

“3BQ”

*Three Big Questions*

# CLASS 3

## “SUFFERING”

*“Why would a good God allow suffering?”*

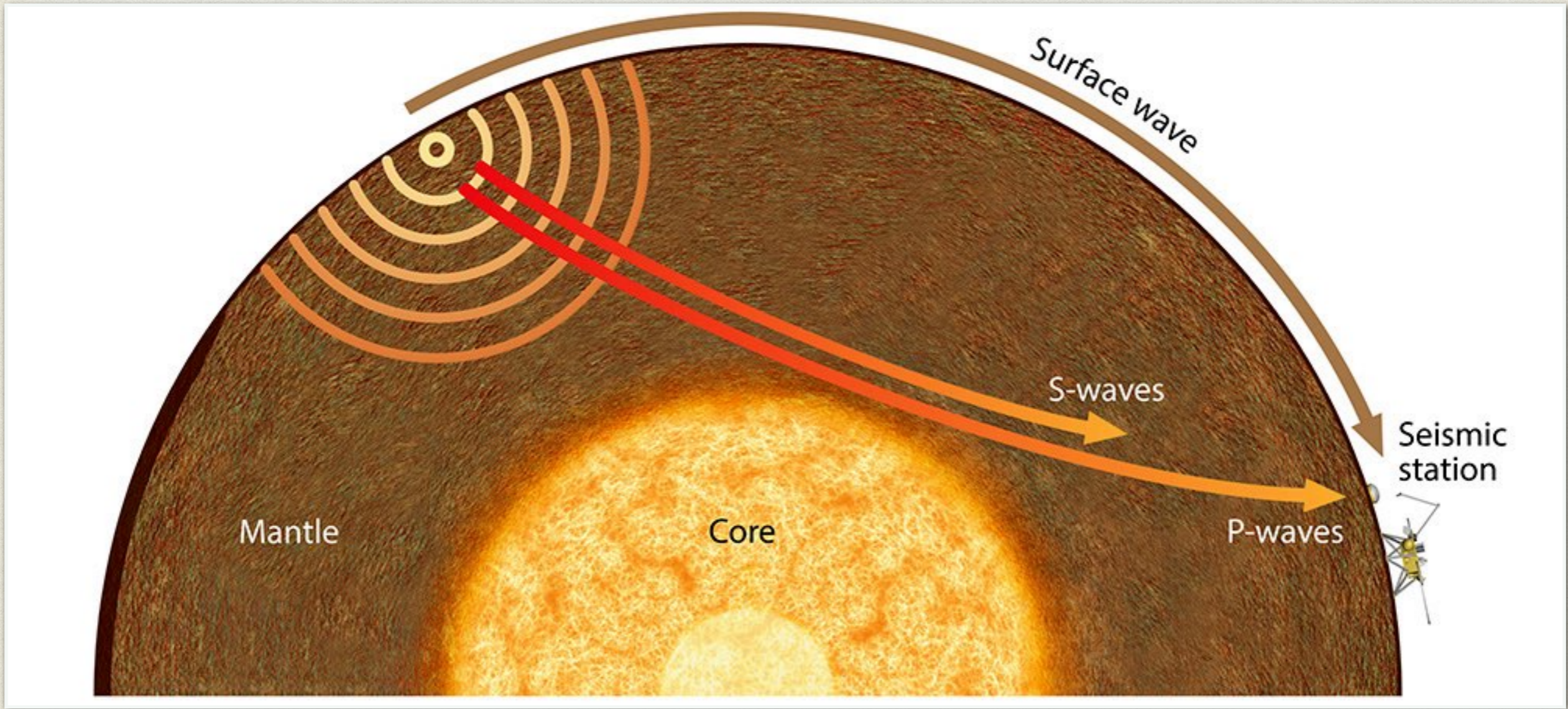


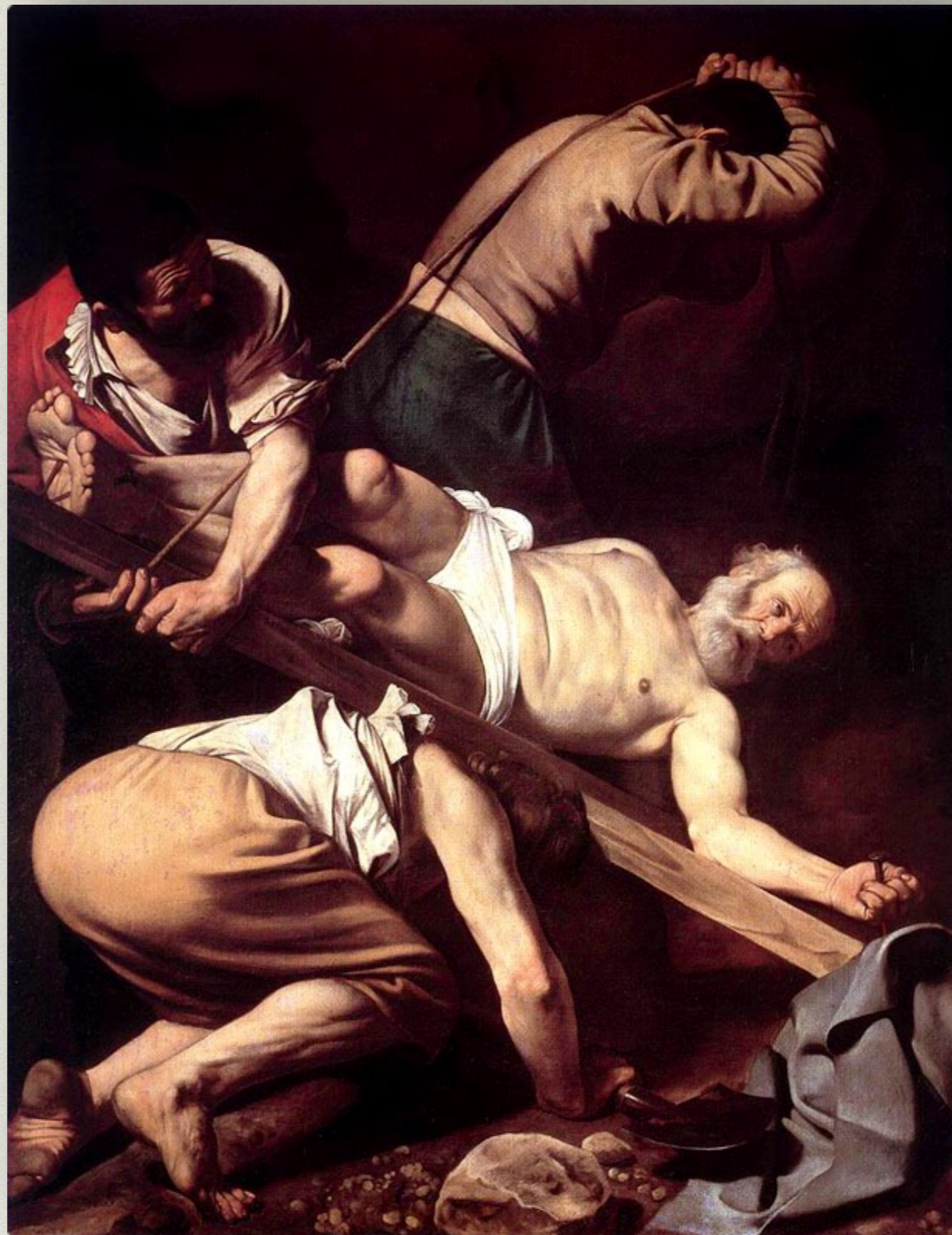


TACITUS



JOSEPHUS





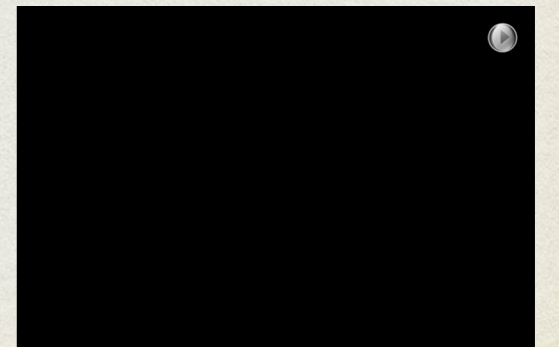
**Upside Down**



1. God could have created a world without suffering. Why didn't he?

2. Suffering is pointless

3. The fact God allowed suffering shows us he is not a God of love





“God created things which had free will. That means creatures which can go wrong or right. Some people think they can imagine a creature which was free but had no possibility of going wrong, but I can't. If a thing is free to be good it's also free to be bad. And free will is what has made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having.”

*-CS Lewis, “The case for Christianity”.*

“Were it not for pain and suffering in our earthly lives, bravery, heroism, and even stamina would be meaningless.”

*-Douglas Jacoby, page 55, “When God is silent”*



# ASPECTS TO SUFFERING



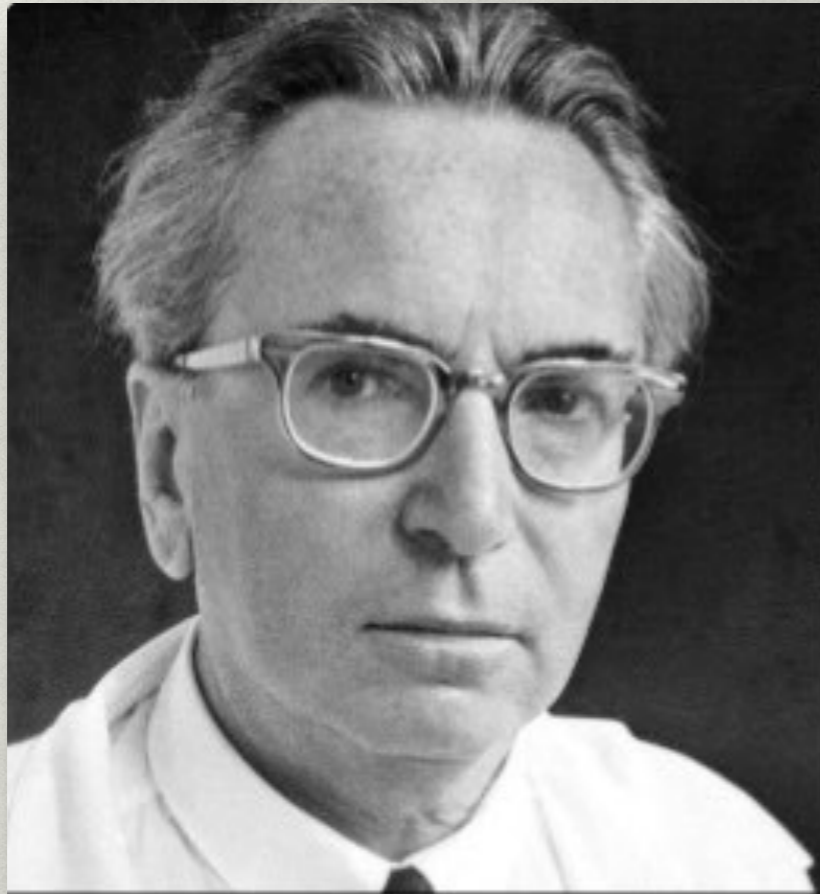
# GROWTH

“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of **righteousness and peace** for those who have been trained by it.” (Hebrews 12:11 NIV11)

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined **to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” (Romans 8:28–29 NIV11)



# TRUTH



“Those who have a ‘why’ to live can bear with almost any ‘how.’”  
– Viktor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*



# GOD

“We can ignore even pleasure.

But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

*CS Lewis, “The Problem of Pain”*



# MOTIVATION

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin” (Hebrews 4:15 NIV11)

““The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”” Lk 4:18–19



**GROWTH**



**TRUTH**



**GOD**



**MOTIVATION**



# SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

1. How do these thoughts affect your view of God?
2. How do these thoughts affect your view of Christianity?
3. Would you like to know more?

“Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”

*-(John 7:17 NIV11)*

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