THE QUESTION

Does Jesus allow Christians to fight back when they are attacked?

Asked by a THF member on May 18, 2026 · published November 9, 2026, updated November 11, 2026 · 9 numbered quotations · the 26 early Christian passages and 238 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/does-jesus-allow-christians-to-fight-back-when-they-are-attacked

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

Jesus told his followers not to strike back when wronged but to turn the other cheek, and at his arrest he told Peter to put away his sword. Early Christians took this as a real rule against payback. These passages do not settle every case of protecting a life.

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.
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POINT 1 OF 7

Jesus said not to return blow for blow

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

In Tatian's gospel harmony, Jesus sets the old rule of equal payback beside His own command (Matthew 5:38-39): do not stand against the evil person, and turn the other cheek. Origen says this command fits the older Scriptures even when it is taken literally, about a real blow to the face.

1 “You have heard that it was said, "Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth." But I say to you, do not stand in opposition to evil. But whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 9 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 9, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

2 “There is no disagreement, then, between the God of the Gospel and the God of the law, even when we take literally the command about a blow on the face.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 25 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 19, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Jesus stopped Peter's sword and healed the wound

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

When the disciples asked whether to fight and Peter cut off a servant's ear, Jesus told him to put the sword away and warned that all who take the sword die by it (Matthew 26:52; John 18:10-11). He said He could call on His Father for angels, but chose His cup. Then He healed the injured man.

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3 “When His disciples saw what was happening, they said, "Our Lord, shall we strike them with swords?"”

later in the same passage

“And Simon Cephas had a sword. He drew it, struck the servant of the chief priest, and cut off his right ear. The name of that servant was Malchus. Jesus said to Cephas, "The cup that my Father has given Me, shall I not drink it? Put the sword into its sheath, for all who take the sword shall die by the sword. Do you think that I am not able to ask My Father, and He will now send Me more than twelve tribes of angels? Then how should the Scriptures that were spoken be fulfilled, that it must be so?"”

later in the same passage

“And He touched the ear of the man who was struck and healed it.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 48 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 8, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 7

He gave Himself up and shielded His friends

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

Origen says Jesus was not captured against His will but let Himself be taken. He points out that Jesus asked the soldiers to let His disciples go, and told the one who struck with a sword to put it away.

4 “And when he adds, "he was taken prisoner," I would say that if being taken prisoner means an act done against one's will, then Jesus was not taken prisoner. For at the fitting time He did not prevent Himself from falling into the hands of men, as the Lamb of God, that He might take away the sin of the world.”

later in the same passage

“Jesus said to them, "I told you I am He; if then you seek Me, let these go away." Nay, even to the one who wished to help Him, and who struck the high priest's servant and cut off his ear, He said: "Put your sword into its sheath: for all who draw the sword shall perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot even now pray to My Father, and He will presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?"”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 10 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 17, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
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POINT 4 OF 7

Jesus also spoke of buying a sword

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

Earlier that night, Jesus told the disciples that whoever had no sword should sell his garment and buy one (Luke 22:36). He tied this to the Scripture that He would be counted with lawbreakers. When they showed Him two swords, He said they were enough (Luke 22:38). The passage does not explain what He meant.

5

“He said to them, "From now on, whoever has a purse, let him take it, and likewise a wallet also. And whoever does not have a sword should sell his garment and buy a sword for himself."”

later in the same passage

“His disciples said to him, "Our Lord, look, here are two swords." He said to them, "They are sufficient. Arise, let us go from here."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 46 (c. 150–180 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 7, page 7 Read it in the library ›

POINT 5 OF 7

Early teachers made the other cheek a rule

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

The Didache, a very early church manual, gives this teaching as part of the way of life: turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, give up your coat. Cyprian, in the 3rd century, lists the same duties and says they take patience and endurance.

