THE QUESTION

Did the early Christians believe in baptismal regeneration?

Asked by a THF member on May 21, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 13 numbered quotations · the 29 early Christian passages and 218 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-in-baptismal-regeneration

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

Yes. The early writers call baptism the washing of regeneration, where a person is born again by water and the Holy Spirit, past sins are washed away, and the believer is enlightened. They tie this new birth to the Spirit's work and to a free choice to repent, and they expect the newly born to leave their old ways.

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

Baptism is where the new man is born

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

Cyprian, citing Paul's words about the washing of regeneration, says baptism is where the old man dies and the new one is born. Irenaeus reads the blind man washing at Siloam as a picture of the regeneration that comes through the laver, or washing.

1 “For the blessed apostle declares and proves that baptism is where the old man dies and the new man is born, saying, "He saved us by the washing of regeneration,"”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 19, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2 “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 9, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Born again by water and the Spirit

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

Irenaeus says we are made clean from old sins by the sacred water and the Lord's name, and are reborn like newborn babies. Hippolytus says Christ came to wash people with water and the Spirit, giving them new birth to incorruption.

3 “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 8, page 7** Read it in the library ›
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4 “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, He breathed into us the breath, that is, the spirit, of life, and clothed us with an incorruptible full armor.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 15, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 7

Those who repent are regenerated in water

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

Justin describes new believers praying and fasting for forgiveness, then being brought to water and regenerated in the same way the Christians themselves were. He says this washing is for those who freely choose new birth and have repented, so they may receive forgiveness of past sins.

5 “Then, they are brought by us to water and are regenerated in the same way we were.”

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

6 “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 3, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

The reborn are enlightened

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

Clement of Alexandria says that when believers are regenerated they are illuminated and come to know God. He compares baptism to removing a film from the eyes, so the spirit's eye is free and full of light. Justin also says the washing is called illumination.

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7 “At once, when we were regenerated, we attained that perfection for which we longed. For we were illuminated, and this is to know God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Instructor* 1.6 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 13, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

8 “As, then, those who have shaken off sleep immediately become fully awake within; or rather, as those who try to remove a film over the eyes do not supply light to them from outside, which they do not possess, but by removing the obstacle from the eyes leave the pupil free; so also we who are baptized, having wiped off the sins that darken the light of the Divine Spirit, have the eye of the spirit free, unimpeded, and full of light.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Instructor* 1.6 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 11, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 7

Faith is now bound to baptism

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

Tertullian answers those who said faith alone was enough. He grants that Abraham pleased God by faith, but says that after Christ's command to baptize and His words about rebirth by water and Spirit, faith is tied to baptism.

9 “The comparison of that law with this statement, “Unless a man has been reborn of water and Spirit, he shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven,” has bound faith to the necessity of baptism.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Baptism* 13 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 14, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

The new birth is the Spirit's work

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

Cyprian argues that because the second birth is spiritual, it cannot happen where the Spirit is absent. The Treatise on Re-Baptism says our salvation rests on the baptism of the Spirit, which is usually joined with water baptism.

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10 “Moreover, it is foolish to say that although the second birth is spiritual, by which we are born in Christ through the washing of regeneration, someone may be spiritually born among the heretics, where they say that the Spirit is not.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 18, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

11 “And so, since our salvation is founded in the baptism of the Spirit, which for the most part is joined with the baptism of water, if indeed baptism is given by us, let it be conferred in its completeness and with solemnity, and with all those means that are written, and let it be administered with nothing disconnected from it.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Anonymous,** *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 **Source 27, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 7

The reborn must leave their old ways

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

Clement says someone born again in the Spirit must give up both idols and the deeds of the old life. Commodianus warns the baptized that they were washed once and cannot expect to be immersed again, so they must not return to former sins.

12 “For the one who has been born again, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, John 1:13, but in the Spirit, must give up not only the idols he once treated as gods, but also the deeds of his former life.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 2.13 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 12, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

13 “So you will not escape sin if you follow your former ways. You have been washed once. Will you be able to be immersed again?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Commodianus,** *Writings* (c. 250–300 AD) **Source 25, page 8** Read it in the library ›
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THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not explain exactly how the water and the Spirit work together in the new birth.
- They do not settle whether anyone can be born again without water baptism.
- Some of these passages come from arguments about baptism by heretics, which is a separate question.
- 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.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 29 early Christian passages and 218 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–29, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 30–139, in Bible order), then 108 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 *29 passages from 14 writers*

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · source 1*

1 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 3) 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 2–6*

2 *First Apology* (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** “they are brought by us where there is water, and are regenerated in the same manner in which we were ourselves regenerated… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *First Apology* **Quote 6, page 3** “and if anyone dares to claim that there is a name, they are consumed by a hopeless madness. This washing is called illumination because those who learn these things are… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 3) “as might have been expected, this was that saving bath of the olden time which followed those who repented, and who no longer were purified by the blood of goats… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Dialogue with Trypho* enemies, as was predicted by Isaiah in many passages, which also contains the mystery of our own regeneration, as well as the regeneration of all who expect that Christ will… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *First Apology* (on point 3) Eucharist], and only those who believe that our teachings are true, have been washed with the washing for the remission of sins and renewal, and live as Christ instructed, are… [continues online] **read ›**

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Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 7*

7 *To Autolycus* 16 (on point 2) “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… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 8–9*

8 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (1885 English) **Quote 3, 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 ›**

9 *Against Heresies: Book V* **Quote 2, page 2** “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… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 10–13*

10 *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 ›**

11 *Instructor* 1.6 **Quote 8, page 4** evil. This is the one grace of illumination, that our characters are not the same as before our washing. And since knowledge rises up with illumination, shedding its beams around… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Stromata* 2.13 (1885 English) **Quote 12, page 5** “not only must the idols which he formerly held as gods, but the works also of his former life, be abandoned by him who has been born again, not of… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Instructor* 1.6 **Quote 7, page 4** so it was considered right to speak to the Word, and He is free. For at the moment of the Lord's baptism, a voice sounded from heaven as a… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · source 14*

14 *On Baptism* 13 (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** “that, in days gone by, there was salvation by means of bare faith, before the passion and resurrection of the Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · source 15*

15 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 **Quote 4, page 3** “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 ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 16*

16 *Commentary on John* 6 (1885 English) “it is for forgiveness of sins that this washing is given… [continues online] **read ›**

Novatian, *c. 240–258 AD · source 17*

17 *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 29 (on point 6) “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 18–22*

18 *Epistles* **Quote 10, page 5** Or if they say that the power of baptism comes from the greatness of the name, so that those who are baptized anywhere and in any way, in the name… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Epistles* (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** “the blessed apostle sets forth and proves that baptism is that wherein the old man dies and the new man is born, saying, He saved us by the washing of… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *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 ›**

21 *Epistles* (1885 English) “like figure where-unto even baptism shall save you… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Epistles* 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 ›**

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Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 23–24*

23 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 1) way of iniquity, and walk in the way of truth, that he might be thought worthy of the laver of regeneration, to the adoption of sons, which is in Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 1) “them the laver of regeneration and the garment of incorruption, which is the true life… [continues online] **read ›**

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 25*

25 *Writings* (1885 English) **Quote 13, page 5** “have once been washed: shall you be able to be immersed again… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · source 26*

26 *Divine Institutes* 5 (1885 English; on point 7) “this takes place when man, purified in the heavenly laver, lays aside his infancy together with all the pollution of his past life, and having received an increase of divine… [continues online] **read ›**

Anonymous · *sources 27–29*

27 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 **Quote 11, page 5** what will you say about those who, in many cases, are baptized by bishops of very bad character, who yet at last, when God so wills, are convicted of their… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *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 ›**

29 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (1885 English; on point 6) “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 *110 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

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

31 **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 ›**

32 **Exodus 13:13** Every one that opens the womb of a donkey you shall exchange for a sheep; and if you do not exchange it, you shall redeem it. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. **read ›**

33 **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 ›**

34 **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 ›**

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

36 **Leviticus 4:20** He shall do with the calf just as he did with the calf of the sin offering; so it shall be done. And the priest shall make atonement for them, and the sin shall be forgiven them. **read ›**

37 **Leviticus 5:6** And for what he has trespassed against the Lord, for the sin which he has sinned, he shall bring a female from the sheep, a lamb, or a female goat from the goats, as a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin which he has sinned, and the sin shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

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

39 **Leviticus 13:58** And the garment, or the lengthwise threads, or the cross threads, or any article of skin that is washed and from which the plague departs, shall be washed a second time, and it shall be clean. **read ›**

40 **Leviticus 14:7** He shall sprinkle seven times on the one who has been cleansed from the leprosy, and he shall be clean; and he shall let the live bird go into the open field. **read ›**

41 **Leviticus 14:8** The one who is cleansed shall wash his garments, shave off all his hair, and bathe in water, and he shall be clean. After that he shall come into the camp, but he shall stay outside his house seven days. **read ›**

42 **Leviticus 14:9** On the seventh day he shall shave off all his hair—his head, his beard, and his eyebrows; all his hair he shall shave off—and he shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and he shall be clean. **read ›**

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43 **Leviticus 15:13** When the man with the discharge is cleansed of his discharge, seven days shall be counted for him for his cleansing; then he shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and he shall be clean. **read ›**

44 **Leviticus 15:17** Every garment and every skin on which there is seed shall be washed with water, and be unclean until evening. **read ›**

45 **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 ›**

46 **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 ›**

47 **Leviticus 16:28** The one who burns them shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and after that he may come into the camp. **read ›**

48 **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 ›**

49 **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 ›**

50 **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 ›**

51 **Numbers 14:19** Forgive the sin of this people according to your great mercy, just as you have been gracious to them from Egypt until now.” **read ›**

52 **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 ›**

53 **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 ›**

54 **Numbers 19:18** And a man who is clean shall take hyssop and dip it in the water, and sprinkle it on the house and on the furnishings and on the persons who are there, and on him who touched the human bone, or the slain, or the dead, or the tomb. **read ›**

55 **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 ›**

56 **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 ›**

57 **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 ›**

58 **Numbers 31:24** You shall wash your garments on the seventh day, and you shall be clean; and afterward you shall come into the camp.” **read ›**

59 **Joshua 5:4** And this is the way Jesus purified the children of Israel: all who had been born on the way, and all who were uncircumcised of those who had come out of Egypt— **read ›**

60 **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 ›**

61 **2 Samuel 22:17** He sent from on high and took me; he drew me out of many waters. **read ›**

62 **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 ›**

63 **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 ›**

64 **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 ›**

65 **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 ›**

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66 **Jeremiah 2:22** Though you wash yourself with lye and use much soap, you are stained in your unrighteous deeds before me, says the Lord. **read ›**

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

68 **Jeremiah 18:13** Therefore thus says the Lord: Ask now among the nations, who has heard such very dreadful things as the virgin of Israel has done? **read ›**

69 **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 ›**

70 **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 ›**

71 **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 ›**

72 **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 ›**

73 **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 ›**

74 **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 ›**

75 **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 ›**

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

77 **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 ›**

78 **1 Esdras 9:38** And the whole multitude gathered together in the open square before the gate of the temple toward the east, **read ›**

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

80 **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 ›**

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

82 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:1** My child, have you sinned? Do not do so again, and pray concerning your former sins. **read ›**

83 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:2** Forgive your neighbor the wrong he has done, and then, when you pray, your sins will be released. **read ›**

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

85 **Wisdom of Sirach 41:9** and if you are born, you will be born to a curse, and if you die, you will be allotted to a curse. **read ›**

86 **Wisdom of Sirach 44:16** Enoch pleased the Lord and was taken away, an example of repentance to the generations. **read ›**

87 **Wisdom of Sirach 44:17** Noah was found perfect and righteous; in the time of anger he became an exchange; because of this a remnant was left to the earth, because of this the flood came. **read ›**

88 **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 ›**

89 **2 Maccabees 12:45** And then, looking to the most splendid reward laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness—a holy and godly thought—he therefore made atonement for the dead, that they might be released from their sin. **read ›**

90 **3 Maccabees 6:31** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

91 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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92 **4 Maccabees 15:31** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
93 **4 Maccabees 18:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
94 **1 Enoch 1:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
95 **1 Enoch 13:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
96 **1 Enoch 22:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
97 **1 Enoch 37:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
98 **1 Enoch 49:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
99 **1 Enoch 60:20** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
100 **1 Enoch 67:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
101 **1 Enoch 67:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
102 **1 Enoch 89:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
103 **1 Enoch 89:38** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
104 **1 Enoch 106:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
105 **1 Enoch 108:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
106 **Matthew 3:6** They were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. **read ›**
107 **Mark 1:4** John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. **read ›**
108 **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 ›**
109 **Luke 3:3** He came into all the region around the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for remission of sins, **read ›**
110 **John 1:13** who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a man, but of God. **read ›**
111 **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 ›**
112 **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 ›**
113 **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 ›**
114 **John 3:6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **read ›**
115 **John 3:7** Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must all be born anew.’ **read ›**
116 **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 ›**
117 **John 20:23** If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone’s sins, they have been retained.” **read ›**
118 **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 ›**
119 **Acts 1:18** Now this man acquired a field with the wages of unrighteousness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle, and all his intestines poured out. **read ›**
120 **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 ›**
121 **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 ›**
122 **Acts 11:2** When Peter had come up to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision contended with him, **read ›**
123 **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 ›**
124 **Acts 16:33** That same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds, and he and all his household were baptized at once. **read ›**
125 **Acts 19:3** He said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” **read ›**

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126 **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 ›**

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

128 **Romans 2:22** You who say a man should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? **read ›**

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

130 **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 ›**

131 **1 Corinthians 10:2** and were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; **read ›**

132 **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 ›**

133 **Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **read ›**

134 **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 ›**

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

136 **Colossians 2:12** having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. **read ›**

137 **1 Peter 3:20** who formerly disobeyed, when the patience of God waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being built, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. **read ›**

138 **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 ›**

139 **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 ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *108 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 4:25 · 9:18

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 · 11:5

Isaiah 1:18 · 50:9

Jeremiah 5:8 · 23:24

Matthew 3:11 · 6:19 · 6:24 · 7:21 · 9:29 · 18:20 · 19:6 · 19:17 · 21:32 · 23:9 · 28:19

Mark 5:9 · 14:22

Luke 6:46 · 7:37 · 10:21 · 10:35 · 14:11 · 20:25 · 20:27 · 20:34 · 22:19

John 1:3 · 1:17 · 2:5 · 3:9 · 3:36 · 6:27 · 6:40 · 8:35 · 9:7 · 14:16 · 14:18 · 15:20 · 16:13 · 19:34 · 20:22

Acts 1:4 · 2:17 · 9:1 · 11:15 · 15:7

Romans 6:5 · 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 · 10:4 · 11:23 · 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 · 3:28 · 4:7 · 5:13 · 5:17

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Ephesians 4:5 · 5:8
Philippians 4:3
Colossians 2:20
1 Timothy 3:2 · 4:1 · 4:3 · 5:14 · 6:11
Hebrews 6:4 · 10:26 · 12:16 · 13:5
1 John 3:9

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 in baptismal regeneration?” 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