



Seeking the Heart of God

“The God Who Allows Suffering”

Do We Have A Little Of Charlie Brown In Us?



@PEANUTSSPECIALS



A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds tinged with orange and red from the low sun. In the background, several jagged mountain peaks are visible, some with patches of snow. The foreground features a calm body of water that perfectly reflects the vibrant colors of the sky and the silhouettes of the mountains. On the right side, a wooden pier or dock extends into the water, with a single person standing on it, looking out towards the horizon. The overall mood is serene yet dramatic.

Would You Like A Little Cheese
With That Whine?

From A FaceBook Post

WHO KNEW THAT THE
HARDEST PART OF
BEING AN ADULT IS
FIGURING OUT WHAT
TO COOK FOR DINNER
EVERY SINGLE NIGHT
FOR THE REST OF
YOUR LIFE UNTIL YOU DIE

Inconveniences And Irritations Are Not The Same As Suffering.

- There is pain and there is **PAIN!**
- There is suffering and there is **SUFFERING!**
- There is hunger and there is **HUNGER!**
- There is sadness and there is **HEARTACHE!**

*When we complain over the former,
We lose credibility in the world of the latter.*

There Are
First World “Problems”

And There Are
Third World Problems.



The Cry of Why

- Why is there death and disease in the world?
- Why do natural disasters take people's lives?
- Why is there divorce, dishonesty, and murder?
- Why is there famine when there should be plenty?
 - Why is there lust and greed and theft?

There Was A Time When Humanity Trusted And Obeyed God And There Was...

- No Death Or Disease.
- No Pain Or Suffering.
- No Lust, Greed Or Theft.
- No Hunger, Famine Or Pestilence.
- No Danger, Divorce, Or Dishonesty.
- No Global Warming Or Deadly Natural Disasters.

Every Part Of Creation Was Good!




But Now, Genuine Suffering
Does Exist In This World
And The God We Believe In
Allows It To Exist.

Throughout History, We Have Asked
“Why Does God Allow Suffering?”

[The Short Answer]

Humanity Did Not Trust God
And Sinned Against Him By Eating
The Forbidden Fruit In The Garden Of Eden.
Humanity Had Been Told The Consequence
Of Eating That Fruit Was Death.

The background of the slide is a scenic landscape. In the foreground, there is a calm body of water reflecting the sky and mountains. A wooden pier with several vertical posts extends from the right side into the water. In the middle ground, there are dark, silhouetted mountains. In the background, a range of jagged, snow-capped mountains is visible, their peaks glowing with a warm, orange-red light from the setting or rising sun. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, also tinged with the warm colors of the sun.

Thus, The World In Which We Live
Is One...

*“Of Our Shaping,
A World Under Judgment Because
Of Our Wickedness.”*

JM

The background image is a scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. In the foreground, a wooden pier extends from the right side into a calm body of water. A person is standing on the pier, looking out towards the mountains. The water reflects the colors of the sky and the mountains. In the background, a range of mountains is visible, with the peaks covered in snow and illuminated by the warm, orange and red light of the setting or rising sun. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds that are also lit from below, creating a high-contrast, atmospheric scene.

Why Doesn't God Do Something About It?

[The Short Answer]

He Has!

He Is!

He Will!



The Whole Book That We Call The Bible
Is The Story Of What God Has, Is And Will
Ultimately Do About It.

That Message Has Been Called
“The Scheme Of Redemption.”

HE HAS – Sent His Son On A Rescue Mission To Save Us From Death.

John 3:16-17 (NLT2)

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

By His Death, Burial And Resurrection, Jesus Freed Us From The Fear Of Death.

