THE QUESTION

How did early Christians understand the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23:4)?

Asked by a THF member on June 14, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 11 numbered quotations · the 32 early Christian passages and 193 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/how-did-early-christians-understand-the-valley-of-the-shadow-of-death

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

The early writers read the psalms as the voice of the Holy Spirit and saw Christ as the Good Shepherd. Justin linked the rod and staff to Christ, and others taught that His light shines into the shadow of death. So believers in Christ need not fear dying.

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 8

The psalms speak with the Spirit's voice

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

Hippolytus treats the Book of Psalms as more than David's private poetry. He calls it the voice of the Holy Spirit, and he says the name Psalter reminds readers to look upward, where its music comes from.

1 “Therefore, so that those who understand this may be eager to carry out the comparison suggested by that name, and may also look upward, from where its melody comes, he has called it the Psalter.”

later in the same passage

“For it is completely the voice and utterance of the most Holy Spirit.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Exegetical Fragments* (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 18, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

The church sang Psalm 23 in worship

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

An early liturgy includes the opening words of this psalm. That shows the church used it in public prayer, not only as a private comfort.

2 “The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. In green pastures, and so on.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 17, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 8

Christ is the Shepherd who leads us

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

In the Gospel, Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd who gives Himself for the sheep. Clement of Alexandria says that Christ, the Word, is the Shepherd who cares for the little ones and leads them to salvation.

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3 “I am the good shepherd, and the good shepherd gives himself for his sheep.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 37 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 6, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

4 “By a metaphor taken from shepherds, who lead sheep, this means the Instructor who leads the children — the Shepherd who cares for the little ones.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Instructor* 1.7 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 12, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

Justin links the rod and staff to Christ

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

Justin lists Bible stories about rods and trees as signs pointing to Christ and His cross. Among them he names David's words that God comforted him with a rod and staff. So he reads this verse as part of a pattern that points ahead to Christ.

5 “Listen then to how this Man, who the Scriptures say will come again in glory after His crucifixion, was symbolized both by the tree of life said to have been planted in paradise and by events that would happen to all the righteous.”

later in the same passage

“David proclaims that God comforted him with a rod and staff.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *Dialogue with Trypho* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 4, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 8

We need the Shepherd most when weak

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

Clement lists the ways people need Jesus: the sick need a physician, the lost need a guide, and the dead need life. He says that sheep need a shepherd, which fits the psalm's picture of a sheep walking through danger.

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6 “When we have gone astray, we need someone to guide us. When we are blind, we need someone to lead us to the light.”

later in the same passage

“When we are dead, we need life. As sheep, we need a shepherd.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Instructor* 1.9 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 10, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

Christ's light has shone into death's shadow

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

Clement uses the same Bible phrase, the shadow of death, for life without God. He rejoices that Christ's light has broken into that darkness. The Gospel likewise speaks of light for those who sit in the shadow of death.

7 “For in us, buried in darkness, shut up in the shadow of death, light has shone forth from heaven, purer than the sun, sweeter than life here below.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Exhortation to the Heathen* 11 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 9, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

8 “To give light to those who sit in darkness and under the shadow of death”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 1 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 5, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 8

Believers in Christ need not fear dying

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

Writing while a deadly disease was spreading, Cyprian says the people who should fear death are those outside of Christ. Those who belong to Christ's cross can face death with an unshaken mind, much like the psalm's "I will fear no evil."

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9 “Certainly, the one who may fear to die is the one who, not having been regenerated by water and the Spirit, is handed over to the fires of Gehenna.”

later in the same passage

“He may fear to die who is not enlisted in the cross and passion of Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) *THF's updated English* **Source 27, page 7** Read it in the library ›

POINT 8 OF 8

Christ has destroyed death through resurrection

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

Gregory Thaumaturgus confesses that the Son gave His flesh to death and destroyed death by rising again. The Apostolic Constitutions add that God will raise us up through Christ, as He promised. For believers, death is not the end.

