THE QUESTION

Did the early Christians believe in universal salvation?

Asked by a THF member on May 22, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 11 numbered quotations · the 29 early Christian passages and 154 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-universal-salvation

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

Not as a whole. Most early writers here, including Irenaeus, Tertullian, Theophilus, Hippolytus, Cyprian and Lactantius, taught that the wicked face everlasting punishment. Origen hoped every soul would at last be healed and restored, and Clement called God's punishments corrective. Hippolytus also rejected a heretical teaching that all souls are saved through rebirth.

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.

IN THIS STUDY

1	Many writers taught punishment that never ends	**2**
2	The second death lasts as long as immortality	**2**
3	Judgment has two outcomes, not one	**3**
4	Those who flee God choose their own darkness	**3**
5	Origen hoped every soul would be healed	**4**
6	Origen: the enemy's hostile will is destroyed	**4**
7	Clement saw God's punishments as corrective	**5**
8	A heretical sect taught all souls are saved	**5**
	What these passages don't tell us	**6**
	The Sources: 29 early Christian passages and 154 Bible verses, with links	**6**

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POINT 1 OF 8

Many writers taught punishment that never ends

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

Hippolytus describes the judgment of Christ and says the wicked receive eternal punishment in fire without end. Cyprian says the same in his own words: the condemned will find no relief and no end to their torments.

1 “And to the lovers of iniquity, eternal punishment will be given. And the fire that is unquenchable and without end awaits these latter, and a certain fiery worm that does not die, and does not waste the body, but continues bursting forth from the body with unending pain.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Against Plato* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 11, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2 “There will be no source from where they may ever have either relief or an end to their torments.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 15, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

The second death lasts as long as immortality

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

Lactantius calls the punishment of the wicked the second death and says it is everlasting, just as the life of the righteous is. Theophilus warns an unbeliever that if he stays in unbelief he will learn the truth later, under eternal punishments.

3 “We call that punishment the second death, and it is also everlasting, just as immortality is everlasting.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 13 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 25, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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4 “Otherwise, if you continue in unbelief now, you will be convinced later, when you are being tormented with eternal punishments.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Theophilus of Antioch,** *To Autolycus* 14 (c. 169–183 AD) **Source 3, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 8

Judgment has two outcomes, not one

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

Tertullian treats it as common Christian belief that God's judgment has a twofold sentence, salvation or punishment. The Apostolic Constitutions describe the Lord's coming the same way, with the wicked going to everlasting punishment and the righteous to eternal life.

5 “But who does not hold that the judgment of God consists in a twofold sentence, of salvation and of punishment?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On the Resurrection of the Flesh* 59 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 10, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

6 “Then the wicked will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life, to inherit those things which eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things that God has prepared for those who love Him; and they will rejoice in the kingdom of God, which is in Christ Jesus.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 17, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

Those who flee God choose their own darkness

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

Irenaeus explains punishment as the result of a free choice. All good things are with God, so those who run from Him lose every good thing. He says God is not the cause of their darkness; they make themselves the cause.

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7 “Since all good things are with God, those who choose to flee from God deprive themselves of all good things; and having been deprived of all good things in relation to God, they will consequently fall under God's just judgment.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 4, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 8

Origen hoped every soul would be healed

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

Origen is the clearest voice for a final restoration. He believed the Word would overcome every evil in the soul and change every soul into His perfection. He admits the prophecies speak obscurely and says he will not settle whether evil could ever arise again.

8 “But we believe that the Word will prevail over the entire rational creation and change every soul into His own perfection.”

later in the same passage

“The consummation of all things is the destruction of evil. But whether it will be so destroyed that it can never arise again anywhere is beyond our present purpose to say.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 72 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 13, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

Origen: the enemy's hostile will is destroyed

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

Origen reads the destruction of the last enemy as the end of its hostility, not the end of its existence. What God made keeps existing, but its hostile will is destroyed. He adds that nothing is beyond being restored to its Creator.