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NIV)

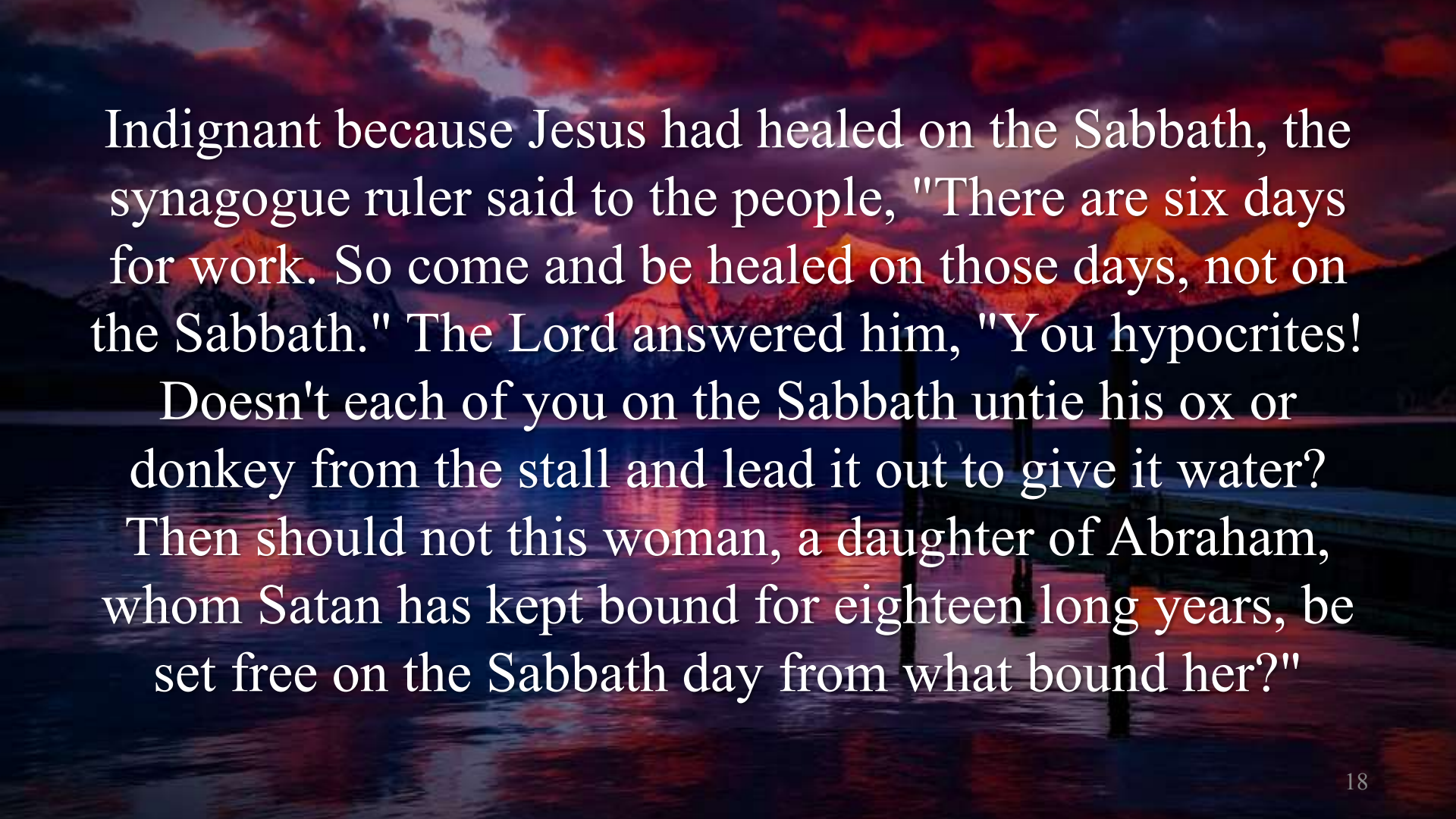
Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

HE IS – With Us In Our Suffering.

Luke shows us that it hurt Jesus to see people in misery and it made him angry when people did not care about the suffering of others.

Luke 13:10-16 (NIV)

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.



Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath." The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites!

Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (NIV)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

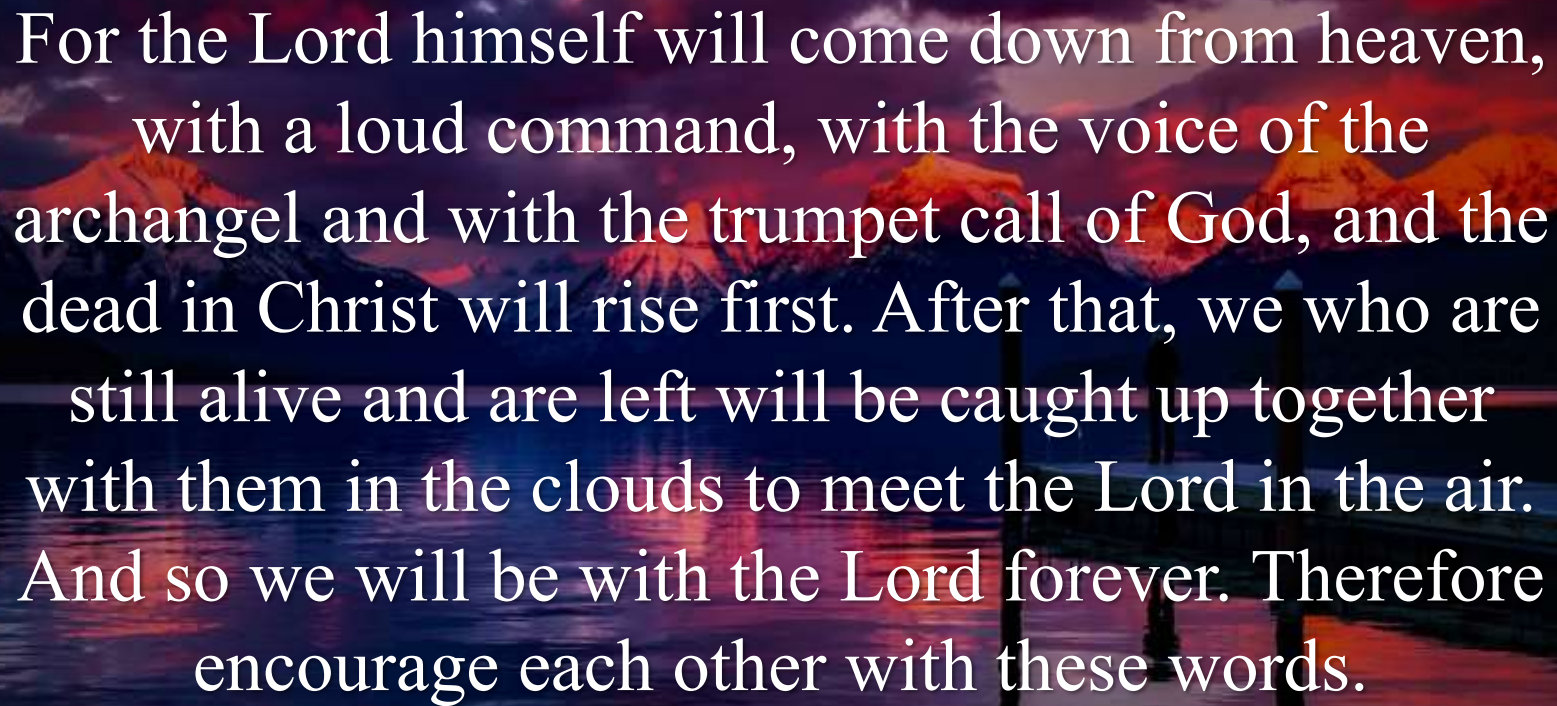
HE Will – Come Back And Take Us Home

John 14:1-4a (NIV)

