

## Albert Camus on the Problem of Evil

Albert Camus (1913-1960) was one of the most influential thinkers of the twentieth century. He has been considered the “conscience of Europe” during the years surrounding the Second World War. Today, he is having a comeback. While not necessarily a Christian, his writings strongly reflect Christian concerns. *The Fall* is a confession of sin implicating the human race. *The Myth of Sisyphus* is a philosophical study answering the question of suicide. *The Plague* is a meditation on the problem of evil. Though labeled an “existentialist,” he is more of a post-Christian humanist. With special attention paid to *The Fall* and *The Plague*, the speaker will explore both Camus’ wise insights and his sub-biblical conclusions.

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### 1 Albert Camus

#### 1.1 Algeria

#### 1.2 Nobel Prize

#### 1.3 “Artiste engagé”

1.4 Moral dilemma of the Algerian War

2 *The Fall*

2.1 The setting

2.2 Clamence

2.3 Confession

2.4 The worldview

3            *The Plague*

3.1            The setting

3.2            The main characters

3.3            A key conversation

3.4            The worldview

## 4 Biblical alternatives

4.1 God hates the plague

4.2 “I am, sincerely yours”

4.3 Profound mystery

4.4 Le Chambon-sur-Lignon

### **Recommended Resources**

Olivier Todd, *Albert Camus: A Life*, Da Capo Press, 2000

Os Guinness, *Unspeakable: Facing up to the Challenge of Evil*, San Francisco: HarperOne, 2006

Henri Blocher, *Evil and the Cross*, Kregel Academic, 2005