6

“If someone strikes your right cheek, turn the other cheek to him also, and you will be perfect. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. If someone takes away your cloak, give him your coat also.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 1 (c. 50–120 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 1, page 6 Read it in the library ›

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7 “You should not demand your goods back when they are taken from you. When you are struck on one cheek, you should offer the other cheek to the one who strikes you. You should forgive a brother who sins against you, not only seven times, but seventy times seven times, and even more, all his sins altogether. You should love your enemies. You should pray for your adversaries and persecutors. Can you do these things unless you keep the firmness of patience and endurance?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) *THF's updated English* **Source 20, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 6 OF 7

Tertullian applied the sword warning to soldiering

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

Tertullian uses Jesus' warning that whoever uses the sword will perish by it to ask whether a Christian may make the sword his work. He reasons that a believer who does not even avenge his own wrongs should not inflict chains, prison and punishment on others.

8 “Should it be considered lawful to make an occupation of the sword, when the Lord declares that he who uses the sword shall perish by the sword? And should the son of peace take part in battle, when it does not become him even to sue at law? And should he apply the chain, the prison, the torture, and the punishment, when he is not even the avenger of his own wrongs?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *De Corona* 11 (c. 196–220 AD) *THF's updated English* **Source 13, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 7 OF 7

A later writer: Peter defended his Master

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

Chrysostom, writing in the late 4th century, asks how Peter, who was told not to strike, could use a sword. He answers that Peter was told not to defend himself, but here he was defending his Master. Even so, Jesus healed the servant and warned Peter that all who take the sword will perish by it.

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9 “But if you say, "How does the one who was forbidden even to strike with his hand become a killer?" The answer is that he had been commanded not to defend himself. But here he was not defending himself, but his Master. Besides, they were not yet perfect or complete.”

later in the same passage

“So He restored the servant's ear, and He said to Peter, "All who take the sword will perish by the sword,"”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **John Chrysostom,** *Homilies on John* 83 (c. 386–407 AD) **Source 26, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**

THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not directly say whether a Christian may use force to save his own life or a family member's life from a deadly attack.
- They do not explain what Jesus meant when He told the disciples to buy a sword before His arrest.
- Chrysostom separates defending oneself from defending another, but he does not say what force, if any, may be used to protect someone else.
- 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 26 early Christian passages and 238 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–26, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 27–150, in Bible order), then 114 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 *26 passages from 13 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 1 **Quote 6, page 4** “There is a great difference between these two ways. The way of life is this. First, you shall love God who made you. Second, you shall love your neighbor as… [continues online] **read ›**

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Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 2–3*

2 *Epistle to the Smyrnaeans* “In fact, he who is near to the sword is near to God… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Epistle to the Trallians* by the Jews, falsely so-called, and by Pilate the governor; was scourged, was struck on the cheek, was spat upon; He wore a crown of thorns and a purple… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · sources 4–5*

4 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 5) “rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing,” or blow for blow, or cursing for cursing, but being mindful of what the Lord said in His teaching: “Judge not, that… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 5) potentates, and princes, and for those that persecute and hate you… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 6*

6 *First Apology* (on point 5) “heavenly Father desires the repentance of the sinner more than their punishment. Regarding our love for all, He taught, “If you love those who love you, what new thing are… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 7–9*

7 *Diatessaron* 46 **Quote 5, page 4** “22:38 His disciples said to him, "Our Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Diatessaron* 48 **Quote 3, page 3** “His disciples saw what was happening, they said, "Our Lord, shall we strike them with swords?" And Simon Cephas had a sword. He drew it, struck the servant of the… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Diatessaron* 9 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** “whosoever smites you on your right 8 cheek, turn to him also the other… [continues online] **read ›**

Athenagoras, *c. 170–190 AD · sources 10–11*

10 *A Plea for the Christians* 1 (1885 English; on point 5) “we have learned, not only not to return blow for blow, nor to go to law with those who plunder and rob us, but to those who smite us on… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *A Plea for the Christians* 11 (on point 5) “to think of us as atheists. What, then, are the teachings in which we are raised? I say to you, "Love your enemies. Bless those who curse you. Pray for… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 12*

12 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English; on point 5) “not to love our neighbours only, but even our enemies… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 13–16*

