

# THE PERSONAL PROBLEM OF EVIL

**1 Samuel 31:1** Now the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa. **1 Samuel 31:2** And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchi-shua, Saul's sons. **1 Samuel 31:3** And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers. **1 Samuel 31:4** Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it. **1 Samuel 31:5** And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him. **1 Samuel 31:6** So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.

**1 Samuel 21:7** Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdmen that belonged to Saul.

**1 Samuel 21:8** And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste. **1 Samuel 21:9** And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take it: for there is no other save that here. And David said, There is none like that; give it me. **1 Samuel 21:10** And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.

**1 Samuel 22:9** Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.

**1 Samuel 22:10** And he inquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine. **1 Samuel 22:11** Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob: and they came all of them to the king. **1 Samuel 22:12** And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub. And he answered, Here I am, my lord.

**1 Samuel 22:13** And Saul said unto him, **Why have ye conspired against me**, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

**1 Samuel 22:14** Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house? **1 Samuel 22:15** Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute any thing unto his servant, nor to all the house of my father: **for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.**

**1 Samuel 22:16** And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house. **1 Samuel 22:17** And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD; because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not shew it to me. **But** the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD.

**1 Samuel 22:18** And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. **And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod.** **1 Samuel 22:19** And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword.

**1 Samuel 22:20** And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David. **1 Samuel 22:21** And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD's priests. **1 Samuel 22:22** And David said unto Abiathar, I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul: **I have occasioned the death of all the persons of thy father's house.** **1 Samuel 22:23** Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.

## Introductory thoughts:

Evil is a problem

Evil is a problem for all worldviews

Evils is a very personal problem **since** it is experienced personally

## Thoughts:

1. There is evil...real evil!

2. Evil that is **far beyond** a philosophical problem!

It is great to examine evil philosophically:

- Apart from the pain
- Apart from the emotions

- **Apart from the loss**
- **Apart from the darkest dark**
- **Apart from the devastation**

**But, we experience it in the day-to-day and not the ivory tower.**

### **3. Evil that happens to us personally!**

In real life

### **4. Evil done to us!**

**1 Samuel 31:2** And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchi-shua, Saul's sons. **1 Samuel 31:3** And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers... **1 Samuel 31:6** **So Saul died**, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.

### **5. Evil done by us!**

**1 Samuel 18:8** And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?

**1 Samuel 18:9** And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

**1 Samuel 18:28** And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him.

**1 Samuel 18:29** And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.

**1 Samuel 19:1** And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, **that they should kill David.**

**1 Samuel 21:7** Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdmen that belonged to Saul.

**1 Samuel 22:9** Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. **1 Samuel 22:10** And he inquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.

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**1 Samuel 22:23** Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.

### **6. So, evil out there!**

### **7. And, evil in here!**

From *The Gulag Archipelago*, Part 4, Chapter 1, "The Ascent"

"It was granted me to carry away from my prison years on my bent back, which nearly broke beneath its load, this essential experience: how a human being becomes evil and how good..."

Gradually it was disclosed to me that the line separating good and evil passes not through states,

nor between classes, nor between political parties either—but right through every human heart—and through all human hearts. This line shifts. Inside us, it oscillates with the years. And even within hearts overwhelmed by evil, one small bridgehead of good is retained. And even in the best of all hearts, there remains... an unuprooted small corner of evil. "

"If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?"

During the life of any heart this line keeps changing place; sometimes it is squeezed one way by exuberant evil and sometimes it shifts to allow enough space for good to flourish. One and the same human being is, at various ages, under various circumstances, a totally different human being. At times he is close to being a devil, at times to sainthood. But his name doesn't change, and to that name we ascribe the whole lot, good and evil.

Socrates taught us: 'Know thyself!'"

— Alexander Solzhenitsyn, The Gulag Archipelago

**Many people struggle with both ideas | facts → especially evil**

**Marxism is built on one of the **original** lies:**

- **I'm good → he / she is evil**
- **My group is good → that group is evil**

**So, evil is out there**

**And if only we could get rid of them → out there!**

Yes, I'm not perfect...

Yes, maybe I've sinned, way back...maybe!

But not evil! Not real evil!

**Jeremiah 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

**8. Evil we **can't** remove or fix!**

**9. Evil **only** Christ can remove or fix!**

**The Lord does so in stages:**

**Justification: The penalty of sin is removed**

**Sanctification: The power of sin is gradually removed**

**John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth **shall make you free.****

**John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**

**John 15:3 Now ye are clean **through** the word which I have spoken unto you.**

**John 17:17 Sanctify them **through** thy truth: thy word is truth.**

**2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 2 Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

**1 Peter 2:1** Wherefore **laying aside** all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, **1 Peter 2:2** As newborn babes, **desire** the sincere milk of the word, **that ye may grow thereby: 1 Peter 2:3** **If** so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

## **Glorification: The presence of sin is removed**

**Revelation 21:1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. **Revelation 21:2** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **Revelation 21:3** And I heard **a great voice out of heaven** saying, **Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.** **Revelation 21:4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; **and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain:** for the former things are passed away. **Revelation 21:5** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. **Revelation 21:6** And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

**Revelation 22:3** **And there shall be no more curse:** but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; **and his servants shall serve him: Revelation 22:4** **And they shall see his face;** and his name shall be in their foreheads. **Revelation 22:5** And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. **Revelation 22:6** And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.