THE QUESTION

Did the early Christians believe baptism is necessary for salvation?

Asked by a THF member on May 21, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 12 numbered quotations · the 25 early Christian passages and 212 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/did-the-early-christians-believe-baptism-is-necessary-for-salvation

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

Yes. The early writers treated baptism as necessary for salvation. Tertullian states the rule that no one is saved without it, based on Jesus' words about being born of water. Church orders warn those who refuse it out of contempt, while martyrs who die before water baptism are counted as baptized in their own blood.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 7

No one is saved without baptism

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian states this rule plainly. He bases it on the Lord's own words that one must be born of water to have life. He then takes up the question of how the apostles fit this rule.

1 “However, when this rule is stated—that no one can attain salvation without baptism, mainly because of the Lord’s declaration, who says, “Unless one is born of water, he does not have life”—some people immediately raise cautious doubts, or rather bold ones.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Baptism* 12 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 11, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Born again of water and the Spirit

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus reads Naaman's washing in the Jordan as a sign for us: we are cleansed from old sins by the sacred water and the Lord's name. He quotes Jesus' words that no one enters the kingdom without this new birth. Hippolytus answers the question of how to come to God the same way.

2 “For just as we are lepers in sin, we are made clean by means of the sacred water and the invocation of the Lord from our old transgressions, being spiritually regenerated as newborn babes, just as the Lord has declared: "Unless a man is born again through water and the Spirit, he shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 6, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

3 “And someone says, "How shall we come? How?" By water and the Holy Spirit.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 12, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 3 OF 7

Refusing baptism out of contempt brings condemnation

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions warn that whoever scorns baptism will be judged as an unbeliever. They support this with the Lord's words about water and Spirit. Tatian's Gospel harmony gives the Great Commission with the promise that whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.

4 “No, the one who, out of contempt, refuses to be baptized will be condemned as an unbeliever and rebuked as ungrateful and foolish.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 19, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

5 “For whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; but whoever does not believe will be rejected.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 55 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 4, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Christ was baptized so none would despise it

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Hippolytus has Jesus tell John that He is baptized so no one, not even a king, will look down on baptism. Tertullian argues that if the sinless Lord was baptized, baptism must surely be needed by sinners.

6 “Baptize me, John, so that no one may despise baptism. I am baptized by you, the servant, so that no king or ruler may think it beneath him to be baptized by the hand of a poor priest.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 13, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

7 “The Lord Himself was baptized, even though He had no repentance due from Him. So was baptism not necessary for sinners?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Baptism* 12 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 10, page 7** Read it in the library ›
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POINT 5 OF 7

Sins are forgiven in the water

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Justin explains that a person who freely chooses new birth and repents receives forgiveness of past sins in the water. Theophilus sees God's blessing on the waters as a sign that people receive repentance and forgiveness through the washing of regeneration.

8 “Since at birth we were born without our own knowledge or choice, due to our parents coming together, and were raised with bad habits and wicked training; so that we may not remain children of necessity and ignorance, but may become children of choice and knowledge, and may obtain in the water the remission of sins previously committed, the name of God the Father and Lord of the universe is pronounced over the one who chooses to be born again and has repented of sins.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 2, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

9 “Also, the things that come from the waters were blessed by God, so that this too might be a sign that human beings are meant to receive repentance and forgiveness of sins through the water and washing of regeneration—as many as come to the truth, are born again, and receive blessing from God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Theophilus of Antioch,** *To Autolycus* 16 (c. 169–183 AD) **Source 5, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Fallen humanity needed the washing of new birth

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Irenaeus reads the blind man washing at Siloam as a picture of the new birth. Because man fell into sin after Adam, he needed the laver of regeneration, and Christ gave it.

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10 “And since man, regarding the formation after Adam, having fallen into transgression, needed the laver of regeneration, the Lord said to the man upon whom He had given sight, after smearing his eyes with clay, "Go to Siloam and wash;" thus restoring to him both his perfect confirmation and that regeneration which occurs through the laver.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book V* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 7, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 7

Martyrdom counts as a baptism of blood

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian calls martyrdom a second baptism: water brings forgiveness of sins, and blood brings the crown. The Treatise on Re-Baptism says that for martyrs who hear the word, missing the water does no harm. This is the main exception these passages allow.

11 “In the baptism of water, the remission of sins is received; in the baptism of blood, the crown of virtues.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 17, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

12 “This is as in the case of martyrs who hear the word: the baptism of water is lacking without evil.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Anonymous,** *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 **Source 23, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not settle the case of someone who wanted baptism but died before receiving it, apart from martyrdom.
- They do not say what happens to those who never heard the gospel.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

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WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 25 early Christian passages and 212 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–25, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 26–132, in Bible order), then 105 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *25 passages from 12 writers*

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · source 1*

1 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 5) heard, sir, some teachers maintain that there is no other repentance than that which takes place, when we descended into the water and received remission of our former sins… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 2–3*

2 *First Apology* (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** "order that we may not remain the children of necessity and of ignorance, but may become the children of choice and knowledge, and may obtain in the water the remission… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *First Apology* (1885 English; on point 5) they are brought by us where there is water, and are regenerated in the same manner in which we were ourselves regenerated. For, in the name of God, the Father… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · source 4*

4 *Diatessaron* 55 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** "9 whosoever believes not shall be rejected. Mark 16:17 And the signs which shall attend those that believe in me are these: that they shall cast out devils in… [continues online] **read ›**

Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 5*

5 *To Autolycus* 16 (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** "the things proceeding from the waters were blessed by God, that this also might be a sign of men's being destined to receive repentance and remission of sins, through… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 6–7*

6 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** "spiritually regenerated as new-born babes, even as the Lord has declared: "Except a man be born again through water and the Spirit, he shall not enter into the kingdom… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Against Heresies: Book V* (1885 English) **Quote 10, page 5** "inasmuch as man, with respect to that formation which, was after Adam, having fallen into transgression, needed the laver of regeneration, [the Lord] said to him [upon whom He had… [continues online] **read ›**

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Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 8–9*

8 *Stromata* 3 (on point 2) to become like children again, knowing Him who truly is Father, having been born again through water, since this is another sowing in creation. But, he says, “He who is… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Instructor* 1.6 (on point 5) human faith and divine grace, our transgressions being taken away by one Paeonian medicine, the baptism of the Word. We are washed from all our sins and are no longer… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 10–11*

10 *On Baptism* 12 **Quote 7, page 3** “answer those who claim that the apostles were not baptized. For if they had received John's human baptism, and were desiring the Lord's baptism, then the Lord Himself… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *On Baptism* 12 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** “however, the prescript is laid down that without baptism, salvation is attainable by none (chiefly on the ground of that declaration of the Lord, who says, Unless one be born… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 12–13*

12 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 **Quote 3, page 2** “the world. He came to man in order to wash him with water and the Spirit. And by causing us to be born again to incorruption in soul and body… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 3** “me, John, in order that no one may despise baptism… [continues online] **read ›**

Novatian, *c. 240–258 AD · source 14*

14 *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 29 (on point 2) “of His.” And, “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” He is the One who effects with water the second birth, as a certain seed of divine… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 15–18*

15 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 2) “it is written, Unless a man be born again of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Epistles* (on point 2) “3:5. But if regeneration is in the washing, that is, in baptism, how can heresy, which is… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** “and teaching that this is a baptism greater in grace, more lofty in power, more precious in honour— a baptism wherein angels baptize— a baptism in which God and His… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Epistles* (on point 5) Since in baptism each person has his own sins forgiven, the Lord proves and declares in His Gospel that sins can be taken away only by those who have the… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 19–21*

19 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 4, page 3** “3:5 And again, "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 3) “concerning baptism, O bishop or presbyter, we have already given instruction, and now we say this: you shall baptize as the Lord commanded us, saying, “Go and teach all nations… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Apostolic Constitutions* “them the laver of regeneration and the garment of incorruption, which is the true life… [continues online] **read ›**

Anonymous · *sources 22–25*

22 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 Therefore, for those who begin a discussion of saving and new baptism, that is, spiritual and evangelical baptism, the first thing that comes before them is the announcement that is… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 **Quote 12, page 5** “And even up to this point, that whole heretical baptism may be amended, after some time has passed, if a man should survive and amend his faith. For our God… [continues online] **read ›**

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24 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (on point 7) “by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that bears witness, because the Spirit is truth… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “And to these things you perchance, who art bringing in some novelty, may immediately and impatiently reply, as you are wont, that the Lord said in the Gospel: Unless a… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *107 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