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9 “Rather, its mind and hostile will, which did not come from God but from itself, will be destroyed.”

later in the same passage

“For nothing is impossible for the Almighty, and nothing is beyond being restored to its Creator.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 6 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 14, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 8

Clement saw God's punishments as corrective

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

Clement says Christ preached in Hades, and that those there who believe and confess will be saved, even Gentiles. He calls God's punishments saving and corrective. Note that he still ties salvation to believing, so this is not the same as saying all will be saved.

10 “If, then, it was to all, then all who believe will be saved, even if they are Gentiles, when they make their confession there.”

later in the same passage

“For God's punishments are saving and corrective. They lead to conversion, and He chooses repentance rather than the death of a sinner.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 6.6 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 8, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 8 OF 8

A heretical sect taught all souls are saved

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

Hippolytus reports that the Carpocratians taught souls pass from body to body until every sin is used up, and that in this way all souls will be saved. He lists this among heresies that slander the Church, which shows that this kind of universal salvation was rejected.

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11 “The followers of Carpocrates claim that souls pass from body to body, so that they may complete the full measure of all their sins.”

later in the same passage

“And they say that in this way all souls will be saved.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Refutation of All Heresies* 20 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 12, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not show how widely Origen's hope of restoration was shared in his own time.
- Clement's passage ties salvation in Hades to belief and confession, so it does not clearly teach that every person will be saved.
- 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 154 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 30–138, in Bible order), then 45 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 12 writers*

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 1–2*

1 *First Apology* (on point 1) “the conspirators, and even the virtuous to escape God's notice. Each person faces everlasting punishment or salvation based on their actions. If everyone knew this, no one would choose… [continues online] **read ›**

2 *First Apology* (on point 1) “we believe that those who live wickedly and do not repent are punished in everlasting fire… [continues online] **read ›**

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Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 3*

3 *To Autolycus* 14 **Quote 4, page 3** if you continue in unbelief now, you will be convinced later, when you are being tormented with eternal punishments. These punishments were foretold by the prophets. Later poets and philosophers… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 4–7*

4 *Against Heresies: Book IV* **Quote 7, page 4** a fitting punishment upon those who try to avoid submission to Him. Submission to God is eternal rest, so those who flee the light have a place worthy of their… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Against Heresies: Book II* "if nature and substance are the means of salvation, then… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (on point 3) the Egyptians while saving the obedient, will repeat themselves in the Lord. He judges eternally, condemning those He judges and freeing those He sets free for eternity. According to their… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Against Heresies: Book I* (1885 English; on point 8) "this way also all souls are saved, whether their own which, guarding against all delay, participate in all sorts of actions during one incarnation, or those, again, who, by passing… [continues online] **read ›**

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

8 *Stromata* 6.6 **Quote 10, page 5** "was either to preach the Gospel to all… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Exhortation to the Heathen* 1 (1885 English; on point 7) "Saviour has many tones of voice, and many methods for the salvation of men… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · source 10*

10 *On the Resurrection of the Flesh* 59 **Quote 5, page 3** "who does not hold that the judgment of… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 11–12*

11 *Against Plato* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** "the fire which is un-quenchable and without end awaits these latter, and a certain fiery worm which dies not, and which does not waste the body, but continues bursting… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Refutation of All Heresies* 20 (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 6** "likewise, of these (heretics) brand their own disciples in the back parts of the lobe of the right ear… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 13–14*

13 *Against Celsus* 72 (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** "things are said obscurely in the prophecies on the total destruction of evil, and the restoration to righteousness of every soul… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 6 (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 5** "nothing is impossible to the Omnipotent, nor is anything incapable of restoration to its Creator: for He made all things that they might exist, and those things which were made… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 15–16*

15 *Treatises* **Quote 2, page 2** "of those cruel eyes, in the persecutions they carried out against us, will be repaid by an everlasting sight, according to the truth of Holy Scripture, which says, "Their worm… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 1) "since they are of no avail in this matter, and do not convert individuals to God by such terror of destructions, there remains after all the eternal dungeon, and the… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 17–21*

17 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 3** "shall the wicked go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous shall go into life eternal, Matthew 25:46 to inherit those things which eye has not seen, nor ear… [continues online] **read ›**