13 *De Corona* 11 (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 5** “it be held lawful to make an occupation of the sword, when the Lord proclaims that he who uses the sword shall perish by the sword… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Against Marcion* 15 (on point 1) “that the same God should seem to require a tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye in return for an injury, and yet forbid not only all… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Against Marcion* 18 (on point 1) stripe for stripe. Exodus 21:24 This does not in any way permit people to injure each other in return. Rather, it is mainly a measure to restrain violence. For… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Against Marcion* 14 “10:34 If He is your Christ, then even He is a warrior… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 17–19*

17 *Against Celsus* 10 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** “even to Him who wished to help Him, and who smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear, He said: Put up your sword into its sheath… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Against Celsus* 61 (1885 English; on point 1) “these remarks it is evident, that when Jesus said coarsely, as Celsus terms it, To him who shall strike you on the one cheek, turn the other also… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Against Celsus* 25 **Quote 2, page 2** “for a tooth." On the other hand, we have read, "I say to you, whoever strikes you on one cheek, turn the other also to him." But there is good… [continues online] **read ›**

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Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 20–21*

20 *Treatises* **Quote 7, page 5** “goods back when they are taken from you. When you are struck on one cheek, you should offer the other cheek to the one who strikes you. You should forgive… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 5) “I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them which persecute you… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 22–23*

22 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) “first way, therefore, is the way of life, and it is this, which the law also commands: Love the Lord God with all your mind and with all your soul… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 5) that forbade revenge, now commands long-suffering… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · sources 24–25*

24 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 1) “as to His injunction, that a man, when struck on the one cheek, should offer the other also, that is the expression of goodness… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Disputation with Manes* 1 “Here, the Lord Jesus said, "I came to send a sword upon the earth," and to set a man at variance with… [continues online] **read ›**

John Chrysostom, *c. 386–407 AD · source 26*

26 *Homilies on John* 83 **Quote 9, page 6** “But if you say, "How does the one who was forbidden even to strike with his hand become a killer?" The answer is that he had been commanded not to defend himself. But here he was not defending himself, but his Master. Besides, they were not yet perfect or complete.” **read ›**

THE BIBLE *124 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

27 **Genesis 27:29** Let nations serve you, and let rulers bow down to you. Be lord over your brother, and the sons of your father shall bow down to you. Cursed is the one who curses you, and blessed is the one who blesses you.” **read ›**

28 **Genesis 27:40** By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother. But there shall be a time when you shall pull down and loosen his yoke from your neck.” **read ›**

29 **Exodus 20:15** You shall not steal. (Septuagint Exodus 20:14 (Exodus 20:15 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

30 **Exodus 21:24** eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, **read ›**

31 **Exodus 21:25** burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise. **read ›**

32 **Exodus 23:4** And if you meet your enemy’s ox or his beast of burden going astray, you shall turn them back and return them to him. **read ›**

33 **Exodus 38:3** He made all the furnishings of the altar, its fire pan, the base, the bowls, and the bronze flesh hooks. (Septuagint Exodus 38:23 (Exodus 38:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

34 **Leviticus 19:18** Your hand shall not take vengeance, and you shall not bear a grudge against the children of your people; but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord. **read ›**

35 **Leviticus 24:17** Whoever strikes a human being so that he dies, let him surely be put to death. **read ›**

36 **Leviticus 24:20** fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; as he has injured the man, so it shall be done to him. **read ›**

37 **Leviticus 24:21** Whoever strikes a man so that he dies, let him surely be put to death. **read ›**

38 **Numbers 22:6** Now then, come, curse this people for me, for it is stronger than we are; perhaps we shall be able to strike some of them, and I will drive them out of the land. For I know that those whom you bless are blessed, and those whom you curse are cursed.” **read ›**

39 **Deuteronomy 19:21** Your eye shall not spare him: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. **read ›**

40 **Deuteronomy 28:7** May the Lord your God deliver up your enemies who rise against you, crushed before your face; they shall come out against you one way, and they shall flee from before you seven ways. **read ›**

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41 **Deuteronomy 30:7** And the Lord your God shall put these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. **read ›**

42 **Deuteronomy 32:25** Outside, the sword shall leave them childless, and terror from the inner rooms; the young man with the virgin, the nursing child with the aged man. **read ›**

43 **Deuteronomy 33:11** Bless, O Lord, his strength, and accept the works of his hands; break the hips of the enemies who have risen against him, and let those who hate him not rise up. **read ›**

44 **Judges 3:16** Ehud made himself a two-edged dagger a span in length, and he strapped it on under his cloak on his right thigh. **read ›**

45 **1 Samuel 17:7** The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spearhead weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his armor-bearer went before him. **read ›**

46 **1 Samuel 21:8** And David said to Abimelech, "See whether there is a spear or a sword here under your hand, for I have not brought my sword or my equipment with me, because the king's business was urgent." (Septuagint 1 Kingdoms 21:9 (1 Samuel 21:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

47 **1 Samuel 21:9** The priest said, "Behold, the sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the Valley of Elah; it is wrapped in a cloak. If you will take it, take it for yourself, for there is no other here except this one." And David said, "See, there is none like it; give it to me." (Septuagint 1 Kingdoms 21:10 (1 Samuel 21:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

48 **1 Samuel 21:10** So he gave it to him. And David arose and fled that day from Saul, and David came to Achish king of Gath. (Septuagint 1 Kingdoms 21:11 (1 Samuel 21:10 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

49 **1 Samuel 24:20** And now, behold, I know that you shall surely reign, and the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. (Septuagint 1 Kingdoms 24:21 (1 Samuel 24:20 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

50 **1 Samuel 25:13** And David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword." And they went up after David, about four hundred men; and two hundred stayed with the baggage. **read ›**

51 **2 Samuel 20:8** They were at the great stone that is in Gibeon, and Amasa came before them. Joab was wearing a cloak as his garment, and over it he had strapped on a sword fastened at his waist in its sheath; and the sword came out—it came out and fell. **read ›**

52 **2 Samuel 23:10** He arose and struck down the Philistines until his hand was weary and his hand clung to the sword. And the Lord brought about a great salvation that day; and the people sat behind him, only to strip the slain. **read ›**

53 **1 Kings 3:24** And the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought the sword before the king. **read ›**

54 **1 Chronicles 21:27** And the Lord spoke to the angel; and he put the sword back into its sheath. **read ›**

55 **Ezra 4:23** Then the tribute collector of King Artaxerxes read it before Rehum the baltam and Shimshai the scribe and his fellow slaves; and they went in haste to Jerusalem and into Judah and stopped them with horses and force. **read ›**

56 **Esther 8:11** in which he commanded them to use their own laws in every city, and to come to their own aid, and to deal with their opponents and those who attacked them as they wished, **read ›**

57 **Job 16:9** Venting his wrath, he has cast me down; he has ground his teeth at me; the arrows of his raiders have fallen upon me. **read ›**

58 **Job 36:12** But he does not save the ungodly, because they are not willing to know the Lord, and because when corrected they would not listen. **read ›**

59 **Psalms 37:15** May their sword enter into their own heart, and may their bows be broken. (Septuagint Psalm 36:15 (Psalm 37:15 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

60 **Proverbs 3:11** Son, do not make light of the discipline of the Lord, nor lose heart when you are rebuked by him; **read ›**

61 **Proverbs 3:12** for whom the Lord loves he rebukes, and he whips every son whom he receives. **read ›**

62 **Proverbs 15:18** A hot-tempered man prepares quarrels, but he who is slow to anger calms even one that is coming. A man slow to anger will quench disputes, but the ungodly man rather stirs them up. **read ›**

63 **Song of Solomon 3:8** They all hold the sword, trained in war; each man has his sword upon his thigh because of terror by night. **read ›**

64 **Jeremiah 7:5** For if you truly set right your ways and your practices, and truly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor, **read ›**

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65 **Jeremiah 15:2** And it shall be, if they say to you, “Where shall we go?” then you shall say to them: Thus says the Lord: As many as are for death, to death; and as many as are for the sword, to the sword; and as many as are for famine, to famine; and as many as are for captivity, to captivity. **read ›**

66 **Jeremiah 16:13** And I will cast you out of this land into the land that neither you nor your fathers knew; and there you will serve other gods, who will show you no mercy. **read ›**

67 **Jeremiah 21:9** He who stays in this city will die by the sword and by famine; but he who goes out to desert to the Chaldeans who have shut you in will live, and his life will be his plunder, and he will live. **read ›**

68 **Jeremiah 33:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

69 **Jeremiah 34:2** “Thus said the Lord: Go to Zedekiah king of Judah and say to him, ‘Thus said the Lord: This city shall surely be handed over into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it and burn it with fire; (Septuagint Jeremiah 41:2 (Jeremiah 34:2 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

70 **Jeremiah 34:3** and you shall by no means escape from his hand, but you shall surely be taken and given into his hands; and your eyes shall see his eyes, and you shall go into Babylon.’ (Septuagint Jeremiah 41:3 (Jeremiah 34:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

71 **Jeremiah 36:22** The king was sitting in the winter house, and a brazier of fire was before him. (Septuagint Jeremiah 43:22 (Jeremiah 36:22 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

72 **Jeremiah 38:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

73 **Jeremiah 42:16** then it shall be that the sword which you fear shall find you in the land of Egypt, and the famine about which you are anxious shall overtake you, close behind you, in Egypt, and there you shall die. (Septuagint Jeremiah 49:16 (Jeremiah 42:16 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

74 **Lamentations 3:30** Yod. He will give his cheek to the one who strikes him; he will be filled with taunts. **read ›**

75 **Ezekiel 5:15** And you shall be groaned over and wretched among the nations around you, when I execute judgments in you in the vengeance of my wrath. I the Lord have spoken. **read ›**

76 **Ezekiel 7:15** War with the sword is outside, and famine and death inside; he who is in the field shall die by the sword, and famine and death shall bring to an end those in the city. **read ›**

77 **Ezekiel 20:24** because they did not do my ordinances, and rejected my statutes, and profaned my Sabbaths, and their eyes were after the imaginations of their fathers. **read ›**

78 **Ezekiel 21:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

79 **Daniel 11:17** And he shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and he shall make all things straight with him; and he shall give him a daughter of women to ruin her; but she shall by no means remain, and she shall not be his. **read ›**

80 **Amos 5:19** It is as if a man should flee from the face of a lion, and a bear meet him; and he should rush into his house and lean his hands on the wall, and a serpent bite him. **read ›**

81 **Nahum 3:2** The sound of whips, and the sound of rattling wheels, and of the pursuing horse, and of the bounding chariot, **read ›**

82 **1 Esdras 4:23** And a man takes his sword and goes out to travel and to rob and to steal, and to sail on the sea and on rivers; **read ›**

83 **Tobit 12:10** but those who sin are enemies of their own life. **read ›**

84 **Judith 16:9** Her sandal seized his eye, her beauty took his soul captive; the short sword passed through his neck. **read ›**

85 **Wisdom of Solomon 5:19** he will take holiness as an invincible shield, **read ›**

86 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:16** carrying your genuine command as a sharp sword, and standing, it filled all things with death; it touched heaven while standing on the earth. **read ›**

87 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:26** He who loves danger will fall into it; a hard heart will fare badly at the last. **read ›**

88 **Wisdom of Sirach 4:28** Contend for the truth even to death, and the Lord God will fight for you. **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Sirach 7:1** Do no evil, and evil will certainly not overtake you. **read ›**

90 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:11** Do not rise up from the presence of an arrogant man, lest he sit like an ambush for your mouth. **read ›**

91 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:6** Do not bear a grudge against your neighbor for every wrong, and do nothing at all by deeds of arrogance. **read ›**

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92 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:5** Do good to the lowly, and do not give to the ungodly; hold back his bread, and do not give it to him, lest by it he overpower you; for you will find twice as much evil for all the good you do him. **read ›**

93 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:9** In a man's good times his enemies are in sorrow, and in his bad times even a friend will part from him. **read ›**