26 **Genesis 49:18** waiting for the salvation of the Lord. **read ›**

27 **Exodus 10:17** Now therefore forgive my sin this once more, and pray to the Lord your God, and let him take this death away from me.” **read ›**

28 **Exodus 29:4** You shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doors of the tabernacle of witness, and wash them with water. **read ›**

29 **Exodus 30:18** “Make a bronze washbasin with a bronze base for washing, and put it between the tabernacle of witness and the altar, and pour water into it. **read ›**

30 **Exodus 30:19** Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet with water from it. **read ›**

31 **Exodus 30:20** Whenever they go into the tabernacle of witness, and whenever they come near the altar to minister and to offer whole burnt offerings to the Lord, they shall wash with water, and so they shall certainly not die. **read ›**

32 **Exodus 30:21** They shall wash their hands and their feet with water. Whenever they go into the tabernacle of witness, they shall wash with water, so that they do not die. It shall be a perpetual ordinance for them, for Aaron and for his generations after him.” **read ›**

33 **Exodus 30:28** the altar of whole burnt offerings and all its utensils, the table and all its utensils, and the washbasin. **read ›**

34 **Exodus 38:27** The hundred talents of silver went into the casting of the hundred pillar tops of the tabernacle and into the pillar tops of the veil: (Septuagint Exodus 39:4 (Exodus 38:27 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

35 **Exodus 40:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

36 **Exodus 40:12** You shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doors of the tabernacle of witness and wash them with water. **read ›**

37 **Exodus 40:30** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

38 **Leviticus 8:6** Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons near and washed them with water. **read ›**

39 **Leviticus 8:11** and sprinkled some of it on the altar seven times. He anointed the altar and sanctified it and everything on it, and the washbasin and its base, and sanctified them. And he anointed the tabernacle and all its furnishings, and sanctified it. **read ›**

40 **Leviticus 16:19** He shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and sanctify it from the uncleannesses of the children of Israel. **read ›**

41 **Leviticus 16:24** He shall bathe his body in water in a holy place and put on his garment; then he shall go out and offer his whole burnt offering and the whole burnt offering of the people, and make atonement for himself, for his house, and for the people, as for the priests. **read ›**

42 **Leviticus 16:26** The one who sends away the goat that was set apart for release shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and after that he may come into the camp. **read ›**

43 **Leviticus 16:30** For on this day he shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you from all your sins before the Lord, and you shall be cleansed. **read ›**

44 **Leviticus 19:22** The priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering before the Lord for the sin that he sinned, and the sin that he sinned shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

45 **Numbers 8:7** And thus you shall perform their purification: you shall sprinkle them with water of purification, and a razor shall pass over their whole body, and they shall wash their garments and be clean. **read ›**

46 **Numbers 14:18** ‘The Lord is long-suffering, great in mercy, and true, taking away lawlessness and unrighteousness and sins; yet he will by no means acquit the guilty, repaying the sins of fathers upon children to the third and fourth generation.’ **read ›**

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47 **Numbers 19:9** And a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the young cow and put them outside the camp in a clean place; and they shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel; it is a water of sprinkling, a purification. **read ›**

48 **Numbers 19:17** And for the unclean they shall take some of the burnt ashes of the purification, and they shall pour running water over them into a vessel. **read ›**

49 **Numbers 19:19** And the clean man shall sprinkle the unclean on the third day and on the seventh day, and he shall be purified on the seventh day; and he shall wash his garments and bathe in water, and he shall be unclean until evening. **read ›**

50 **Numbers 19:20** But the man who is defiled and does not purify himself, that person shall be utterly destroyed from the midst of the congregation, because he has defiled the holy place of the Lord, because the water of sprinkling was not sprinkled on him; he is unclean. **read ›**

51 **Numbers 31:23** everything that passes through fire shall be clean; yet it shall be purified with the water of purification. And whatever does not pass through fire shall pass through water. **read ›**

52 **1 Samuel 10:6** Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. **read ›**

53 **2 Samuel 22:17** He sent from on high and took me; he drew me out of many waters. **read ›**

54 **2 Kings 5:10** And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go, wash seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh shall return to you, and you shall be clean.” **read ›**

55 **2 Kings 5:14** So Naaman went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of Elisha; and his flesh returned like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. **read ›**

56 **2 Chronicles 4:6** He made ten washbasins, and he set five on the right and five on the left, to wash in them the works of the whole burnt offerings and to rinse in them; and the sea was for the priests to wash in. **read ›**

57 **Job 8:17** He lies down on a heap of stones, and he shall live in the midst of pebbles. **read ›**

58 **Proverbs 4:11** For I teach you the ways of wisdom, and I set you in straight tracks. **read ›**

59 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

60 **Isaiah 15:8** For the cry has reached the border of the land of Moab, of Eglaim, and her wailing as far as the well of Elim. **read ›**

61 **Jeremiah 17:17** Do not become a stranger to me; spare me in the evil day. **read ›**

62 **Jeremiah 31:1** At that time, said the Lord, I will be God to the family of Israel, and they shall be my people. (Septuagint Jeremiah 38:1 (Jeremiah 31:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

63 **Jeremiah 50:4** In those days and at that time, the children of Israel will come, they and the children of Judah together; they will go walking and weeping, seeking the Lord their God. (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:4 (Jeremiah 50:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

64 **Jeremiah 50:9** For behold, I am stirring up against Babylon congregations of nations from the land of the north, and they will line up for battle against her; from there she will be taken; as the arrow of a skilled warrior, it will not return empty. (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:9 (Jeremiah 50:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

65 **Jeremiah 50:12** your mother has been greatly ashamed; she who bore you for good things has been put to shame; she is the last of the nations, a desolate place, (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:12 (Jeremiah 50:12 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

66 **Jeremiah 50:14** Line up for battle against Babylon all around, all you who bend the bow; shoot at her, do not spare your arrows, (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:14 (Jeremiah 50:14 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

67 **Lamentations 1:7** Zain. Jerusalem remembered the days of her humiliation and of her rejection, all her desirable things that were from days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the oppressor, and there was none to help her; her enemies saw it and laughed at her dwelling. **read ›**

68 **Ezekiel 33:4** and the one who hears does hear the sound of the trumpet, yet does not take warning, and the sword comes and overtakes him—his blood shall be on his own head. **read ›**

69 **Ezekiel 36:25** and I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be cleansed from all your uncleannesses and from all your idols, and I will cleanse you. **read ›**

70 **Daniel 11:31** And seeds from him shall arise, and they shall profane the sanctuary of might, and remove the continual offering, and set up an abomination made desolate. **read ›**

71 **Habakkuk 3:5** Before his face a word will go, and it will go out into the plains; **read ›**

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72 **Haggai 2:6** For thus says the Lord Almighty: Yet once more I will shake the heaven and the earth, and the sea and the dry land; **read ›**

73 **Tobit 12:9** For alms delivers from death, and it will purge away every sin. Those who do acts of alms and righteous deeds will be filled with life; **read ›**

74 **Judith 8:17** Therefore, while we wait for the salvation that comes from him, let us call upon him to help us, and he will hear our voice, if it is pleasing to him. **read ›**

75 **Wisdom of Solomon 11:7** as a rebuke for the decree to kill infants, you gave them abundant water beyond hope, **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Solomon 16:7** For the one who turned toward it was saved, not by what he saw, but by you, the Savior of all. **read ›**

77 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:5** And when they had resolved to kill the infants of the holy ones, and one child had been cast out and saved, you took away the multitude of their children as a rebuke, and destroyed them all together in mighty water. **read ›**

78 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:7** The salvation of the righteous and the destruction of the enemies were awaited by your people. **read ›**

79 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:30** Water will quench a blazing fire, and an act of mercy will make atonement for sins. **read ›**

80 **Wisdom of Sirach 31:25** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

81 **Baruch 1:17** because we have sinned before the Lord, **read ›**

82 **1 Maccabees 2:59** Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael, by believing, were saved from the flame. **read ›**

83 **1 Maccabees 4:11** Then all the nations will know that there is one who redeems and saves Israel." **read ›**

84 **2 Maccabees 12:42** and they turned to pleading, asking that the sin that had been committed might be wholly blotted out. And the noble Judas urged the multitude to keep themselves free from sin, since they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. **read ›**

85 **3 Maccabees 6:31** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

86 **4 Maccabees 4:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

87 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

88 **4 Maccabees 15:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

89 **1 Enoch 1:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

90 **1 Enoch 22:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

91 **1 Enoch 49:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

92 **1 Enoch 51:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

93 **1 Enoch 60:20** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

94 **1 Enoch 62:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

95 **1 Enoch 67:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

96 **1 Enoch 67:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

97 **1 Enoch 89:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

98 **1 Enoch 89:38** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

99 **1 Enoch 99:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

100 **1 Enoch 108:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

101 **Matthew 3:6** They were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. **read ›**

102 **Matthew 3:11** I indeed baptize you in water for repentance, but he who comes after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

103 **Mark 1:4** John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. **read ›**

104 **Mark 1:5** All the country of Judea and the people of Jerusalem went out to him, and they were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. **read ›**

105 **Mark 16:16** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who disbelieves will be condemned. **read ›**

106 **Luke 3:3** He came into all the region around the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for remission of sins, **read ›**

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107 **John 3:3** Jesus answered him, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” **read ›**

108 **John 3:4** Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” **read ›**

109 **John 3:5** Jesus answered, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **read ›**

110 **John 3:6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **read ›**

111 **John 3:7** Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must all be born anew.’ **read ›**

112 **John 3:8** The wind blows where it wants to, and you hear its sound, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” **read ›**

113 **Acts 1:16** “Brothers, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. **read ›**

114 **Acts 2:38** Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

115 **Acts 4:4** But many of those who heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. **read ›**

116 **Acts 4:12** There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name given among men by which we must be saved.” **read ›**

117 **Acts 11:2** When Peter had come up to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision contended with him, **read ›**

118 **Acts 12:3** When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This was during the days of unleavened bread. **read ›**

119 **Acts 19:3** He said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” **read ›**

120 **Acts 19:4** Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Christ Jesus.” **read ›**

121 **Acts 22:16** Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’ **read ›**

122 **Romans 6:3** Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **read ›**

123 **Romans 6:4** We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. **read ›**

124 **1 Corinthians 1:17** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be emptied of its power. **read ›**

125 **1 Corinthians 12:13** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all given drink to share in one Spirit. **read ›**

126 **Ephesians 2:2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. **read ›**

127 **Ephesians 3:14** For this cause, I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **read ›**

128 **Ephesians 4:5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **read ›**

129 **Titus 3:5** not by works of righteousness which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy, he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, **read ›**

130 **Hebrews 6:2** of the teaching of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. **read ›**

131 **1 Peter 3:21** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now also saves us—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but the appeal of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **read ›**

132 **1 John 5:6** This is he who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. **read ›**

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ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *105 verses, by reference*

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Exodus 32:34
Leviticus 15:18
Deuteronomy 8:18 · 20:5 · 20:19 · 32:10 · 32:23
Psalms 18:26 · 110:4
Proverbs 9:17
Isaiah 1:18 · 50:9
Jeremiah 5:8 · 23:24
Matthew 6:19 · 6:24 · 7:21 · 9:29 · 11:11 · 18:20 · 19:6 · 19:14 · 19:17 · 21:32 · 23:9 · 28:19
Mark 5:9 · 10:38
Luke 6:46 · 7:37 · 10:21 · 10:35 · 12:50 · 14:11 · 20:25 · 20:27 · 20:34
John 1:3 · 1:17 · 3:9 · 3:36 · 5:6 · 6:27 · 6:40 · 7:38 · 7:39 · 9:7 · 13:9 · 14:16 · 14:18 · 15:20 · 16:13 · 19:34 · 20:22
Acts 1:4 · 2:17 · 11:15 · 15:7
Romans 7:4 · 7:12 · 8:5 · 8:7 · 8:9 · 14:19 · 14:21
1 Corinthians 2:12 · 6:12 · 6:18 · 7:5 · 7:8 · 7:9 · 7:14 · 7:32 · 7:39 · 7:40 · 12:3 · 12:8 · 13:11 · 14:20
2 Corinthians 4:13 · 6:16 · 7:1 · 11:3
Galatians 1:15 · 3:23 · 3:26 · 3:27 · 3:28 · 4:7 · 5:13 · 5:17
Ephesians 5:8
Philippians 4:3
Colossians 2:20
1 Timothy 3:2 · 4:1 · 4:3 · 5:14
Hebrews 6:4 · 10:26 · 12:16 · 13:5
1 John 3:9

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Did the early Christians believe baptism is necessary for salvation?” on May 21, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY