

Where Did Evil Come From?

And God saw the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth —Genesis 6:12

This is probably one of the saddest moments in the whole Bible: it says that God looked at everything He had made, and it had turned corrupt. The Hebrew word used here is *shachath*; now, while corrupt works, but the way we think of the word *corrupt* usually means dishonest or impure; it's almost as though God's worried that men weren't being faithful with each other—that they lied, and they stole. But that's now what this word means. It means: polluted to the point of ruin catches the sense of *shachath* much better. Compare that with what God had just said a few chapters before this, in the last verse of Chapter one: "Now God saw everything He had made, and here: it was exceedingly good!" Every thing the Creator made had traveled from perfection to utter ruin in just a few generations—how sad.

Although, something rather interesting is said next—and something even more interesting is left out—in the following verse, verse 13. "Then God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence *because of them*; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.'"

Did you notice that? God says that the causes of the problem—what led to the destruction of His creation—are the *living beings* He created. Now, the Hebrew word used here, *basar*, is often translated as "flesh," which works. But, here's the thing: *basar*, and flesh, don't always refer to man. It can, and just as often does, refer to animals. *Adam* means man or mankind, and that isn't the word used here. So, the idea here is more referring to all living creatures, everything that God had given life, was at fault. Man *and* animals. Even more interesting is who God doesn't blame: He doesn't blame Satan—He doesn't say "the Devil did it." We prefer to see it that way, but God doesn't

But don't let that go by too quickly because it's rather significant. It brings us to the concept of the source of Evil. Well, the Hebrews say a couple of important things about evil that I think matches what Scripture says far more than what some traditional Christian doctrines on sin and evil purport.

For one thing, the Hebrew sages say man was created with both a good and an evil *inclination*. In other words, man had the capability of choosing one or the other.

They also hold that God created good *and* evil.

Now don't send off some angry emails until you hear me out, because it's important that you understand what I mean by the concept of God *creating* evil along with good. I've often said that we simply don't have words that can describe things of the spirit world. We don't have words that can fully communicate the mind of God. And, the origin of evil: how it got here; what it is; how it operates; is one of those situations.

In order to discuss this dicey, yet crucial, subject of the source of evil, I have to fold in several principles that, on the surface, don't seem to have much to do with it. Yet, without briefly exploring these principles, we're not going to get there from here.

Because the Spiritual Realm and the Physical Realm exist side-by-side, I want to begin by talking about how our Universe works, because each one of us are subject to its laws, boundaries, and limitations.

The world's body of physicists have now come to a general agreement that they have tried to avoid for decades. It's that the Universe was created by Intelligent Design—it didn't come into being by a random series of chemical reactions. It wasn't chaos that accidentally achieved order. Now, that's not news for us, as Believers, nor to the billions on this planet who adhere to some religion or another where a superior being and creator is acknowledged. But, when the scientific community—who worship at the altar of intellect—those who are so diametrically opposed to even considering that there's some intelligent cosmic force or being vastly superior to man, who orders the way the universe unfolds—when they come to this conclusion, the first thing you have to ask is: Why? What changed? First, understand that in no way are they acknowledging God, at least they don't think they are.

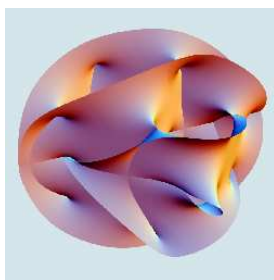
The recent discovery that caused this great shift in their thinking, a discovery that exceeds even Einstein's world-changing work to develop his famous theory of relativity, is the discovery of undeniable evidence that there exist at least 10 dimensions, and probably 11. This discovery is part of a whole new realm of Physics called [*String Theory*](#).

Now, our Universe, the entire Universe we all know and love, consists of only 4 of those 10 or 11 dimensions; and those 4 dimensions are height, width, length, and time. No matter how far out into space our orbiting space-telescopes have looked, and probed, and measured; no matter how many billions of miles our space probes have traveled and sent back the data they collected; those same 4 dimensions we deal with here on earth are all they can see way out there. So, if that's the case, then what about those other so-called 6 or 7 dimensions? Where are they? What are they?

Well, they don't exist, per se, in our Universe; according to this theory, they exist in some other "universe," what these physicists call parallel universes. Not parallel in the sense that these other universes are like holding a mirror up to something and getting a reverse image. But, that these parallel Universes exist simultaneously with ours, they just exist in other dimensions; they could actually be inside our Universe, or they could be completely outside our Universe.

I know, I know . . . this all sounds a bit far out for us, but really, it shouldn't. If you'll read the ancient Hebrew sages, you'll see that they described multiple dimensions. And, believe it or not, these sages who lived well before Christ said that the Scriptures reveal 10 dimensions, plus 1 more, the 11th, which is God. And, now, physicists tell us that both from a mathematical standpoint, and because of the otherwise unexplainable way in which energy and matter behave, that there must be 10 or 11 dimensions. In fact, this is the assumption that the mainstream of physics now works under: replacing Quantum Mechanics which tried to explain the now debunked "randomness" of our Universe.

To kind of help picture this, all we have to do is think of Heaven, as described in the Bible, to understand that wherever it is and whatever it consists of, it certainly doesn't obey the laws of Physics of our Universe. For instance, we're told that Heaven exists outside of time, a place that's eternal—that's what eternity means—time-less—without time. Eternity isn't an expression of a really l-o-o-o-n-g time; it's about existence in a realm in which the dimension of time doesn't even exist. The Scriptures never purport that Heaven is part of our Universe. After all, how would God live in our Universe before He even created our Universe? Answer, He didn't. He lived somewhere else. And, that somewhere else is one or more of those other



dimensions. In other words, Heaven doesn't exist in our 4-dimensional Universe. Right? We could explore with spaceships and telescopes to our hearts' content, but we're not going to "find" Heaven way out there in the ether land. I don't think most of us believed that we would; I'm just saying this to build a context for what we're discussing.

Now, stay with me. Believe me, this is an important ingredient that will explain an awful lot about our main subject, evil.

So, the problem the science community is facing is, how do we detect things, or examine things, or understand things that are outside of our 4 dimensions? And, of more immediate concern, how can we visualize things, comprehend things, that are outside of our 4-dimensions? The reality is, we can't. Our bodies can only detect things that our sensory organs are designed to detect: eyes detect light of certain wave lengths, ears detect sound waves of certain frequencies, our sense of touch detects heat, cold, hard surfaces and so on. All of our sensory organs sense the physical things that make up our 4-dimensional universe. So, all we can do is mathematically prove, or observe unexplainably strange behavior of physical objects to know that some other force is at play. Like, how sub-atomic particles behave, or how the expansion of our Universe behaves; or, like the Red Sea piling up, defying gravity, to let the Israelites pass to safety, for instance.

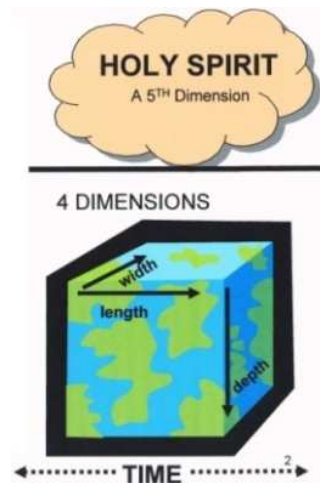
Now, some may be saying, well I understand that of those 4-dimensions, 3 indeed make up the physical realm: length, width, and depth, but, what about time? How can time be physical? How do I reach out and touch time? Do we have sensory organs that can detect time?

Actually, time is a completely integral part of the physical-ness of our Universe. We measure time, on earth, by the movement of the stars. God set this dynamic up when He prepared planet Earth for life. We measure a year of time by observing the position of the stars and the regular cycle of seasons on Earth. We measure a month by observing the phases of the moon. We measure a day—and until the last couple of hundred years—even hours and minutes by the movement of the sun across the sky.