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18 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 1) of our confession, and deny godliness because our persuasion is weak and we fear a very short punishment, we not only deprive ourselves of everlasting glory, but we will also… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 3) speaks to Daniel: "And many of them that sleep shall arise out of the dust of the earth, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 3) “therefore, this prophetess confesses the resurrection, does not deny the restoration of all things, and separates the godly from the ungodly, then it is pointless for them to deny our… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 3) “one of the least of these, neither did you do it to Me." And these will go away into everlasting punishment… [continues online] **read ›**

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 22*

22 *Writings* (1885 English; on point 1) “shall be taken where it grieves you to be: there the spiritual punishment, which is eternal, is undergone… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 23*

23 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 3) what reply is that righteous Judge and King represented as making to them? Depart from me into everlasting… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 24–29*

24 *Divine Institutes* 10 (1885 English; on point 2) “he who has contaminated himself, as the same writer says, with vices and crimes, and has been the slave of pleasure, he truly, being condemned, shall suffer eternal punishment, which… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Divine Institutes* 13 **Quote 3, page 2** “call that punishment the second death, and it is also everlasting, just as immortality is everlasting. We define the first death in this way: death is the breaking apart of… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *Divine Institutes* 11 (on point 2) “it the soul receives the divine and unspeakable fruits of its immortality, its death also must be eternal. In that death, it suffers unending punishments and endless torments for its… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Divine Institutes* 3 (1885 English; on point 2) “therefore speak better and more truly, who say that the two ways belong to heaven and hell, because immortality is promised to the righteous, and everlasting punishment is threatened to… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Divine Institutes* 13 (1885 English; on point 2) “the force of this is not that it altogether annihilates the souls of the unrighteous, but subjects them to everlasting punishment… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Divine Institutes* 4 (on point 2) in a changed and reversed order. In the one, He has first pointed out temporary evils followed by eternal goods, which is the better order. In the other, first temporary… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *109 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 22:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

32 **Exodus 22:8** But if the thief is not found, the master of the house shall come before God and swear that he has truly done no wrong in any part of his neighbor’s deposit, (Septuagint Exodus 22:7 (Exodus 22:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

33 **Leviticus 25:13** In the year of release, the year of its signal, each one shall return to his possession. **read ›**

34 **Leviticus 27:24** In the year of release the field shall be given back to the man from whom he bought it, to whom the possession of the land belonged. **read ›**

35 **Numbers 5:7** shall confess the sin that he has committed, and shall repay what he owes for the wrong: he shall repay the principal and add its fifth part to it, and shall repay it to the one against whom he trespassed. **read ›**

36 **1 Samuel 30:19** Nothing of theirs was missing, small or great, whether of the spoils, or of sons and daughters, or of anything that had been taken from them; David brought everything back. **read ›**

37 **2 Samuel 12:6** And he shall repay the female lamb sevenfold, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.” **read ›**

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38 **Job 20:18** He has labored for empty and vain things, for wealth that he shall not taste; it is like a tough mouthful that cannot be chewed or swallowed. **read ›**

39 **Proverbs 3:9** Honor the Lord from your righteous labors, and give him firstfruits from your fruits of righteousness, **read ›**

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

41 **Ecclesiastes 2:14** The wise man's eyes are in his head, but the fool walks in darkness; and I too knew that one event will happen to them all. **read ›**

42 **Ecclesiastes 9:16** And I said, "Wisdom is better than power"; yet the wisdom of the poor man is despised, and his words are not heard. **read ›**

43 **Isaiah 9:9** And all the people of Ephraim and those who dwell in Samaria will know, who say in arrogance and loftiness of heart, (Septuagint Isaiah 9:8 (Isaiah 9:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

44 **Isaiah 13:15** For whoever is caught will be overcome, and those who are gathered together will fall by the sword. **read ›**

45 **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 ›**

46 **Isaiah 34:10** and it will never be quenched, and her smoke will go up; through her generations she will be made desolate, **read ›**

47 **Isaiah 52:10** And the Lord shall reveal his holy arm before all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation that is from our God. **read ›**

