

The Origin, Nature And Destiny of Evil



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Introduction

Why do folks do bad things? Who says what we do is bad or good? Is life made up of just good and evil? Where does good come from? Where does evil come from?

Life is filled with questions and some of us never find the answers until it's too late. We seem to be in a never-ending valley of decisions faced with making choices without sufficient knowledge. I guess that's why there are so many different opinions on so many different subjects.

We all have a free will to choose and are held accountable for those choices. No one ever said, as a child, "I want to grow up to be a drunk or drug addict or prostitute or child molester or mass murderer." The choices they made led them down that road until they became what they were thinking. "As a **man thinketh in his heart**, so is he". Proverbs 23:7

This eBook is a discussion of the Origin, Nature and Destiny of Evil. We will look at where evil came from, why it exists, and its mission.

I will be using the Bible as my source of inspiration and documentation. I will also offer some personal opinions and suggestions. Together, we will discover how to identify evil and resist it so it does not lead us down a path to destruction.

Definition of Evil

Synonyms Include:

According to the dictionary, evil is defined as profoundly immoral.

wicked, bad, wrong, immoral, sinful, foul, vile, dishonorable, corrupt, iniquitous, depraved, reprobate, villainous, nefarious, vicious, malicious; and lots more

Being Moral is to demonstrate a high ethical standard of conduct. This standard can only be measured by the character of God. Thus, immorality is that which defiles the righteous standard established by God.

Moralality is expressed as upright, honest, straightforward, open, virtuous and honorable living.

The Origin of Evil

As we look for the origin of evil, we must distinguish between man's morality and God's morality. God's morality is called Righteousness. Man's morality can shift and even change with the moods of society. One day it is immoral to have an abortion and the next it is considered ok or moral. We must align ourselves to the morality/righteousness of God. Why? because He never changes. He, unlike man, does not waver in character or personality. He is always good, always righteous, always truthful, always right. A good picture is to contrast light with darkness. God is light and there is no darkness in Him. He is pure in every way.

Now, let's look at evil. It is anti-God. It does not accept God as the standard for good or should I say righteousness? It projects itself as a replacement for God. It will deceive men and women into thinking that it is good when it is far from being good.

So, what is evil?...It is the rejection of God and all that He stands for. This attitude is called "SIN" and it is first of all aimed at God; to dishonor Him and steal His throne and control over all things including mankind.

Where did evil begin? According to the Bible, it all began in the heart of Lucifer; an angel of God that some scholars believe led the worship in heaven. He was magnificent in every way. He led 1/3 of all the angels in a rebellion against God that ended up with all that rebelled being cast out of the heavenly realm. This all happened because Lucifer wanted to be God. Thus he rebelled and tried to take over as God. This was considered the very first sin and it met with swift judgment.

Here are a few supporting scriptures that reveal the truth.

1. And he, (Jesus), said unto them, (His disciples), "I beheld Satan, as lightning, fall from heaven." Luke 10:18
2. "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast

out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Revelation 12:7-9

3. “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.” Isaiah 14:12-15

4. “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.” Jude v-6

5. “By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.” Ezekiel 28:16-17

By now you probably have noticed different names for evil. They are all the same entity. Evil started in one individual personality, a spiritual being. He sinned against God by trying to be God. Over the centuries that entity has taken on many different names.

There are a lot of folks that do not believe in the existence of a being that is evil. They think that evil comes from the hearts of men and women, boys and girls but not a supernatural being. Jesus spoke at length about this evil being. In fact, the Bible has many different names for him including:

- Lucifer, meaning “Morning Star” (Isaiah 14:12)
- Ruler of The Demons (Matthew 12:24)
- god of This World (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- Devil/Accuser (Matthew 4:1)
- Prince of the Power of the Air (Ephesians 2:2)
- Roaring Lion (1 Peter 5:8)
- Serpent (Genesis 3:1)

- Dragon (Revelation 12:9; 20:2)
- Adversary (Job 1)
- The Tempter (Matthew 4:3)
- The Anointed Cherub that covers (Ezekiel 28:14)
- Beelzebub (Matthew 12:24)
- Belial (2 Corinthians 6:15)
- Wicked One (Matthew 13:19)
- Thief (John 10:10)

Lord of the Flies, the Antichrist and Father of Lies are also used to describe this evil being. Jesus referred to him as a thief, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10

Peter called him our adversary, the devil. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” I Peter 5:8-9

This evil being called the devil first showed up in the Bible in the book of Genesis as the serpent who convinced Eve—who then convinced Adam—to eat forbidden fruit from the “tree of the knowledge” in the Garden of Eden. As the story goes, after Adam and Eve fell for the Devil’s conniving ways, they were banished from the Garden of Eden and doomed to *mortality*.

The Devil makes more appearances in the Bible, especially in the New Testament. Jesus and many of His apostles warned people to stay alert for the devil’s cunning enticements that would lead them to ruin. And it was the devil who tempted Jesus in the wilderness to “fall down and worship him” in exchange for riches and glory.

Perhaps the most lasting images of the devil are associated with Hell, which the Bible refers to as a place of everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Still, the Bible doesn’t state the devil will reign over hell, just that he’ll eventually be banished there.

Throughout history, the devil’s reputation as an evildoer hasn’t changed much. Most Christians still believe he’s literally transformed the world and is responsible for much of the world’s corruption and chaos.

What's important to realize is that this evil being is a defeated foe. That is evident from what the scriptures say...