But, what is it we're actually measuring when we say we're measuring time? The answer lies in the method used to calculate time in the most accurate clocks known to man: atomic clocks. Atomic clocks use the near perfect steady decay of radioactive materials as their standard. The key word here is *decay*. Just as inches or feet or yards or miles measures the 3 dimensions of height, width, and depth, time measures the rate of decay of the stuff that makes up our Universe; you, me, rocks, metals, concrete, space dust, the noble gases of space, all matter, even energy. Time is how we describe the process of everything that makes up our Universe getting old and deteriorating. Everything in our universe is deteriorating. Did you know that? That isn't a philosophy or a religious belief; it's just a scientific fact that's the underlying principle for all of our physics. And, the Bible tells us that as well.

Yet, beyond the physical nature, beyond those 4 physical dimensions, there's some "thing" mysterious that we know exists within our Universe that's somehow not part of those 4-dimensions; something that can't be explained by those 4-dimensions, and it can't be detected by any way man has, or ever will devise. And, that mysterious thing is what we call spirit. How do I know spirit exists? Because the Bible says it does, and because my life experience, with God, has proven it to me. This Spirit dimension exists in us, it actually sustains our very lives, because when it leaves us, our existence ends. What I mean is that when we die, our dead bodies still operate under the 4-dimensions of our Universe: our dead bodies still have height, width, and length, and they're still affected by time—they decay.

So, how did this Spirit dimension get into us? God put it there. Where is it within us? What does it look like? Well, the Bible says it's in our hearts: but, in fact, it isn't a specific place; saying "hearts" is just a euphemism. In various eras, among various cultures (even among the Hebrews), it was thought that the kidneys were the seat of the spirit or soul; others thought it was the liver. Even more astounding is that if we trust God, by faith, He'll even put His own Spirit in us—yet another kind of spiritual substance that's somehow different than the kind of Spirit (I call it the Life Spirit), which is the basic life force in all living beings. Both of these kinds of Spirit—the kind that sustains all organic animal life, and the Holy kind that permits communion between man and God, are in no way a part of our 4-dimensional Universe, nor subject to its laws. We can't measure it, dissect it, take a photo of it or even define it very well. Yet, there they are. A good way to think of Spirit is as a 5th dimension that's present in our Universe, and present in us, but isn't part of our Universe. You actually are a triune being yourself—made in the image of God. You are a spirit, you live in a physical body and possess a soul.



Part of the reason we have so much trouble with the concept of Spirit is because it isn't detectable or knowable by our rational senses, which were designed to detect only the physical dimensions of our Universe. God made man and animals out of the 4-dimensional stuff of our Universe: in our case, He made us from dirt. But, also, He brought something from *outside* the confines of our Universe, through the Universe, and put it into His living creatures: life, or, better, the spirit of life. Even more, into humans—but, not animals—He put another aspect of Himself—and that's this ability to know Him and to commune with him. What the Bible calls the human spirit.

I know you didn't come here looking for a science lesson, so I hope you're staying on track, because we're about to apply these basic laws of physics to our problem of evil.

When God made our Universe, our Universe's natural state was darkness (we're told that in Genesis 1). "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light;' and there was light."

The Universe was dark, and then from somewhere outside of our Universe God brought light to this darkness. Now, the reason I know that this light of Genesis 1:3 came from outside of our Universe, is because this light of Genesis 1:3 wasn't "light" as in the sense of a light bulb or a lamp (although God eventually brought that as well by means of light emitting objects in the sky); rather this was light in the sense of spiritual enlightenment, spiritual illumination—in Hebrew the word is *owr*, which means truth, goodness—a spirit of truth and goodness. This is critical for our understanding the origin of evil. But even more, when we examine the Hebrew word used for that darkness of the original state of the Universe, we find that the word was *choshek*—which means obscurity, falsehood, blindness—a spirit of wickedness; the absence of spiritual enlightenment. It doesn't mean darkness like in nighttime.

So, what God created on the first day was enlightenment—a spirit of truth—of good. We'll explore that more in a few minutes.

OK. Let's add another piece to the puzzle. Because of the strict way our Universe operates, under the laws of Physics, everything in our physics must and does have an opposite. In

electro-magnetics, if there's a positive charge, there *must* be a negative charge, because they are in relation to one another. In our Universe if there is a far, there has to be a near. If there is up, there must be a down. If there is short, there necessarily is tall. If there is a front, there is a back. If a coin has a head, it must have a tails (by that I mean it has two sides), because it's impossible in our Universe for anything to exist that doesn't have an opposite side—that's the nature of something being physical.

When it comes to time—that 4th physical dimension—since there is a future, there must be a past—that's the way time operates. And, to operate in the current way our Universe operates, if there is life, there must be death. No matter what phenomenon you can think of, there is an opposing phenomenon—a reverse corollary—in the make-up of the Universe in which we live. If you have healing, there must have been sickness; if you have faith, there must be an opposite of faith—doubt. Why is that? I don't know. It just is, because that's how God designed it. He did it that way as the mechanism He will use to accomplish everything He has purposed.

Because of the principle of opposites, a God-ordained law for our Universe, in order for good to exist in some form in our Universe, then it's opposite, evil, must also exist. Let me state that again: because our Universe requires an opposite, then along with good there must be evil. You can't have one without the other. They are connected. It's simply the way our 4-dimensional Universe operates. *However*—outside of our Universe, that isn't necessarily true. Things operating in those other 6 or 7 dimensions we began talking about aren't necessarily subject to the rules of opposites; and apparently in Heaven, no opposite is required, although we do have to account for Satan and those fallen angels in some way.

Now, for a really big, and ugly, question: who or what causes evil to happen? Or, even better, who or what is the source of evil? I'm not bothering to ask the question about where the opposite of evil—good—came from, because unless you're an atheist, you know and readily accept that God is the source of good.

Let's look at a verse that I suggest you look up at a more convenient time, and observe the context because there's no way I can do it here:

The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these —Isaiah 45:7.

That sounds OK to us; it really doesn't bother us much that the Lord who created light and darkness, also causes well-being and creates calamity. I mean, as much as we might wish Scripture didn't say that God creates calamity (of which we might be affected) we accept that pretty easily. Oh, if were just that easy.

The New American Standard Bible verse we just read is from a translation method that's called "dynamic translation." Look now at that same verse in a more literal, direct, word for word, translation: JPS or Jewish Publication Society.

I form the light, and create darkness; I make peace, and create evil; I am the LORD, that doeth all these things —Isaiah 45:7

Now this one does hurt our sensibilities. It says bluntly that the Lord creates Evil. Is that possible? Look at the King James Version: "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

There are 4 key Hebrew words in this verse: *owr*, *choshek*, *shalom* and *rah*. So, by substituting the 4 key words in English with the original Hebrew, the verse reads: “I form the *owr* and create *choshek*; I made *shalom* and create *rah*.” We’ve studied the words *owr* and *choshek*, and know that they are words denoting two categories of spiritual nature: good and evil. *Shalom* is a very interesting Hebrew word that we could take up the whole study talking about; but, for today just know that it’s essence is of describing a sense of well-being, peace, good, godliness and grace that comes from God—it’s a divine, and therefore spiritual, source that produces shalom. The Hebrew word *rah*, has a similar, but opposite sense. *Rah* means evil or bad. Remember the principle of opposites we’ve talked about. The principle that in our Universe, everything has an opposite—no exceptions. So, as this verse and many others will tell us, if God forms light, then darkness comes into existence; if the Lord makes shalom, then evil is also created. And, God is behind it all, and controls it all, and uses it all.

See, it’s only with our more modern translations that we even find the word “evil” oddly replaced with words like disaster and calamity and woe. The Hebrew word “rah” means evil. Now, calamity and disaster and woe can result from evil—but *rah* directly refers to the spiritual sense of evil—it’s the opposite of shalom. Don’t think this is some isolated verse; this phrase directly showing the Lord causing evil to exist and to happen is scattered throughout the Old Testament.

Shall the horn be blown in a city, and the people not tremble? Shall evil befall a city, and the LORD hath not done it? —Amos 3:6

Out of the mouth of the Most High proceedeth not evil and good? —
Lamentations 3:38

So, why does evil exist in our Universe? Because God created good; and therefore evil came as its natural opposite. This isn’t accidental—God ordered it all that way. Now—and here comes an important concept—God didn’t create evil in the sense of God manufacturing or speaking evil into existence. God didn’t turn to His right, and create a pile of good; and than turn to His left and create a pile of evil. Evil was *a result* of His creating good, transporting that good, that *owr*, from another dimension and putting that spirit of good into our Universe (a Universe where everything must have an opposite).

Allow me to quote a man of some standing; a man who I believe to have pretty good idea of the operation of our physical universe:

“Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat or the darkness that comes when there is no light.”

The man who spoke those words was Albert Einstein.

Maybe an easier way to think about all of this is when we can envision that evil is everything that God doesn’t command or instruct. It’s the opposite of what’s called *good* by God. Allow me to draw an admittedly imperfect (but I think reasonable) analogy for you—expanding on Professor Einstein’s thought. It’s like when we go into a room, and turn on a light;

we flip a switch, electricity flows to a filament in a light bulb, it glows, and presto, we *add* light to the room. But, when we turn the switch the other, it goes off, and the room goes dark. Did we *add* darkness to the room? Did the current in the light bulb reverse, and now it sucked the light out of the room? Or, was the darkness manufactured just like the light was manufactured? No, because darkness is simply the opposite of light. If light isn't produced and present, then the result is its opposite—darkness. Darkness isn't something that's made, per se, it's simply the absence of light. In the same way, evil is simply the absence of good.

So: let's quickly sum this up before we head to a conclusion:

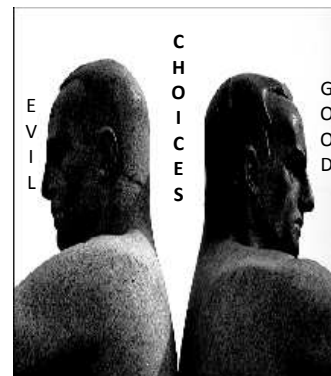
- 1 We live in a Universe that consists of 4 dimensions: length, width, and height and time.
- 2 But, we now know with certainty that there are more dimensions than 4; but they aren't part of the fabric of our Universe. So, there are other universes that employ those other dimensions.
- 3 Spirit, a dimension that isn't of our Universe—a 5th dimension—is nonetheless in man. We can't see it, nor detect it, because it's something other than those 4 dimensions. The Bible tells us that Spirit was brought from somewhere and put into us by God.
- 4 The Principle of Opposites is a key foundational law of how our Universe operates; that principle says that everything must have an opposite; no exceptions.
- 5 Due to the principle of opposites, evil exists *because* good exists.
- 6 Evil wasn't created in the sense of it being manufactured; rather evil is the result of God defining and creating good. All that isn't defined *by God* as good, is evil.
- 7 According the Bible, in Heaven, while good exists, evil does not. This is because Heaven isn't in our Universe, and not subject to the laws of physics.

Now, when God created man, He gave man a will; from man's first breath, man had a will. There was never a time when man didn't have a will. If man didn't have a will, we simply would have been flesh and blood robots; pre-programmed to a certain behavior, a literal slave to our creator.

But, what's the purpose of a will? What does a will *do*? It makes choices. Our wills are that part of man which gives us the knowledge that there *are* choices to be made, and that we *can* make those choices. And, how was the concept of choice created in the first place? By God creating a Universe in which everything had an opposite: that's the very nature of a choice—choosing one or the other—isn't it?

Now, don't trivialize the purpose of the will that God gave us by saying it's about "preferences." Preference is simply an act of our intellect. A will is an act directed by our spirits. In other words, a will isn't that part of man that prefers strawberries to bananas, or chocolate over vanilla, or blue cars over red cars. Our will is that part of us that makes *moral* choices. Choices of the conscience, not of the ego. More than anything else, a will gives us the choice to

THE WILL



love God—or its opposite—to not love God. And, this is expressed by *choosing* the ways of God, or *not* choosing the ways of God, or we might say obedience or disobedience.

So, the mere fact that God gave man a will—meaning God gave man the capability to

Good Inclinations
Yester Hatov

Evil Inclinations
Yester harah



make moral choices—a will, by default, gave man the so-called *yetser harah*—the evil inclination. If man had an inclination to do good (*yester hatov*), to obey and love God—then because we live in this God-prepared universe of opposites, man also had to have an inclination to do evil, to not obey and love God. Why? If there were no moral choices—if somehow there was nothing but good—then having a will would be totally meaningless. It would be a lot like a Cuban election; you can vote for Castro, or you can vote for Castro. You can’t even choose not to vote. What meaning is there to the concept of “election” if there are no choices? It’s the same

for the human will. Without moral choices being available, the purpose for a will is made null and void.