48 **Jeremiah 30:3** For behold, days are coming, says the Lord, when I will bring back the exiles of my people Israel and Judah, said the Lord; and I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall be masters of it. (Septuagint Jeremiah 37:3 (Jeremiah 30:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

49 **Jeremiah 33:7** And I will bring back the exiles of Judah and the exiles of Israel, and I will build them up as before. (Septuagint Jeremiah 40:7 (Jeremiah 33:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

50 **Jeremiah 33:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

51 **Jeremiah 52:7** And the city was broken into, and all the men of war went out by night by way of the gate between the wall and the outer wall, which was by the king's garden—and the Chaldeans were all around the city—and they went by the way to the Arabah. **read ›**

52 **Lamentations 1:14** Nun. Watch has been kept over my ungodly deeds; they are twined together in my hands; they have come up upon my neck; my strength has failed; for the Lord has put pains in my hands; I shall not be able to stand. **read ›**

53 **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 ›**

54 **Joel 3:1** For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, (Septuagint Joel 4:1 (Joel 3:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

55 **Amos 3:4** Will a lion roar out of his forest when he has no prey? Will a lion's cub utter his voice out of his den at all, unless he has seized something? **read ›**

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

57 **Zephaniah 1:15** A mighty day of anger is that day, a day of trouble and distress, a day of calamity and desolation, a day of thick darkness and darkness, a day of cloud and mist, **read ›**

58 **Zechariah 9:12** You shall sit in strongholds, you prisoners of the congregation; and for one day of your life as foreigners I will repay you double; **read ›**

59 **1 Esdras 6:26** and that the holy vessels of the house of the Lord, of gold and of silver, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried out of the house in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, be restored to the house in Jerusalem, where they had been, to be placed there." **read ›**

60 **Wisdom of Solomon 1:14** For he created all things that they might exist, and the generations of the world are wholesome, and there is no poison of destruction in them, nor is the dominion of Hades on earth. **read ›**

61 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:4** For even if in the sight of men they are punished, their hope is full of immortality. **read ›**

62 **Wisdom of Solomon 9:18** And so the paths of those on earth were set right, and men were taught what pleases you, and were saved by wisdom." **read ›**

63 **Wisdom of Solomon 11:26** But you spare all things, because they are yours, O Master, lover of souls. **read ›**

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64 **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 ›**

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

66 **Baruch 4:35** For fire will come upon her from the Everlasting for many days, and she will be inhabited by demons for a long time. **read ›**

67 **1 Maccabees 3:9** His name became known to the end of the earth, and he gathered together those who were perishing. **read ›**

68 **1 Maccabees 4:11** Then all the nations will know that there is one who redeems and saves Israel." **read ›**

69 **2 Maccabees 2:14** In the same way Judas also collected everything that had been scattered because of the war that came upon us, and they are with us. **read ›**

70 **2 Maccabees 7:36** For our brothers, after enduring a brief pain, have now fallen under God's covenant of everlasting life; but you, by the judgment of God, will receive just penalties for your arrogance. **read ›**

71 **2 Maccabees 9:16** and the holy temple, which he had formerly plundered, he would adorn with the finest dedicated gifts; he would give back all the holy vessels many times over; and the expenses that fell due for the sacrifices he would provide from his own revenues; **read ›**

72 **3 Maccabees 5:51** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

73 **3 Maccabees 6:39** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

74 **3 Maccabees 7:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

75 **4 Maccabees 9:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

76 **4 Maccabees 12:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

77 **4 Maccabees 12:19** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

78 **4 Maccabees 13:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

79 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

80 **4 Maccabees 18:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

81 **1 Enoch 1:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

82 **1 Enoch 1:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

83 **1 Enoch 10:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

84 **1 Enoch 10:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

85 **1 Enoch 10:21** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

86 **1 Enoch 10:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

87 **1 Enoch 22:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

88 **1 Enoch 25:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

89 **1 Enoch 27:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

90 **1 Enoch 51:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

91 **1 Enoch 51:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

92 **1 Enoch 52:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

93 **1 Enoch 60:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

94 **1 Enoch 61:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

95 **1 Enoch 62:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

96 **1 Enoch 62:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

97 **1 Enoch 65:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

98 **1 Enoch 67:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

99 **1 Enoch 68:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

100 **1 Enoch 83:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

101 **1 Enoch 90:33** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

102 **1 Enoch 91:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

103 **1 Enoch 103:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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104 **1 Enoch 103:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

105 **1 Enoch 108:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

106 **Matthew 17:11** Jesus answered them, “Elijah indeed comes first, and will restore all things; **read ›**

107 **Matthew 25:41** Then he will say also to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels; **read ›**

108 **Matthew 25:46** These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” **read ›**

109 **Mark 9:44** where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched. **read ›**

110 **Mark 9:48** where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched. **read ›**

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

112 **Luke 3:6** And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” **read ›**

113 **Acts 3:21** whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things which God spoke of long ago through the mouth of all his holy prophets. **read ›**

114 **Acts 9:4** He fell on the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” **read ›**

115 **Acts 15:16** After these things I will return and rebuild the tabernacle of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins and raise it up, **read ›**

116 **Acts 15:17** that the remnant of men, and all the Gentiles upon whom my name is called, may seek earnestly the Lord, says the Lord who does all these things. **read ›**

117 **Acts 23:17** Paul summoned one of the centurions and said, “Bring this young man to the commanding officer, for he has something to tell him.” **read ›**

118 **Acts 24:15** having hope toward God, a hope these men themselves also hold, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the unrighteous. **read ›**

119 **Acts 26:19** Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, **read ›**

120 **Acts 28:28** Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear.” **read ›**

121 **Romans 5:18** So then, as through one trespass condemnation came to all people, so also through one righteous act justification of life came to all people. **read ›**

122 **Romans 8:21** that the creation itself also will be delivered from the slavery of decay into the liberty of the glory of the children of God. **read ›**

123 **Romans 10:13** For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. **read ›**

124 **Romans 11:26** and so all Israel will be saved. As it is written: The deliverer shall come out of Zion, and he shall turn ungodliness away from Jacob. **read ›**

125 **Romans 11:32** For God has bound all to disobedience, that he might have mercy on all. **read ›**

126 **1 Corinthians 15:22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. **read ›**

127 **1 Corinthians 15:28** When all things have been subjected to him, then the Son will also himself be subjected to him who subjected all things to him, that God may be all in all. **read ›**

128 **Ephesians 1:10** for an administration when the times reach their fullness, to sum up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth— **read ›**

129 **Colossians 1:20** and through him to reconcile all things to himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross—through him, whether things on earth or things in the heavens. **read ›**

130 **2 Thessalonians 1:9** who will pay the penalty of eternal destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, **read ›**

131 **1 Timothy 2:4** who desires all people to be saved and come to full knowledge of the truth. **read ›**

132 **1 Timothy 2:6** who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony at its proper times, **read ›**

133 **1 Timothy 4:10** For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we have set our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of the faithful. **read ›**

134 **Titus 2:11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, **read ›**

135 **2 Peter 3:13** But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. **read ›**

136 **Revelation 14:11** The smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever. They have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name. **read ›**

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137 **Revelation 20:10** The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet are also. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever. **read ›**

138 **Revelation 21:5** He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and trustworthy.” **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *45 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 3:19

Isaiah 65:17

Matthew 8:12 · 9:2 · 10:32 · 12:21 · 14:17 · 16:27 · 17:24 · 25:34 · 25:44 · 26:41 · 28:19

Mark 3:1

Luke 6:40 · 13:27 · 18:27 · 21:18 · 21:19 · 23:46

John 2:3 · 5:25 · 5:29 · 6:63 · 9:1 · 11:25 · 12:43 · 13:17

Acts 1:3 · 1:9

Romans 2:7 · 2:8 · 10:9 · 15:12

1 Corinthians 2:9 · 3:22 · 5:7

Ephesians 2:2

Philippians 2:13 · 3:19

1 Thessalonians 4:14 · 4:16 · 5:1

2 Timothy 3:6

Revelation 19:10

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 universal salvation?” on May 22, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY