

01. The Origin of Evil

Let us consider one of the greatest mysteries in the world that people have tried hard to understand: The mystery of evil. How did evil begin in a world that was created by a perfectly good God Who is full of wisdom? Why has God permitted evil to exist and to spread so much? Why does evil have the upper hand in every part of the world? Why is there so much sickness, poverty, and sorrow? Isn't God interested in helping us?

There is an answer to this question of why God has allowed evil to exist. Is it because God could not control it? Very often we find people suffering in so many ways in different parts of the world, and our hearts are moved - how much more the heart of God, Who is full of compassion?

Before we proceed further, we need to understand that our human reasoning cannot tell us what God is really like. A dog cannot understand a human being because a human being is higher in the levels of creation than a dog. In the same way, we cannot understand God. If a dog is to understand a human being, it must be taught human commands by the human being himself. Likewise, if we use our mind to understand God, it would be as foolish as a dog trying to understand a human being; it's impossible. We must instead allow God to reveal Himself to us. That's what we read in the Bible: God has revealed Himself to us in His Word. In the Bible, we read of a God who is interested in a personal relationship with every single human being on the face of the earth. He's intensely, deeply interested in every single detail in our life. God is full of wisdom; He's Almighty, All-Powerful, All-knowing; He knows the future, and has total control of the whole universe - not only this earth, but the whole universe with its

01. 罪惡(邪惡)的產生

現在讓我們來一起考慮一個世上最難以理解的問題之一——罪惡(邪惡),罪惡(邪惡)的存在讓很多人覺得難以理解。為什麼充滿智慧的完美的神,創造的完美世界,會有罪惡(邪惡)出現?為什麼神會允許罪惡(邪惡)存在,並如此散佈和傳播?為什麼罪惡(邪惡)在世上到處占上風?為什麼世上有這麼多的疾病、窮困和傷悲?難道神不想說明我們嗎?

這個問題是有答案的。難道神對它失去控制了嗎?我們常看到這世上不同地方的人,遭受著不同的痛苦,連我們的心都會為之動容。那充滿了同情心的神,比我們有更多更多這樣的心情。

在繼續說下去之前,我們需要明白一件事,就是,我們人類的理解力,是沒法知道神真正是什麼樣子的。狗無法理解人,是因為人被造的比狗高級許多。同樣的,我們也是無法真正理解神的。如果想要狗理解人,人必須親自來教它人類所發出的各樣指示。同樣的,如果我們用自己的頭腦去理解神,就如同狗試圖理解人,這種企圖本身是愚蠢的,而且是不可能的。我們必須靠神把祂自己揭示給我們。這就是我們在《聖經》裡讀到的:神通過祂的話語,把自己揭示給我們。在《聖經》裡,我們讀到,神想要地球上的每一個人,都親身和祂建立關係。祂對我們生活的每一個小細節,都非常非常的在意。神充滿了智慧,祂是全豐全足的神,是全能的神,是全知的神,祂知曉全部未來,整個宇宙都在祂的全部掌控之中——不止是地球,而是包括了億萬顆星的全部宇宙。神是絕對的純粹(純潔),祂的純粹是我們用頭腦所無法想像和理解的。並且祂是無止境的愛,充滿了愛,充滿了良善。神的愛是完全無私的愛。我們在地球上見到的愛,經常都是自私的愛,不是神之愛。祂的愛是完全無私的。從祂創造了人的那一刻起,神就想要與我們分享祂的喜樂與幸福。這正是為

millions of stars. God is infinitely pure, we cannot understand His purity. He's also infinitely loving; full of love, full of goodness. God's love is totally unselfish. Very often, the love that we see on earth is a selfish love, but not God's love. His love is totally unselfish. Right from the beginning when He created Man, God wanted to share His joy and happiness with others, and with us. That's why He created living beings. Before He created man and the human race, we read in the Bible that God created millions of angels. Long before He created human beings, His purpose in creating angels was that He might share His happiness and His glory with all of them.

When God created angels, He created them with a free will. When God created the stars and the planets, He did not create them with a free will. The planets, for example, rotate around the sun with perfect timing. They never slip up; they have been doing that for ages. And they have never disobeyed the laws God has made for them. Every star in the universe moves in an orbit designed by God. The Earth moves on its own axis in perfect split-second timing, in perfect obedience to God's commands which were put into it ages ago. But when we consider the angels and the human race, God created them with a free will. In other words, unlike the planets, stars, plants, and trees, God created the angels and the human race with a freedom to choose whether we wanted to obey God or not; whether we would obey Him or not. The plants grow, and naturally obey the laws of nature which God has put into them. They don't have freedom to choose to disobey. This is why a star, or planet, or tree, or plant can never become evil because they have no freedom of choice. And though trees and plants may do us a lot of good because God has created them to be useful, they cannot do good out of their own

什麼祂要創造活物。我們在《聖經》裡讀到,在神創造人之前,祂造了許多許多的天使。那是在神造人很久很久之前,祂造這些天使,就是為了與他們分享祂的喜樂和榮耀。

當神創造天使的時候,給了他們自由意志。當神造恒星、行星及各種天體的時候,沒有給它們自由意志。比方說,行星環繞太陽,總是按照既定的安排,準確無誤。它們一直這樣,從沒出過差錯。從沒違背過神所制定的法則。宇宙裡的每一個星,都按照神所制定的軌道運動。地球在它自己軸上的運行,每一個瞬間都準確無誤,長久以來,完全遵循神的指令。然而,在神造天使和人類時,給予了他們自由意志。換句話說,不同于行星、恒星、草和樹木,神在造的天使和人類時,給了我們這個自由,去選擇是否順服神,以及去選擇是否真心順服神。植物的生長,自然地遵照神給它們制定的自然律。它們沒有自由去選擇違背。這就是為什麼恒星、行星、樹或草,無法變得邪惡,因為他們沒有選擇的自由。而且,雖然神創造的樹和草可以對我們有很多益處,可那是因為神把它們造的對我們有用,它們無法自主的選擇去對誰有益。一個行星、恒星或是樹無法自己選擇做好事。一棵樹的生長,是按照已經建立在它裡面的自然律法,它無法選擇。所以,我們可以得出一個結論,就是這一類的被造物,類似恒星、行星或是樹,既不善,也不惡。它們就如同定好了程式的機器人。如果你家裡有一個電腦控制的機器人,你可以定程式,讓它給你拿拖鞋或幹別的。機器人可以給你拿報紙,興許還能給你做咖啡。很多事你都可以用程式來安排機器人為你做。但機器人自己沒有它的感

voluntary choice. A planet, star, or tree cannot do any good out of its own choice. A tree grows according to certain laws of nature built into it, and thus, has no choice. So we can conclude that these beings which have no choice; these arts of creation like the stars, planets, and trees can neither do good nor evil. They're like programmed robots. If you had a computerised robot in your home, you could program it to pick up your slippers and do many other things. The robot could bring in the newspaper; perhaps even make a cup of coffee. There are several things you could program a robot to do. But the robot would not have any feelings of its own. It would never disobey you if you programmed it correctly; it would do every single thing that you ever wanted it to do. God could have made man like that robot, where we would never do anything wrong, but would automatically, blindly, and dumbly as it were, obey God in everything. But God never wanted a race of people like that. They could never be His children. Robots could never be our children even though they obey. Any father would say, "I'd rather have a naughty, disobedient son of my own than an obedient robot." It is the same with God.

Do you know how robots and machines bring no joy to a childless couple? Do you know why human fathers would rather have a disobedient son than an obedient robot? Because we are made in the likeness of God, we have something of God's nature in us. Married couples long to have children. They're never happy with obedient machines, they want children. And there we see the heart of God: God's also interested in children. Our children can turn out to be disobedient, and can bring a lot of sorrow to our hearts. And there we understand why God created the angels and human beings with a free will, unlike the stars and planets.

受。如果你給它設對了程式,它不會違背你。它可以做一切你想讓它做的事。神完全可以把人做的像機器人一樣,我們就不會犯錯,而是機械地、盲目地、默默地順從神的一切安排。但神永遠不想要一群這樣的人。這樣的人永遠不會成為祂的孩子。機器人就算再順服,也不能成為我們的孩子。任何一個父親都會說,「我寧願要一個淘氣,不聽話的兒子,而不是一個聽話的機器人。」對神來說也是這樣。

你知道為什麼機器人或機器,無法給予沒有孩子的夫妻快樂嗎?你知道為什麼做父親的人們寧願要一個不聽話的兒子,而不是一個聽話的機器人?因為我們是被按著神的樣式造的,我們裡面有神的一些天性。結婚了的夫妻渴望有孩子。那種快樂,是聽話的機器所不能滿足的,他們想要孩子。在這裡我可以看到神的心性:神也同樣想要祂的孩子。即使我們的孩子可能會變得不順服,也可能給我們帶來很多傷悲。這樣我們就能夠理解,為什麼神造天使和人類,並賦予他們自由意志,而不是像星體一樣。

This is the first thing that we need to understand: Free will is the first essential for one to be a moral being. And if we don't have free will, we cannot become moral beings. And the second essential is a conscience; something within us that tells us what is right and wrong.

