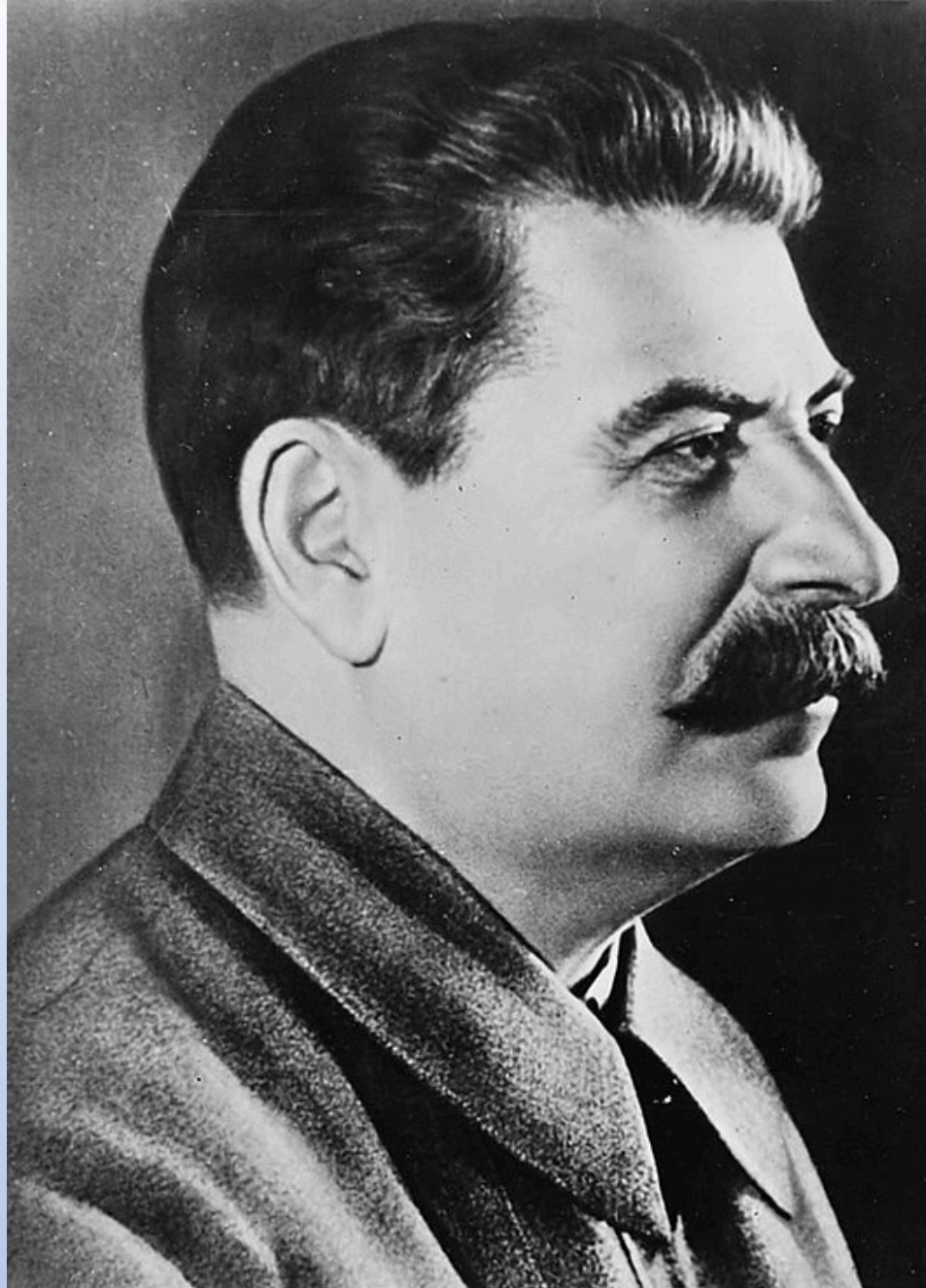
The Cross

**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