Jesus Christ came for two purposes, "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10) and "that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1st John 3:8) "And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." (Colossians 2:15)

This is why Peter says we can stand up to that "Roaring Lion", resist him and he will flee from us...because he has no power over us except what we give him. I Peter 5:8

Evil And Mankind

So, how did man become evil? Wasn't he created in the image of God who is Holy? It all started in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve rebelled against God. I do not believe that they were just deceived by the devil and made a mistake. It may have started with deception but in the final analysis, they disobeyed God. *Listen and learn.*

"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou may freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Genesis 2:16-17

As the story goes, they listened to the serpent/devil who said they would be like God, knowing good and evil when they took the forbidden fruit. The irony of it all is that they were already like God, being made in His every image. God never wanted man to know evil because it was immoral, unholy and against all that God is. If they experienced evil, they would no longer be in the image of God. They would forfeit their innocence and their character would change from good to evil. There was no in-between or neutral ground. Any such rebellion would end in a state of mortality, which would lead to death.

Now see it all happening in real time through the pages of the Bible.

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin

was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.) Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come." Romans 5:12-14

Death passed upon all men for all have sinned. That is the result of Adam's transgression...He lost the image of God and we were prevented from ever having it. An entire race fell from the grace of God. Instead of being or possessing a character of righteousness we now possess a character that is evil. No longer are we naturally good but rather bent of being our own god and doing our own thing, which is anti-God because it subverts the very plan of God to create man in his own image and likeness.

The nature of evil now exists in humanity. That affects all of society as we, now being our own gods, fight with each other to be the supreme god. That's why Jesus said, " Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

Here's a Biblical example of what Jesus is saying, "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." John 1:5 Darkness just does not understand light. So it is with the natural man. He just does not comprehend the things of God.

The Face of Evil

We see the face of evil all around us. The nightly news reveals its character every day. The Bible also tells us about the character of evil as it dwells within the hearts of the human race. Listen to the Apostle Paul as he writes to the church of the Galatians.

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?" Gal.3:1

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. (This is the face of evil and it raises its awful head in many individuals these days.)

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.” Gal.5:15-26

Paul contrasts the works of the flesh, which is the character of the fallen man, with the fruit of the Spirit, which is the character of God. Adam was created in the image and likeness of God. He possessed God’s very nature, His character, which is Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, and Temperance. This is what Adam lost when he disobeyed God. This is what we gain when we are, ”Born Again”

The Mission of Evil

Believe it or not, evil is on a mission. Jesus taught us this when He said, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10

Jesus contrasted His mission with that of “the thief”, which is another title for evil personified. The mission of evil is to Steal, Kill and Destroy. The devil wants to steal your peace, kill your joy and destroy your love so you become like him, evil and full of hate. However, Jesus came that we might have life and that the life we experience be in abundance. His destiny for us is to live not die; to laugh not cry; to love not hate; to be full of goodness not evil.

The Final Destiny of Evil

Evil will not persist forever. It has an end and that end is soon to come. Here's what the Bible says:

1. **Revelation 20:10** "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." Revelation 20:14-15 "Then Death and **Hades** were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

2. **Matthew 25:41** "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels!

3. **Revelation 20:10** And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet are too, and they will be tormented there day and night forever and ever.

Good will always overcome evil because good is the nature of God and God never loses. At the end of the day, *God always wins.*

Conclusion

We are in a life and death struggle with evil. Our destiny depends upon how we fight and live our lives here on this earth. The devil can take the unsaved at his will but the "Born Again" believer is washed in the blood of Christ and has the Holy Spirit of promise inside of him. He or she can overcome. Here are the support scriptures to prove out what I am saying.

The Seal of Promise... "Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." 11 Corinthians 1:22 "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory." Ephesians 1:13

The Holy Spirit is God's seal on His people, His claim on us as His very own. The Greek word translated "earnest" in these passages is *arrhabōn* which means "a pledge," that is, part of the purchase money or property

given in advance as security for the rest. The gift of the Spirit to believers is a down payment on our heavenly inheritance, which Christ has promised us and secured for us at the cross. It is because the Spirit has sealed us that we are assured of our salvation. *No one can break the seal of God.*

The Greater Spirit... “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” 1 John 4:4 “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” Romans 8:9

The Holy Spirit is inside of us guiding us and leading us along the narrow path to glory. His counsel is greater than any spirit that tries our souls from without.. “However, when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.” John 16:13

The Overcomes...”And they, (The believers), overcame him, (The devil), by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.” Revelation 12:12

The Victory...”Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, *standing firm in the faith*, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” I Peter 5:8-9

So, the origin of evil is Lucifer, the wicked angel that rebelled against God and led 1/3 of all the Heavenly Host in a battle that ended with all of them being cast out of Heaven.

The nature of evil is sin that manifest itself in wickedness, adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and much more. It is certainly un-holy, un-righteous and immoral, which is anti-Christ.

The destiny of evil is total eradication from the face of the earth. The personification of evil in all its forms, whether human or spirit will be placed in the lake of fire for all eternity.

Hear the words of Jesus on this wise...

“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:” Matthew 25:31-34 & 41

Are you a sheep or are you a goat? Your destiny depends upon your decision. It's time to decide. Being a sheep is to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life and follow Him as His disciple. That involves repenting of your sins, getting off the throne of your life and allowing Jesus His rightful place as your shepherd. Do it today and you'll be “Born Again” into the family of God?

God bless you as you decide your final destiny.