Let us consider birds and animals, they also have a free will - they are better than trees and stars in their ability to choose. A dog can choose to obey or disobey. But they are not moral beings; they have no sense of morality because they don't have a conscience. Though they have free will, they don't have a conscience. But we as humans have the two essentials necessary for morality: we have a free will and a conscience. The lack of these two essentials is why birds and animals can never become sinful or holy, or become children of God. A dog cannot be a child of God because it doesn't have a conscience. You can train a dog over a period of time, and teach it certain things it should do or not do, but the resulting obedience is not because of an inbuilt conscience but because of external training. This training is similar to teaching a computer by programming it to do certain things a certain way.

But when we consider the human race, we have a conscience. Before the human race was created God made all the angels. He created millions of angels, all with a free will. Among the angels, there was one who was the leader. His name was Lucifer. The Bible says, in Ezekiel 28:12-15, that he was created perfect in wisdom and beauty, and given a high position. But gradually he began to have thoughts and ambitions in his mind that were not good. How did that happen? Because he had a free will, and that's where evil first began in this universe.

這是我們需要明白的第一件事情:擁有自由意志,是成為「道德的生命體」(moral being)的第一個必需條件。第二個必需條件,是道德心,就是那在我們裡面,告訴我們什麼是對什麼是錯的。

接下來,讓我們來看看鳥與獸,它們是有自由意志的——同樹和星星比,它們有能力自己選擇。比如一隻狗可以選擇聽或不聽話,然而它們卻不是「道德的生命體」,它們沒有道德感,因為它們沒有道德心。雖然有自由意志,鳥獸卻沒有道德心。而我們人類則同時具備擁有道德所需的兩個必要條件:自由意志和道德心。由於不是同時具備這兩個條件,因此鳥獸既不邪惡也不聖潔,所以也不能成為神的孩子。一隻狗不能成為神的孩子,因為它沒有道德心。你可以通過訓練狗一段時間,來教它可以做一些事,或不可以做一些事,但得到這個順服的結果,不是由於內置於狗心中的道德感,而是來自外在的訓練。這和程式設計讓電腦做事有著相似性。

但對於人類而言,我們則是擁有道德心的。在神創造人類之前,祂造了所有的天使。這成千上萬個天使,都擁有自由意志。在這些天使中,有一個是眾天使的領袖。他的名字叫路西法(Lucifer)。《聖經》在以西結書 28 章 12 節至 15 節中說,路西法被造得智慧充足,全然美麗,而且神授予了他高高的職位。但漸漸地,他開始產生不良的想法和野心。這是怎麼發生的?這就是因為他擁有自由意識,這是罪惡第一次進入了這個宇宙。

Not only were Lucifer's thoughts evil; they were also proud and rebellious thoughts of discontent with the lot that God had appointed for him. Until then, the universe was perfectly pure, but now, evil had lifted up its head in the heart of an angel God had created. That is how evil came into the world. Initially this evil that was in the heart of Lucifer the angel did not manifest itself externally in any way. Evil always begins in the heart. Even a murder is planned by a man in his heart, and from the heart it goes out into action; that's how it was with Lucifer too. But as soon as this evil came up in his heart, God could see it. God can see into a person's heart, and God cast out Lucifer from His presence. So there we learn something: God hates evil. But when He created a moral being, He had to give that moral being a free will. There is the origin of evil.

But there is a solution that God has made through Jesus Christ, and we want to consider that in greater detail. Let us remember this about evil; that it is not outside of God's control. Evil is something God knew was coming, yet He permitted it, He accepted it, and He has provided a solution for it. That solution is in Jesus Christ.

路西法的念頭不止是邪惡的,而且是驕傲又叛逆的,其原因是他的不滿足,不滿足神給他的一切。在那以前,宇宙曾是完全純潔的,而現在,邪惡在神創造的這個天使心中抬起了頭。罪惡就這樣進入了世界。起初它只是在路西法的心裡,外在並沒有顯現。邪惡總是從心裡開始。甚至謀殺,也是人在心裡做計畫,爾後才變成行動;路西法也是這樣。然而,當邪惡在他心裡升起的那一刻,神就看見了。神能看清人的心,爾後神把路西法從自己面前驅逐了。所以,從這兒我們學到了一些事情:神憎恨邪惡。但當創造這些「道德的生命體」的時候,神給了他們自由意志。罪惡/邪惡就是這樣開始的。

然而,神通過耶穌基督,為我們提供瞭解決之道,後面會詳細地討論。現在請讓我們記住,邪惡在神的控制之中。神知道罪惡/邪惡會來臨,然而祂允許了,接受了,並提供瞭解決的方法。這個方法,就在耶穌基督。