This principle is evident in the facts surrounding the Fall of Man—that fateful moment when Adam and Havah (Eve) ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Follow along as an interesting scenario unfolds: God creates Adam and later Eve, each complete with a will (remember, God made mankind in *His* image, and God has a will). From all the information given to us, God puts nothing off limits to the first couple; all is for them—translation: there is no way to go against God. No rules or laws or commandments are laid on them. Nothing they can do is immoral. They can’t break rules, because there aren’t any rules to break. They can’t make a bad choice, because there are no moral choices (again, we’re not talking about preferences). Ah, but there was created *one* thing about which they could make a moral choice; one rule they could break; and that created thing was the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and the rule was they were not to eat from it. In other words, without the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and the restriction against eating its fruit, there were no moral choices for them to make. Without the existence of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and without God telling them they could *not* eat of it, there would have been no reason for Adam and Eve to even have a will.

Now, did Adam and Eve have any concept of good and evil before the Fall? It would appear not. Did they have any concept of morality? It would appear not. Things just were as they were; they made no differentiation because they didn’t know there were any differences. However, when God set the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil before them, and told them NO!—Now they had an opportunity to exercise their wills. Now, they could make a moral judgment. Even more, by choosing to disobey, they indeed did gain a knowledge of good and evil that they had never before encountered. I think it’s fair to say they never even considered the possibility of disobeying God; nor did they have any idea that by doing so, evil was the result. Why? Because they had no knowledge of the *difference* between Good and Evil. But, by means of Satan’s deception and temptation, and at the decision *of their own wills*, they chose to go against God’s *one moral rule*—not to eat of that tree—and the first transgression against God by humans occurred. We call a transgression against God, sin. Sin now entered the world. And, what is sin, but an *act* of evil.

Do you see this? Without choice there can be no sin. This has a direct correlation to a much later time in Scripture, when Moses is given the Torah, also called the Law, on Mt. Sinai. Listen to what Paul says, and as you do, think about the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

. . . for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there violation —Romans 4:15

Remember, that in the New Testament, the word Law (capital L Law) usually refers to the Torah. Where there is no Torah, there can't be violations against God. Now, please catch this: The Torah was to Israel, what the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil was to Adam and Eve. The primary difference is that Adam and Eve only had one regulation in their Torah: don't eat that fruit! The Torah, The Law, given to Israel on Mt. Sinai had many more regulations—but with exactly the same effect. By means of those rules, Israel gained a knowledge of good and evil.

Listen now to Paul as he further explains this phenomenon about choice in the next chapter of Romans:

. . . for until the Law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law —Romans 5:13

In other words, did sin and evil exist before the Torah was given to Moses on Mt. Sinai? Of course it did. But, until God set down His regulations for Israel, there were no regulations to break. In a manner of speaking, Israel lived as Adam and Eve; the Hebrews had wills, so now they needed choices set before them so they might use their wills. Once God set down His rules, His Law, His Torah, this gave Israel moral choices as defined by God. And, they could choose whether to love Him, and demonstrate it by obedience to His Torah—or they could choose not to love Him, and demonstrate that by disobeying His Torah.

All of which causes Paul to conclude this:

Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made —Galatians 3:19

This verse is often stated to mean “Why the Law, then? It was added to create transgressions . . .” And, that's true. If man has a will, he must also have moral choices set before him. The Law provides for those moral choices.

Let's go full circle, now, back to Genesis 6, and apply what we've learned. God didn't blame Satan for ruining the earth with evil; He blamed men and all other living creatures. Now, were these men that He blamed 100% evil? No. Anymore than Noah and His sons were 100% good. This is our condition. It's an utter misreading of the Bible texts to say that men are 100% evil. We do have good in us—good in the sense of the *yester hatov*—the good inclination. But, without Yeshua in us to direct the use of that good, then our motives will be impure and wrong, and even our good can easily be turned into evil. How does that happen? By using our good intentions in a way that's not God's will. And, what isn't God's will is by definition evil.