10 “And after giving up the flesh to death, He destroyed death through the resurrection, which looked to the resurrection of us all.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Gregory Thaumaturgus,** *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (c. 240–270 AD) *THF's updated English* **Source 25, page 7** Read it in the library ›

11 “For Almighty God Himself will raise us up through our Lord Jesus Christ, according to His infallible promise.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) *THF's updated English* **Source 28, page 7** Read it in the library ›

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- Only Justin touches this verse itself, and only its rod and staff; the other links to the verse are our reading.
- They do not say whether David first wrote the line about a battle, an illness or his own death.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

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WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 32 early Christian passages and 193 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–32, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 33–137, in Bible order), then 88 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 *32 passages from 16 writers*

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · source 1*

1 *Shepherd* "he said to me, "Do you see this shepherd?" I said, "I see him, sir." He answered, "This is the angel of luxury and deceit. He wears out the souls… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 2–4*

2 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 1) further convince you that you have misunderstood the Scriptures, I'll remind you of another psalm, inspired by the Holy Spirit and spoken to David, which you claim refers to… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 3) and His arm comes with authority. Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. As a shepherd He will tend His flock, and will gather the lambs… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** "affirms that God comforted him with a rod and staff… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 5–7*

5 *Diatessaron* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** "Luke 1:79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and under the shadow of death" **read ›**

6 *Diatessaron* 37 **Quote 3, page 3** But I came that they might have life, and that they might have the better thing. I am the good shepherd, and the good shepherd gives himself for his sheep… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Diatessaron* 6 (1885 English; on point 6) "those sitting in the region and in the shadow of death… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 8*

8 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English; on point 8) "He is on my right hand, lest I should be moved: therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 9–13*

9 *Exhortation to the Heathen* 11 **Quote 7, page 4** "in us, buried in darkness, shut up in the shadow of death, light has shone forth from heaven, purer than the sun, sweeter than life here below… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Instructor* 1.9 **Quote 6, page 4** "are the promises of the good Shepherd… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Instructor* 3.12 (on point 3) of untamed colts, Wing of birds that do not wander, sure Helm of babes, Shepherd of royal lambs, gather Your simple children to give holy praise, to sing hymns without… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Instructor* 1.7 **Quote 4, page 3** is called Jesus. Sometimes He calls Himself a shepherd and says, "I am the good Shepherd," in John 10:11. By a metaphor taken from shepherds, who lead sheep, this… [continues online] **read ›**

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13 *Instructor* 3.12 (1885 English; on point 3) “with wisdom tending Lambs of the royal flock: Your simple children bring In one, that they may sing In solemn lays Their hymns of praise With guileless lips to Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 14–16*

14 *Against Marcion* 7 (on point 6) “you who inhabit that land, sitting in the shadow of death, the light has arisen… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Against Marcion* 38 (1885 English; on point 7) “it is said in another Psalm, Precious (in the sight of the Lord) is the death of the just — arising, no doubt, out of their patient endurance, so that Zechariah… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Against Marcion* 8 (on point 8) the resurrection. Therefore, when the word written by the Creator shall then be fulfilled, "O death, where is your victory—or your struggle? O death, where is your sting?" 1… [continues online] **read ›**

Early Liturgies, *c. 200–400 AD · source 17*

17 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 **Quote 2, page 2** “The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. In green pastures, and so on” **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 18–20*

18 *Exegetical Fragments* **Quote 1, page 2** “why is it that even the simplest title is missing from them, such as one that says, "A psalm of David," or simply, "Of David," with nothing added? My view… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Exegetical Fragments* (on point 1) since, as we have already said, to do this for each psalm and to discover the reasons is very difficult, and too much for human nature to accomplish, we will… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 “the chambers of death mean either its depths or its treasure. How, then, is escape possible… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 21–23*

21 *Commentary on Matthew* 12 (1885 English) “one eats or tastes of death in proportion as the gates of Hades to a greater or less extent, more or fewer in number, prevail against him… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Commentary on Matthew* 12 (1885 English) “the Psalms, then, it is said, What man is he that shall live and not see death… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Commentary on John* 2 (on point 6) “David, placing his confidence in this light, says in the twenty-sixth Psalm, "The Lord is my illumination and my Saviour; whom shall I fear… [continues online] **read ›**

Dionysius of Alexandria, *c. 232–265 AD · source 24*

24 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 the Holy Scriptures, which show in many different ways the terrible misery of life, call it "a valley of weeping." And this world is especially a place of pain for… [continues online] **read ›**

Gregory Thaumaturgus, *c. 240–270 AD · source 25*

25 *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 10, page 5** “having given up the flesh to death, He destroyed death through the resurrection that had in view the resurrection of us all… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 26–27*