94 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:16** The enemy will speak sweetly with his lips, but in his heart he will plan to throw you down into a pit; the enemy will weep with his eyes, but if he finds an opportunity, he will not be satisfied with blood. **read ›**

95 **Wisdom of Sirach 19:8** Whether to friend or to foe, do not tell it; and unless it would be a sin for you, do not reveal it. **read ›**

96 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:14** any calamity, but not calamity from those who hate; any vengeance, but not the vengeance of enemies. **read ›**

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

98 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:8** Keep away from quarrels, and you will lessen sins, for a hot-tempered man will kindle a quarrel. **read ›**

99 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:13** Curse the gossip and the double-tongued, for they have destroyed many who were at peace. **read ›**

100 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:18** Many have fallen by the edge of the sword, but not as many as those who have fallen because of the tongue. **read ›**

101 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:13** It will fight for you against the enemy, better than a mighty shield and better than a strong spear. **read ›**

102 **Wisdom of Sirach 32:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

103 **Wisdom of Sirach 36:14** Fill Zion, that it may praise your oracles highly, and fill your people with your glory. (Septuagint Wisdom of Sirach 36:19 (Wisdom of Sirach 36:14 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

104 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:15** He has a dagger in his right hand, and an axe; but he will not deliver himself from war and robbers. **read ›**

105 **1 Maccabees 3:11** When Judas learned of it, he went out to meet him, and he struck him and killed him; and many fell slain, and the rest fled. **read ›**

106 **1 Maccabees 3:12** He took their spoils, and Judas took the sword of Apollonius, and he fought with it all his days. **read ›**

107 **1 Maccabees 15:18** They brought a gold shield weighing a thousand minas. **read ›**

108 **2 Maccabees 5:25** When he arrived at Jerusalem, he pretended to be peaceful and waited until the holy day of the Sabbath; then, finding the Jews resting from work, he ordered his troops to parade under arms. **read ›**

109 **2 Maccabees 12:22** But when Judas' first company appeared, terror came upon the enemy, and fear from the manifestation of him who sees all things came upon them; they rushed into flight, carried this way and that, so that they were often hurt by their own men and pierced by the points of the swords. **read ›**

110 **2 Maccabees 14:41** When the troops were about to take the tower and were forcing the door of the courtyard, and were ordering fire to be brought and the doors to be set alight, being surrounded, he fell upon his sword, **read ›**

111 **2 Maccabees 14:42** preferring to die nobly rather than fall into the hands of the wicked wretches and be outraged in a way unworthy of his own noble birth. **read ›**

112 **2 Maccabees 15:15** And Jeremiah stretched out his right hand and handed Judas a golden sword, and as he gave it he addressed him thus: **read ›**

113 **2 Maccabees 15:16** "Take this holy sword, a gift from God, with which you will shatter the adversaries." **read ›**

114 **2 Maccabees 15:26** but those with Judas met the enemy with invocation and prayers. **read ›**

115 **3 Maccabees 3:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

116 **3 Maccabees 3:18** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

117 **4 Maccabees 6:21** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

118 **4 Maccabees 8:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

119 **1 Enoch 95:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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120 **Matthew 5:39** But I tell you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. **read ›**

121 **Matthew 5:40** If anyone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak also. **read ›**

122 **Matthew 5:41** Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. **read ›**

123 **Matthew 5:43** “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ **read ›**

124 **Matthew 5:44** But I tell you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you, **read ›**

125 **Matthew 26:51** Behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear. **read ›**

126 **Matthew 26:52** Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place, for all those who take the sword will die by the sword. **read ›**

127 **Mark 14:48** Jesus answered them, “Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to seize me? **read ›**

128 **Luke 6:27** But I tell you who hear: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **read ›**

129 **Luke 6:28** bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. **read ›**

130 **Luke 6:29** To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from him who takes your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. **read ›**

131 **Luke 6:35** But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing back; and your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind toward the unthankful and evil. **read ›**

132 **Luke 8:17** For nothing is hidden that will not be revealed, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light. **read ›**

133 **Luke 22:36** Then he said to them, “But now, let him who has a money bag take it, and likewise a bag; and he who has none shall sell his cloak and buy a sword. **read ›**

134 **Luke 22:38** They said, “Lord, behold, here are two swords.” He said to them, “That is enough.” **read ›**

135 **Luke 22:49** When those who were around him saw what was about to happen, they said to him, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” **read ›**

136 **Luke 22:52** Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and elders, who had come against him, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? **read ›**

137 **John 18:10** Simon Peter therefore, having a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. **read ›**

138 **John 18:11** Jesus therefore said to Peter, “Put the sword into its sheath. The cup which the Father has given me, shall I not surely drink it?” **read ›**

139 **Acts 1:20** “For it is written in the book of Psalms: Let his dwelling be made desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it; and: Let another take his office of overseer. **read ›**

140 **Acts 3:22** For Moses indeed said to the fathers, ‘The Lord our God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers; him you shall hear in everything he speaks to you. **read ›**

141 **Acts 13:15** After the reading of the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, speak.” **read ›**

142 **Romans 12:14** Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse. **read ›**

143 **Romans 12:17** Repay no one evil for evil. Take thought for what is good in the sight of all people. **read ›**

144 **2 Corinthians 4:9** pursued, yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; **read ›**

145 **2 Corinthians 5:9** Therefore also we make it our aim, whether at home or absent, to be well pleasing to him. **read ›**

146 **Galatians 1:15** But when it was the good pleasure of God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through his grace, **read ›**

147 **Ephesians 5:1** Be therefore imitators of God, as beloved children. **read ›**

148 **1 Peter 2:23** who, when reviled, did not revile in return; when suffering, he did not threaten, but entrusted himself to him who judges righteously; **read ›**

149 **1 Peter 3:9** not repaying evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but instead blessing, knowing that you were called to this so that you might inherit a blessing. **read ›**

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150 **Revelation 13:10** If anyone has captivity as his lot, he goes into it. If anyone kills with the sword, he must be killed with the sword. Here are the endurance and the faithfulness of the saints. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *114 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 6:1 · 9:5

Deuteronomy 30:15

Psalms 4:4

Proverbs 2:16

Isaiah 1:12 · 10:23 · 45:1

Jeremiah 21:8

Lamentations 3:27

Zechariah 7:10

Matthew 2:13 · 2:16 · 4:2 · 4:3 · 4:10 · 5:3 · 5:7 · 5:8 · 5:22 · 5:26 · 5:31 · 5:32 · 5:33 · 5:38 · 5:42 · 5:45 · 5:46 · 6:1 · 7:1 · 7:2 · 7:12 · 7:15 · 8:10 · 8:26 · 9:13 · 10:10 · 10:34 · 14:25 · 17:2 · 19:3 · 19:12 · 22:37 · 22:39 · 23:27 · 26:61 · 27:5

Mark 2:19 · 8:15 · 12:30 · 12:32 · 12:41

Luke 2:51 · 6:20 · 6:30 · 6:31 · 6:32 · 6:36 · 6:37 · 6:38 · 11:1 · 14:33 · 16:9 · 16:18 · 23:34

John 6:38 · 8:26 · 11:25 · 12:6 · 13:34 · 17:3 · 18:4 · 18:6

Acts 1:18 · 7:60 · 17:31 · 20:35

Romans 2:29 · 8:11 · 9:28 · 12:3 · 12:19 · 13:14

1 Corinthians 1:10 · 2:8 · 5:13 · 6:14 · 7:10 · 7:18 · 8:6 · 15:53

2 Corinthians 4:14 · 13:3

Galatians 1:1

Ephesians 2:2 · 4:3 · 4:26 · 6:14

Philippians 2:2 · 2:10 · 3:14 · 3:16

1 Timothy 2:2 · 6:10

Hebrews 4:15 · 10:30 · 10:33 · 13:20

1 Peter 1:13 · 1:21 · 2:11 · 3:13 · 3:22

Revelation 1:16

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

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Does Jesus allow Christians to fight back when they are attacked?” on May 18, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY