

**UNDE MALUM?
(WHERE IS EVIL FROM?)**

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Isaiah 14:9-17 Sheol beneath is stirred up to meet you when you come; it rouses the shades to greet you, all who were leaders of the earth; it raises from their thrones all who were kings of the nations. ¹⁰ All of them will answer and say to you: 'You too have become as weak as we! You have become like us!' ¹¹ Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, the sound of your harps; maggots are laid as a bed beneath you, and worms are your covers. ¹² "How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! (הַיְלֵל בֶּן־שָׁחַר) How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! ¹³ You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven (הַשָּׁמַיִם אֲעֲלֶה); above the stars of God (לְכוֹכְבֵי־אֵל) I will set my throne on high (אֲרִיִּים כְּסֵאִי); I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds (עַל־בְּמֹתַי עָב) (אֲעֲלֶה עַל־בְּמֹתַי עָב); I will make myself like the Most High.' (אֲדַמֶּה לְעֵלְיוֹן) ¹⁵ But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit. ¹⁶ Those who see you will stare at you and ponder over you: 'Is this the man (הַזֶּה הָאִישׁ) who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, ¹⁷ who made the world like a desert and overthrew its cities, who did not let his prisoners go home?'

Ezekiel 28:12-19 "Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the signet of perfection (חֹהֵם תְּכָנִית), full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴ You were an anointed guardian cherub (אֶת־כְּרוּב מְמַשָּׁח הַסּוּכָךְ). I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. ¹⁵ You were blameless (תָּמִים) in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness (עַד־נִמְצָא עוֹלָתָה בָּךְ) was found in you. ¹⁶ In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst (בְּרַב רִכְלֶתְךָ מָלֵא חוֹכֵךְ הַמָּס), and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Your heart was proud because of your beauty (גָּבַהַ לְבָבְךָ בְּיֹפֶיךָ); you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor (שַׁחַתְתָּ חֵכְמָתְךָ עַל־יְפָעֶתְךָ). I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you. ¹⁸ By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries; so I brought fire out from your midst; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you. ¹⁹ All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever."

ἔσωθεν γὰρ ἐκ τῆς καρδίας τῶν ἀνθρώπων οἱ διαλογισμοὶ οἱ κακοὶ ἐκπορεύονται, πορνεῖαι, κλοπαί, φόνοι, ²² μοιχεῖαι, πλεονεξίαι, ποιηρίαί, δόλος, ἀσέλγεια, ὀφθαλμὸς ποιηρός, βλασφημία, ὑπερηφανία, ἀφροσύνη. ²³ πάντα ταῦτα τὰ ποιηρὰ ἔσωθεν ἐκπορεύεται καὶ κοινῶ τὸν ἄνθρωπον.

Mark 7:21-23 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

ὑμεῖς ἐκ τοῦ πατρὸς τοῦ διαβόλου ἐστὲ καὶ τὰς ἐπιθυμίας τοῦ πατρὸς ὑμῶν θέλετε ποιεῖν. ἐκεῖνος ἀνθρωποκτόνος ἦν ἀπ' ἀρχῆς καὶ ἐν τῇ ἀληθείᾳ οὐκ ἔστηκεν, ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν ἀλήθεια ἐν αὐτῷ. ὅταν λαλήῃ τὸ ψεῦδος, ἐκ τῶν ἰδίων λαλεῖ, ὅτι ψεῦστος ἐστὶν καὶ ὁ πατὴρ αὐτοῦ.

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

εἶναι αὐτοὺς ἀναπολογήτους, ²¹ διότι γινόντες τὸν θεὸν οὐχ ὡς θεὸν ἐδόξασαν ἢ ἠὺχαρίστησαν, ἀλλ' ἐματαιώθησαν ἐν τοῖς διαλογισμοῖς αὐτῶν

Rom 1:20-21 So they are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they did not honor him

καὶ ἐσκοτίσθη ἡ ἀσύνετος αὐτῶν καρδία.

as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking

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0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. "SCIENTIFIC" EXPLANATIONS

- looking for *causes*; → deterministic; → excused from guilt
- explanations → John 8:44 (lies) **1 John 5:19** the whole world lies in the power of the evil one (ὁ κόσμος ὅλος ἐν τῷ πονηρῷ κεῖται)

0.2. EXEGESIS

The human heart and evil

- **Jer 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?
(עֵקֵב הַלֵּב מִפְּלִי וְאֵשׁ הוּא מִי יִדְעֶנּוּ) → Mk 7:21-23; Rom 1:20-21;

Isaiah 14

- The great majority of Christian writers understand these chapters as a specific prophecy of the downfall of the Babylonian empire occasioned by the conquests of the Medes and Persians.

Ezekiel 28

- Eze 28:11ff → "an ideal world"? (many exegetes)¹ **Eze 28:2** the prince of Tyre ("say!") → **Eze 28:12** the king of Tyre ("raise a lamentation!")

[<https://www.gotquestions.org/King-of-Tyre.html>] some of the descriptions in Ezekiel 28:11-19 go beyond any mere human king. In no sense could an earthly king claim to be "in Eden" or to be "the anointed cherub who covers" or to be "on the holy mountain of God." Therefore, most Bible interpreters believe that Ezekiel 28:11-19 is a dual prophecy, comparing the pride of the king of Tyre to the pride of Satan. Some propose that the king of Tyre was actually possessed by Satan, making the link between the two even more powerful and applicable.

¹ they say: "In spite of the difference in terminology here, the reference is to the same figure."

- [https://nakedbiblepodcast.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/NB-143-Transcript.pdf] ...if you go around saying Ezekiel 28 is about Satan, then you look kind of dumb... scholars don't want to be ridiculed for that.
- The “Eden” of Ezekiel 28 → between Gn 1:1 and Gn 1:2

The fall of angels

- **Rev 12:7-9** Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world- he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.
- **2Pt 2:4** For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness (ἀλλὰ σειραῖς ζόφου ταρταρώσας) to be kept until the judgment;
- **Jude 1:6** And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day

1. ABUNDANCE

- **Eze 16:49** Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease (מְרִיבָה תִּנְיָוִת וְהִלְבֵּת־תַּעֲבָוִת יָרִיבָה), but did not aid the poor and needy
- **Luke 10:41-42** "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things (μεριμνῶς καὶ θορυβάζῃ περὶ πολλὰ), ⁴² but one thing is necessary (ἐνὸς δέ ἐστιν χρεία).

1.1. “TRADE”

- (Eze 28:16) הִלְבָּה trade; merchandise
- **Mk 4:18-19** And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, ¹⁹ but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful (καὶ ἄλλοι εἰσὶν οἱ εἰς τὰς ἀκάνθας σπειρόμενοι· οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ τὸν λόγον ἀκούσαντες, ¹⁹ καὶ αἱ μέριμναι τοῦ αἰῶνος καὶ ἡ ἀπάτη τοῦ πλούτου καὶ αἱ περὶ τὰ λοιπὰ ἐπιθυμίαι εἰσπορευόμεναι συμπνίγουσιν τὸν λόγον καὶ ἄκαρπος γίνεται)
- **1Tim 6:9** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction (οἱ δὲ βουλόμενοι πλουτεῖν ἐπίπτουσιν εἰς πειρασμὸν καὶ παγίδα καὶ ἐπιθυμίας πολλὰς ἀνοήτους καὶ βλαβεράς, αἵτινες βυθίζουσιν τοὺς ἀνθρώπους εἰς ὄλεθρον καὶ ἀπώλειαν·)

1.2. VIOLENCE

- (Eze 28:16) עָשָׂה violence, wrong, עָשָׂה שׂוֹי violent man; עָשָׂה עַד witness who practices violence
- the story of Ahab getting the vineyard of Naboth (1 Kings 21)

1.3. A FAKED INFINITY

- limitless resources; independence; → idolatry;

2. BEAUTY AND SUBLIMITY

- (Eze 28:12) **wisdom and beauty** (מְלִא חֵכֶם וְכִלְיֵי יָפִי)
- [Longinus on the Sublime] “...the Sublime, acting with an imperious and irresistible force, sways every reader whether he will or no. ... It is natural to us to feel our souls lifted up by the true Sublime, and, conceiving a sort of generous exultation to be filled with joy and pride, as though we had ourselves originated the ideas which we read. ...

[Edmund BURKE ...*Sublime and Beautiful*, Introduction Adam PHILLIPS] Beauty and Sublimity turn out to be the outlaws of rational enquiry. Both are coercive, irresistible, and a species of seduction. The sublime is a **rape**, Beauty is a **lure**. the Sublime involving pain, admiration, and greatness, the Beautiful entailing positive pleasure, love, and often smallness—a certain similarity becomes impossible to ignore. Both the Sublime and the Beautiful induce a state of submission that is often combined with the possibility of getting lost.

- [Immanuel KANT *Critique of Judgment* §25] Erhaben nennen wir das, was schlechthin gross ist. (We call sublime what is absolutely large.)

2.1. PERFECTION OF GREATNESS

- overwhelming experience of the sublime
- → natural authority (inducing smallness, desire to imitate, wishing to be like the leader)

2.2. GLAMOUROUS BEAUTY

- čarokrásny; kúzlo; pôvab; l'úbeznosť;
- [Oxford English Dictionary] glamour: "Magic, enchantment, spell ... a delusive or alluring charm..."
- colors; light; dazzling beauty...

2.3. A FAKED HOLINESS

- separated from the person of God it creates a substitute source of glory... → glory and worship

3. THE SELF

- **Eph 4:15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ (ἀληθεύοντες δὲ ἐν ἀγάπῃ αὐξήσωμεν εἰς αὐτὸν τὰ πάντα, ὅς ἐστιν ἡ κεφαλή, Χριστός)
- **Hab 2:4** Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him (בּוֹהַבְּלָה לֹא-יִשְׁרָה נַפְשׁוֹ בּוֹ), but the righteous shall live by his faith (וְיַעֲיִי הַיְשָׁרִים).

3.1. A DESIRE FOR "ALWAYS MORE"

- growth beyond limits ("imago dei")
- **Ecc 1:8** "...the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing..."
- **Pro 27:20** Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied (שְׁאוֹל וְאַבְדּוֹן לֹא תִשְׂבַּעְנָה), and never satisfied are the eyes of man (וְעֵינֵי הָאָדָם לֹא תִשְׂבַּעְנָה).

3.2. DIVINE IDENTITY

- "I will make myself like the Most High"
- **2Thes 2:3-4** ...the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God (ὁ ἄνθρωπος τῆς ἀνομίας, ὁ υἱὸς τῆς ἀπωλείας, ⁴ ὁ ἀντικείμενος καὶ ὑπεραιρόμενος ἐπὶ πάντα λεγόμενον θεὸν ἢ σέβασμα, ὥστε αὐτὸν εἰς τὸν ναὸν τοῦ θεοῦ καθίσει ἀποδεικνύντα ἑαυτὸν ὅτι ἐστὶν θεός).

3.3. A FAKED DIVINITY

- **Eze 28:2** "Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because your heart is proud, and you have said, 'I am a god' (אֵל אֲנִי), I sit in the seat of the gods (מוֹשֵׁב אֱלֹהִים יִשְׁבְּחָהּ), in the heart of the seas,' yet you are but a man, and no god (לֹא-אֵל וְיִתְחַן לְבַדְךָ כְּלֵב אֱלֹהִים), though you make your heart like the heart of a god (וְאַתָּה אָדָם)
- **Lk 4:6-7** "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours (σὸς

δώσω τὴν ἐξουσίαν ταύτην ἅπασαν καὶ τὴν δόξαν αὐτῶν, ὅτι ἐμοὶ παραδέδοται καὶ ὡς ἐὰν θέλω δίδωμι αὐτήν· ⁷ σὺ οὖν ἐὰν προσκυνήσῃς ἐνώπιον ἐμοῦ, ἔσται σοῦ πάντα.).

4. TO REMEMBER

- Evil cannot be explained. By explanations we make it into stg. “normal” or “necessary”.
- Prehistorical beginnings of evil are only hinted in the Bible.
- The most important lesson is to know how to know one’s own heart as the origin of evil.