26 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 7) “in the cxvth Psalm is shown the price and the reward of suffering: Precious, it says, in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 5** “may fear to die, who from this death shall pass over to a second death… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · source 28*

28 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 11, page 5** this in the examples of Enoch and Elijah, while He did not allow them to have any experience of death. Or if it had pleased Him in every generation to… [continues online] **read ›**

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Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 29*

29 *Writings* (1885 English; on point 3) “upward your wild and roughened hearts. Enter steadfastly into the fold of your sylvan Shepherd, remaining safe from robbers under the royal roof… [continues online] **read ›**

Methodius, *c. 270–311 AD · source 30*

30 *Oration on the Psalms* 1 (1885 English; on point 3) “just as hunters take by a sheep the wolves that devour sheep, even so the Chief Shepherd, 1 Peter 5:4 offering Himself as man to the spiritual wolves and… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 31–32*

31 *Divine Institutes* 19 (on point 8) “says in the fifteenth Psalm, "You will not leave my soul in hell… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 47 (1885 English; on point 8) “in the xvth Psalm: You will not leave my soul in hell, neither will You suffer Your Holy One to see corruption… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *105 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

33 **Numbers 13:24** And they called that place the Valley of the Cluster, because of the cluster which the children of Israel cut down there. **read ›**

34 **1 Samuel 26:10** And David said, “As the Lord lives, unless the Lord strikes him, or his day comes and he dies, or he goes down into battle and is gathered— **read ›**

35 **1 Samuel 27:1** David said in his heart, “Now I shall be handed over one day into the hands of Saul. There is nothing good for me unless I escape into the land of the Philistines and Saul gives up seeking me in all the territory of Israel; so I shall escape out of his hand.” **read ›**

36 **2 Samuel 12:22** David said, “While the child was still alive I fasted and wept, for I said, ‘Who knows whether the Lord will have mercy on me, and the child will live?’ **read ›**

37 **2 Samuel 22:1** David spoke to the Lord the words of this song on the day when the Lord rescued him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. **read ›**

38 **2 Samuel 22:6** The pains of death encircled me; the hardships of death overtook me. **read ›**

39 **2 Samuel 23:1** Faithful is David the son of Jesse, and faithful the man whom the Lord raised up to be the anointed of the God of Jacob, and beautiful are the psalms of Israel. **read ›**

40 **2 Samuel 24:17** When David saw the angel striking the people, he spoke to the Lord and said, “Behold, it is I who have done wrong; but these, the sheep — what have they done? Let your hand be against me and against my father’s house.” **read ›**

41 **Job 2:8** And he took a piece of broken pottery to scrape away the discharge, and he sat on the dunghill outside the city. **read ›**

42 **Job 3:5** But may darkness and the shadow of death seize it; may thick darkness come upon it. **read ›**

43 **Job 10:11** You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and tendons. **read ›**

44 **Job 10:21** before I go where I shall not return, to a land of darkness and gloom, **read ›**

45 **Job 10:22** to a land of everlasting darkness, where there is no light, nor can one see the life of mortals.’” **read ›**

46 **Job 12:22** He uncovers deep things out of darkness, and he has brought the shadow of death out into light. **read ›**

47 **Job 24:17** For the morning is to them all as the shadow of death, for each will know the terror of the shadow of death. **read ›**

48 **Job 38:17** Do the gates of death open to you in fear, and did the gatekeepers of Hades cower when they saw you? **read ›**

49 **Psalms 18:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

50 **Psalms 18:5** The pains of Hades surrounded me; the traps of death overtook me. (Septuagint Psalm 17:6 (Psalm 18:5 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

51 **Psalms 18:50** He magnifies the acts of salvation of his king, and shows mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed forever. (Septuagint Psalm 17:51 (Psalm 18:50 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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52 **Psalms 23:1** A Psalm of David. The Lord shepherds me, and I shall lack nothing. (Septuagint Psalm 22:1 (Psalm 23:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

53 **Psalms 23:2** In a place of green pasture, there he has made me dwell; by the water of rest he has nourished me. (Septuagint Psalm 22:2 (Psalm 23:2 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

54 **Psalms 23:4** For even if I walk in the midst of the shadow of death, I will not fear evils, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, these have comforted me. (Septuagint Psalm 22:4 (Psalm 23:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

55 **Psalms 23:6** And your mercy shall pursue me all the days of my life, and my dwelling in the house of the Lord shall be for length of days. (Septuagint Psalm 22:6 (Psalm 23:6 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

56 **Psalms 30:9** What profit is there in my blood, when I go down into corruption? Will the dust give thanks to you? Or will it declare your truth? (Septuagint Psalm 29:10 (Psalm 30:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

57 **Psalms 44:19** For you have humbled us in a place of misery, and the shadow of death has covered us. (Septuagint Psalm 43:20 (Psalm 44:19 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

58 **Psalms 49:14** Like sheep they were laid in Hades; death will shepherd them; and the upright will have dominion over them in the morning, and their help will grow old in Hades, away from their glory. (Septuagint Psalm 48:15 (Psalm 49:14 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

59 **Psalms 56:13** For you have delivered my soul from death, and my feet from slipping, that I may be well-pleasing before God in the light of the living. (Septuagint Psalm 55:14 (Psalm 56:13 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

60 **Psalms 65:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

61 **Psalms 65:13** The rams of the flock have been clothed, and the valleys will be full of grain; they will cry aloud, yes, they will sing hymns. (Septuagint Psalm 64:14 (Psalm 65:13 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

62 **Psalms 80:1** O Shepherd of Israel, pay attention, you who guide Joseph like sheep; you who sit upon the cherubim, show yourself (Septuagint Psalm 79:2 (Psalm 80:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

63 **Psalms 84:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

64 **Psalms 89:48** What man is there who will live and not see death? Will he deliver his soul from the hand of Hades? Pause. (Septuagint Psalm 88:49 (Psalm 89:48 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

65 **Psalms 116:3** The pains of death surrounded me, the dangers of Hades found me; I found trouble and sorrow. (Septuagint Psalm 114:3 (Psalm 116:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

66 **Psalms 132:1** A Song of the Steps. Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness, (Septuagint Psalm 131:1 (Psalm 132:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

67 **Psalms 142:3** When my spirit was failing within me, then you knew my paths; in the very way in which I was walking they hid a trap for me. (Septuagint Psalm 141:4 (Psalm 142:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

68 **Psalms 143:3** For the enemy has persecuted my soul; he has brought my life down to the ground; he has made me sit in dark places like those long dead, (Septuagint Psalm 142:3 (Psalm 143:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

69 **Psalms 144:10** to him who gives salvation to kings, who redeems David his slave from the evil sword. (Septuagint Psalm 143:10 (Psalm 144:10 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

70 **Ecclesiastes 7:29** Only, see, this I have found: that God made man upright, but they have sought out many reasonings. Who knows the wise? And who knows the interpretation of a saying? **read ›**

71 **Isaiah 9:2** O people walking in darkness, behold a great light! You who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, a light will shine upon you. (Septuagint Isaiah 9:1 (Isaiah 9:2 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

72 **Jeremiah 4:1** If Israel returns to me, says the Lord, he shall return; and if he removes his abominations from his mouth, and is reverent before my face, **read ›**

73 **Jeremiah 5:1** Run about in the streets of Jerusalem, and see and know, and seek in her squares, if you can find whether there is one who does judgment and seeks faithfulness; and I will be gracious to them, says the Lord. **read ›**

74 **Jeremiah 6:1** Gather strength, O children of Benjamin, out of the midst of Jerusalem, and sound the trumpet in Tekoa, and raise a sign over Beth-haccherem; for evils have looked out from the north, and great destruction is coming. **read ›**

75 **Jeremiah 8:1** At that time, says the Lord, they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of its rulers, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of those who dwell in Jerusalem, out of their tombs; **read ›**

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76 **Jeremiah 9:1** Who will give water to my head, and a fountain of tears to my eyes? And I will weep for this my people day and night, for the wounded of the daughter of my people. (Septuagint Jeremiah 8:23 (Jeremiah 9:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

77 **Jeremiah 10:1** Hear the word of the Lord which he has spoken to you, O house of Israel. **read ›**

78 **Jeremiah 11:1** The word that came from the Lord to Jeremiah, saying, **read ›**

79 **Jeremiah 13:16** Give glory to the Lord your God before it grows dark, and before your feet stumble on the dark mountains; and you will wait for light, and there is the shadow of death, and they will be put into darkness. **read ›**

80 **Jeremiah 14:1** And the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah concerning the drought. **read ›**

81 **Jeremiah 17:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

82 **Jeremiah 18:1** The word that came from the Lord to Jeremiah, saying, **read ›**

83 **Jeremiah 19:1** Then the Lord said to me: Go and buy a potter’s clay jar, and take some of the elders of the people and of the priests, **read ›**

84 **Jeremiah 20:1** And Pashhur son of Immer, the priest—he had been appointed leader of the house of the Lord—heard Jeremiah prophesying these words. **read ›**

85 **Jeremiah 21:1** The word that came from the Lord to Jeremiah, when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur son of Malchiah, and Zephaniah son of Basaias, the priest, saying, **read ›**

86 **Jeremiah 22:1** Thus says the Lord: Go and go down to the house of the king of Judah, and you shall speak this word there, **read ›**

87 **Jeremiah 22:2** and you shall say: Hear the word of the Lord, O king of Judah, who sit on the throne of David, you and your house and your people, and those who go in through these gates. **read ›**

88 **Jeremiah 22:4** For if you indeed carry out this word, then kings sitting on the throne of David will enter through the gates of this house, riding on chariots and horses, they and their servants and their people. **read ›**

89 **Jeremiah 26:1** In the beginning of the reign of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah, this word came from the Lord: (Septuagint Jeremiah 33:1 (Jeremiah 26:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

90 **Jeremiah 27:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

91 **Jeremiah 29:1** And these are the words of the book that Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the elders of the exile, and to the priests, and to the false prophets—a letter to Babylon for the exiles—and to all the people, (Septuagint Jeremiah 36:1 (Jeremiah 29:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

92 **Jeremiah 30:1** The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying: (Septuagint Jeremiah 37:1 (Jeremiah 30:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

93 **Jeremiah 31:40** and all Asaremoth as far as Nachal Kidron, as far as the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be a sanctuary to the Lord; and it shall never fail, and it shall never be pulled down. (Septuagint Jeremiah 38:40 (Jeremiah 31:40 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

94 **Jeremiah 35:1** The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the days of Jehoiakim king of Judah, saying, (Septuagint Jeremiah 42:1 (Jeremiah 35:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

95 **Jeremiah 37:1** Zedekiah the son of Josiah reigned in place of Jehoiakim, whom Nebuchadnezzar made king to reign over Judah. (Septuagint Jeremiah 44:1 (Jeremiah 37:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

96 **Jeremiah 39:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

97 **Jeremiah 40:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

98 **Jeremiah 50:1** The word of the Lord which he spoke against Babylon. (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:1 (Jeremiah 50:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

99 **Jeremiah 51:1** Thus says the Lord: Behold, I am stirring up a scorching, destroying wind against Babylon and against the Chaldeans who dwell there. (Septuagint Jeremiah 28:1 (Jeremiah 51:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

100 **Jeremiah 52:1** Zedekiah was in his twenty-first year when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem; and his mother’s name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah, from Libnah. **read ›**

101 **Ezekiel 3:5** For you are not being sent to a people of obscure speech, but to the house of Israel; **read ›**

102 **Ezekiel 12:22** “Son of man, what is this parable of yours in the land of Israel, saying, ‘The days are long; vision has perished’? **read ›**

103 **Ezekiel 24:17** You shall groan for blood, a mourning of the loins; your hair shall not be bound up on you, and your sandals shall be on your feet; you shall by no means be comforted by their lips, and you shall by no means eat the bread of men. **read ›**

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104 **Ezekiel 28:3** Are you wiser than Daniel? Or did the wise not instruct you in their knowledge? **read ›**

105 **Ezekiel 31:17** For they too went down with it to Hades among those slain by the sword, and its seed, those who dwelt under its shelter, perished in the midst of their life. **read ›**

106 **Ezekiel 35:8** and I will fill your hills and your ravines with the slain, and those slain by the sword shall fall in you, in all your plains. **read ›**

107 **Ezekiel 38:17** Thus says the Lord God to Gog: You are he of whom I spoke in former days by the hand of my slaves the prophets of Israel, in those days and years, that I would bring you up against them. **read ›**

108 **Micah 7:14** Shepherd your people with your rod, the sheep of your inheritance, dwelling by themselves in a forest in the midst of Carmel; they will graze the land of Bashan and the land of Gilead, as in the days of old. **read ›**

109 **Judith 2:8** and their wounded shall fill their ravines and their brooks, and an overflowing river shall be filled with their dead; **read ›**

110 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:23** For when the dead had already fallen on one another in heaps, he stood between and cut back the anger, and barred its way to the living. **read ›**

111 **Wisdom of Solomon 19:5** and that your people might pass through on an incredible journey, but that they might meet a strange death. **read ›**

112 **Wisdom of Sirach 9:13** Keep far from a man who has power to kill, and you will certainly not suspect the fear of death; and if you approach him, do not trespass, lest he take away your life; know that you are passing through the midst of traps, and walking on the battlements of cities. **read ›**

113 **Wisdom of Sirach 14:12** Remember that death will not delay, and the covenant of Hades has not been shown to you. **read ›**

114 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:21** Its death is an evil death, and Hades is better than it. **read ›**

115 **Wisdom of Sirach 40:9** Death and bloodshed and conflict and sword, calamities, famine and ruin and the lash, **read ›**

116 **Wisdom of Sirach 41:3** Do not dread the judgment of death; remember those before you and those after; this is the judgment from the Lord for all flesh. **read ›**

117 **Baruch 3:11** that you are counted with those in Hades? **read ›**

118 **2 Maccabees 7:29** Do not fear this executioner, but prove worthy of your brothers and accept death, so that in mercy I may receive you back again with your brothers." **read ›**

119 **4 Maccabees 18:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

120 **1 Enoch 17:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

121 **1 Enoch 26:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

122 **1 Enoch 26:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

123 **1 Enoch 27:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

124 **1 Enoch 53:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

125 **1 Enoch 54:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

126 **1 Enoch 56:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

127 **1 Enoch 69:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

128 **1 Enoch 94:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

129 **1 Enoch 102:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

130 **Matthew 4:16** the people who sat in darkness saw a great light; to those who sat in the region and shadow of death, to them light has dawned." **read ›**

131 **Luke 11:3** Give us day by day our daily bread. **read ›**

132 **Acts 2:29** Brothers, I may speak freely to you about the patriarch David: he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **read ›**

133 **Acts 9:1** But Saul, still breathing threats and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest **read ›**

134 **Acts 10:29** Therefore I came without objection when summoned. So I ask, why did you send for me?" **read ›**

135 **Acts 13:34** And concerning his raising him from the dead, never to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way: I will give you the holy things of David that are sure. **read ›**

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136 **Romans 9:20** But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed ask him who formed it, “Why did you make me like this?” **read ›**

137 **1 Corinthians 3:11** For no one can lay another foundation besides the one laid, which is Jesus Christ. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *88 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 1:1

1 Kings 6:17

2 Kings 6:4

Psalms 19:10 · 72:1

Proverbs 7:26

Lamentations 1:1

Ezekiel 34:2

Matthew 3:12 · 4:14 · 5:17 · 12:29 · 15:24 · 15:26 · 16:28 · 18:20 · 22:30 · 24:13

Mark 3:1 · 9:1 · 10:52

Luke 3:1 · 3:17 · 4:16 · 4:32 · 4:33 · 9:27 · 10:34 · 17:2 · 20:36 · 21:8 · 21:9 · 21:12 · 21:16 · 21:18 · 21:19 · 21:20 · 21:25

John 3:14 · 4:13 · 4:14 · 5:16 · 5:25 · 6:33 · 10:11 · 10:14 · 10:16 · 11:25 · 14:6

Romans 6:12 · 8:8 · 8:17 · 13:3

1 Corinthians 1:21 · 15:26 · 15:29 · 15:35 · 15:37 · 15:38 · 15:39 · 15:42 · 15:44 · 15:45 · 15:46 · 15:47 · 15:49 · 15:50 · 15:52 · 15:53 · 15:55

Galatians 4:16 · 5:19

Ephesians 2:20 · 4:5 · 4:6 · 5:14

Philippians 3:20

Colossians 3:3

Hebrews 2:11 · 6:4 · 10:26 · 12:15

1 Peter 5:4

1 John 3:14 · 5:16

Revelation 3:1 · 6:10 · 14:8

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

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “How did early Christians understand the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23:4)?” on June 14, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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 above, 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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THE END OF THIS STUDY