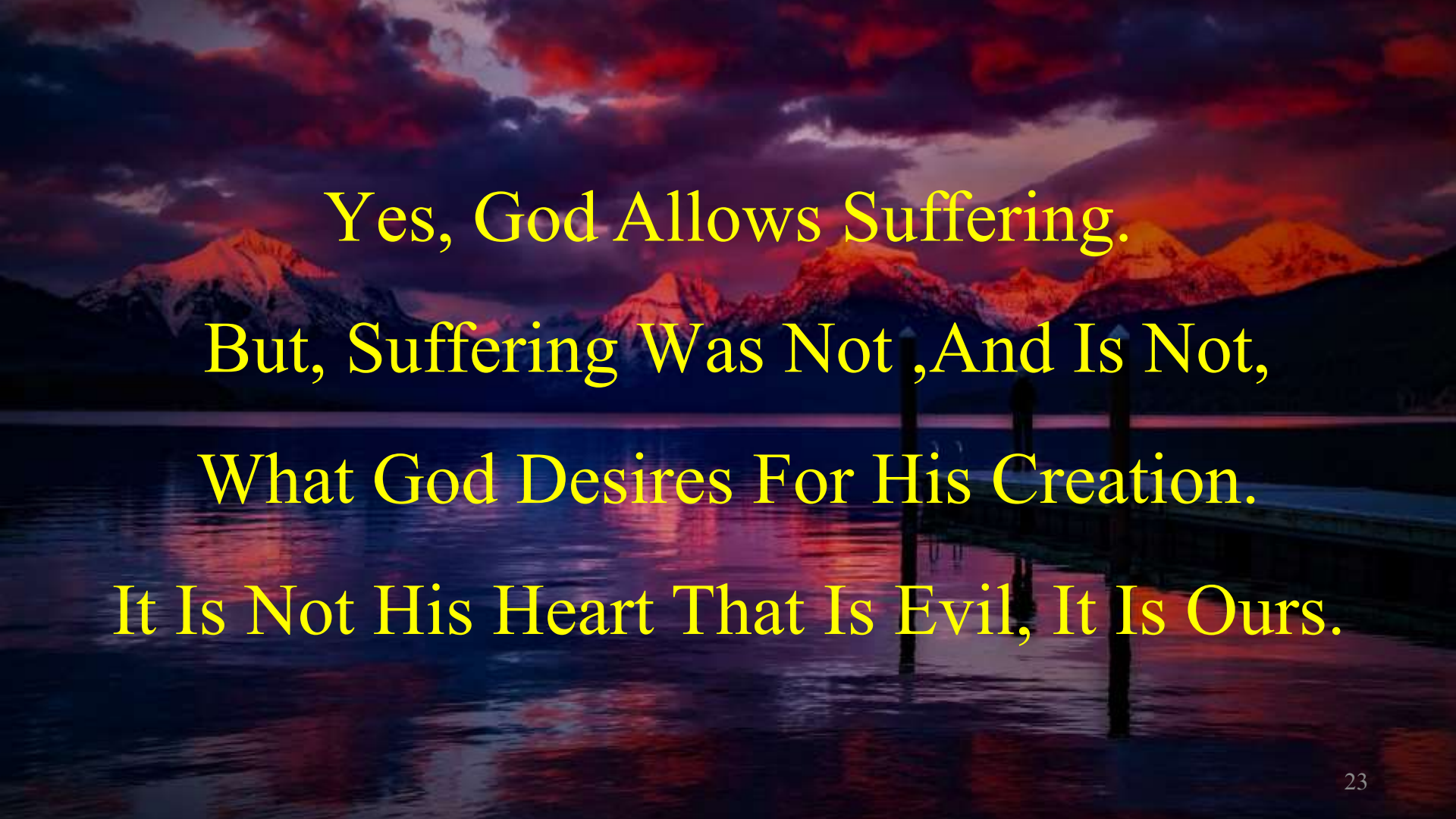
"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am..."

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV)

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.



For the Lord himself will come down from heaven,
with a loud command, with the voice of the
archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the
dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are
still alive and are left will be caught up together
with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.
And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore
encourage each other with these words.



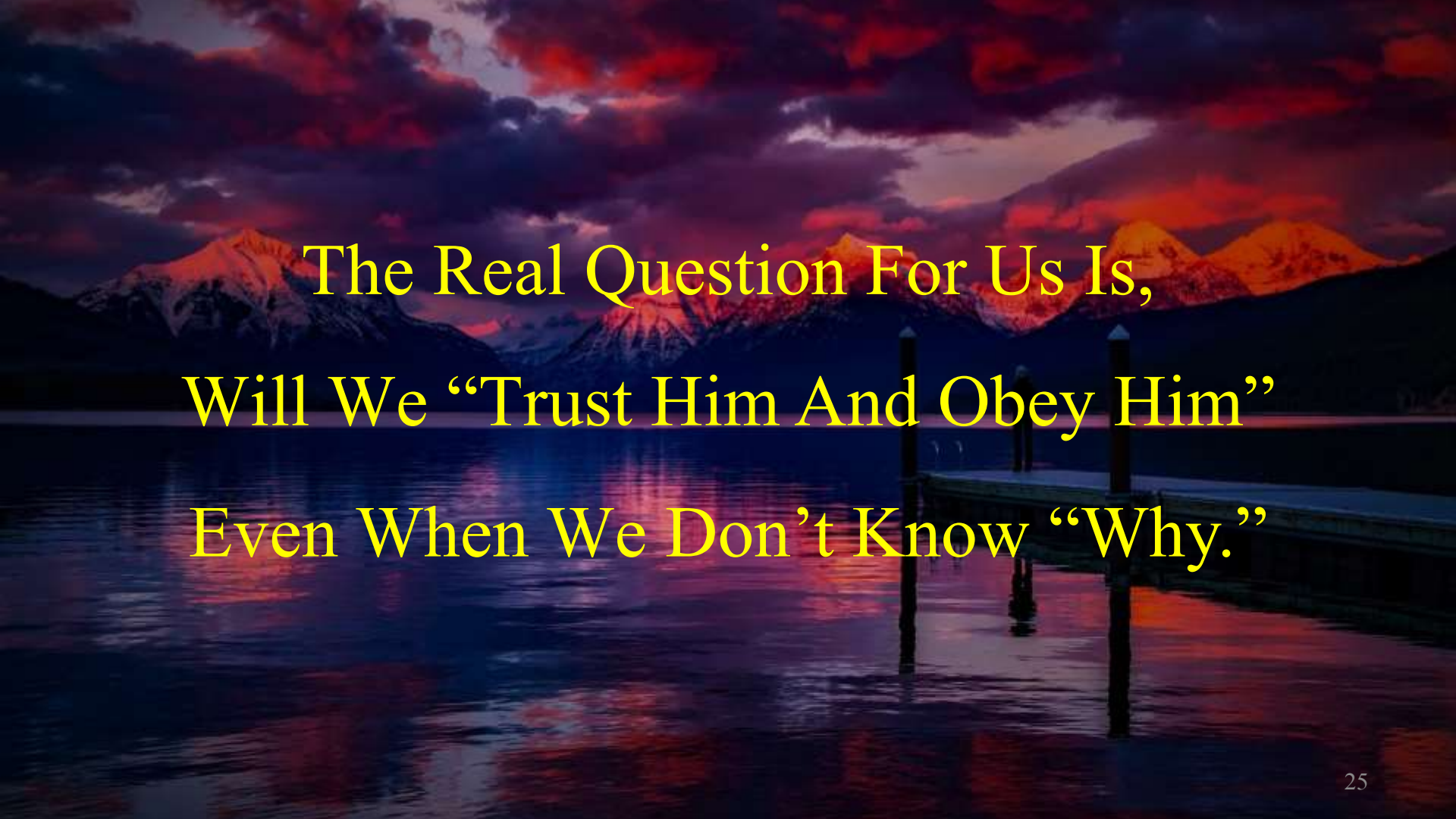
Yes, God Allows Suffering.
But, Suffering Was Not ,And Is Not,
What God Desires For His Creation.
It Is Not His Heart That Is Evil, It Is Ours.

The background image is a scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the vibrant colors of the sky. A wooden pier extends from the right side into the water, with a lone figure standing on it, looking out towards the horizon. In the background, a range of mountains is visible, their peaks partially covered in snow and illuminated by the warm, golden light of the setting or rising sun. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds that catch the low light, creating a mix of deep blues, purples, and oranges. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

He Has A Plan In The Works To End It.

He Is Suffering With Us And Seeking To
Bring Us Comfort.

He Will Bring It To A Glorious End
In The World To Come.

The background image is a scenic landscape at dusk or dawn. In the foreground, a wooden pier with several vertical posts extends from the right side into a calm body of water. The water's surface is dark but reflects the vibrant colors of the sky. In the middle ground, a range of rugged mountains is visible, with their peaks and ridges partially covered in snow. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, which are illuminated from below by the setting or rising sun, creating a dramatic palette of deep reds, oranges, and purples. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

The Real Question For Us Is,
Will We “Trust Him And Obey Him”
Even When We Don’t Know “Why.”