THE QUESTION

How should we view the Shepherd of Hermas and its teaching on repentance after baptism?

Asked by a THF member on May 5, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 11 numbered quotations · the 47 early Christian passages and 281 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/how-should-we-view-the-shepherd-of-hermas-and-its-teaching-on-repentance

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

These passages do not settle whether the Shepherd is Scripture. Origen drew teaching from it while noting some despised it, and Clement of Alexandria repeated its teaching. Its one repentance after baptism is a merciful second chance, not a license for repeated sin. Early writers also said claimed prophets must be tested by their ways.

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

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POINT 1 OF 8

Hermas presents his book as angelic revelation

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

The book tells how a shepherd, sent by an angel, came to live with Hermas and ordered him to write down commandments and parables. Later the book says the Spirit who spoke in the form of the Church was the Son of God.

1 “I have been sent by a most venerable angel to live with you for the rest of your life.””

later in the same passage

“First of all, then, write down my commandments and similitudes, and you will write the other things as I show you.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 9, page 7** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

2 “I want to explain to you what the Holy Spirit showed you when he spoke with you in the form of the Church, because that Spirit is the Son of God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 6, page 7** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

Origen used it, though some despised it

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

Origen draws a lesson about how to read Scripture from the Shepherd, while admitting that some people looked down on the book. This shows it was valued by some teachers but not accepted by everyone.

3 “And therefore we deduce this also from a book that is despised by some, The Shepherd, in respect of the command given to Hermas to write two books, and after doing so, to announce to the presbyters of the Church what he had learned from the Spirit.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 4.1 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 32, page 8** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

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POINT 3 OF 8

Baptism should end a life of sin

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

Hermas agrees with teachers who said the main repentance happens at baptism, when former sins are forgiven. The goal for the baptized is to stop sinning and live in purity, not to plan on later forgiveness.

4 “Sir, I heard some teachers say that there is no repentance except the one that happens when we go down into the water and receive forgiveness of our former sins.”"

later in the same passage

“For the person who has received forgiveness of sins ought not to sin anymore, but to live in purity.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 4, page 6 Read it in the library ›

POINT 4 OF 8

God in mercy gave one more repentance

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

This explains the seeming contradiction. Because the Lord knew human weakness and the devil's tricks, He mercifully appointed one more repentance for believers who fall. What the Shepherd warns against is sinning again and again and repenting each time.

5 “Therefore the Lord, being merciful, had mercy on the work of His hand and appointed repentance for them.”

later in the same passage

“But if he sins often after this and then repents, that man's repentance will do him no good, for he will scarcely live.”"

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 4, page 6 Read it in the library ›

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POINT 5 OF 8

Clement of Alexandria taught the same second repentance

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

Clement repeats the Shepherd's teaching in his own words. He calls it a second repentance for believers who fall, and warns that endless cycles of sinning and repenting look little different from unbelief.

6

"Therefore, since He is very merciful, He has granted, in the case of those who, though in faith, fall into some transgression, a second repentance."

later in the same passage

"But repeated and continual acts of repentance for sins are no different from the case of those who have not believed at all, except only in their awareness that they are sinning."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 2.13 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 19, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

Repentance stays open to sincere hearts

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

Elsewhere the Shepherd keeps calling sinners to repent. It says God gives the power to repent to those whose hearts will become pure and obedient, and that even some who denied the Lord still have repentance in their power.

7

"To those whose heart He saw would become pure and obedient to Him, He gave power to repent with the whole heart."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 2, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

8

"Therefore, these people have repentance in their power, unless they are found to have denied from the heart."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 10, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 7 OF 8

Cyprian defended pardon for the fallen

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

Cyprian was amazed that some would refuse repentance to the lapsed, believers who had fallen away. He points out that the Lord would not call people to repent unless He promised mercy to them.

9

"But I am amazed that some are so stubborn that they think repentance should not be granted to the lapsed, or that pardon should be denied to those who repent, when it is written, "Remember from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the first works,""

later in the same passage

"Certainly the Lord would not urge them to repent unless He promised mercy to those who repent."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 37, page 8 Read it in the library ›

POINT 8 OF 8

Claimed prophets must be tested

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

The Didache says a prophet is known by his ways, and a teacher who brings another doctrine must not be heard. Hippolytus faults a group who accepted new prophecies without testing them and claimed to learn more than the Law, the Prophets and the Gospels.

10

"But not everyone who speaks in the Spirit is a prophet. Only the one who has the ways of the Lord is a prophet. Therefore, the false prophet and the true prophet will be known by their ways."

later in the same passage

"But if the teacher himself turns away and teaches another doctrine that destroys this teaching, do not listen to him."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 11 (c. 50–120 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 1, page 6 Read it in the library ›

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11 “And they claim that through these women they have learned something more than from the Law, the Prophets, and the Gospels.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Refutation of All Heresies* 12 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 30, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not say whether the church counted the Shepherd as Scripture.
- They do not say how Paul would have judged Hermas or his book.
- 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 47 early Christian passages and 281 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–47, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 48–205, in Bible order), then 123 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 *47 passages from 18 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 11 **Quote 10, page 5** things that were said before, receive him. But if the teacher himself turns away and teaches another doctrine that destroys this teaching, do not listen to him. But if he… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 2–11*

2 *Shepherd* **Quote 7, page 4** the Shepherd had examined all their branches, he said to me, "I told you that this tree was tenacious of life. You see," he continued, "how many repented and were… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 1) “the writing was to this effect: Your seed, O Hermas, has sinned against God, and they have blasphemed against the Lord, and in their great wickedness they have betrayed their… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Shepherd* **Quotes 4, 5, page 3** my questions." He said, "Go on." And I said, "Sir, I heard some teachers say that there is no repentance except the one that happens when we go down into… [continues online] **read ›**

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5 *Shepherd* (on point 1) robe, with a book in her hand. She sat down by herself and greeted me, saying, "Greetings, Hermas!" In my sadness and tears, I said to her, "Lady, greetings!" And… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Shepherd* (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** "I had written down the commandments and similitudes of the Shepherd, the angel of repentance, he came to me and said, I wish to explain to you what the Holy… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 1) "I had fully written down this book, that messenger who had delivered me to the Shepherd came into the house in which I was, and sat down upon a couch… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Shepherd* (on point 1) giving them clothing and seals. Now after the angel had finished these things, he said to the Shepherd, "I am going away, and you will send these away within the… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Shepherd* (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** "this purpose, said he, I command you to write down the commandments and similitudes first, that you may read them easily, and be able to keep them… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Shepherd* **Quote 8, page 4** useless to their Lord because they have taken on savage habits. Therefore, these people have repentance in their power, unless they are found to have denied from the heart. But… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 6) "these therefore repent, they will live unto God… [continues online] **read ›**

Papias, *c. 95–130 AD · source 12*

12 *Fragments* (1885 English) "regard to the inspiration of the book (Revelation), we deem it superfluous to add another word… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · source 13*

13 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (1885 English; on point 8) "be not deceived. If any man follows him that separates from the truth, he shall not inherit the kingdom of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · source 14*

14 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English) be ye then moderate in regard to this matter, and "do not count such as enemies… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 15–16*

15 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 3) "reason, therefore, of this laver of repentance and knowledge of God, which has been ordained on account of the transgression of God's people, as Isaiah cries, we have believed… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 8) I replied, "The fact that there are such men confessing themselves to be Christians, and admitting the crucified Jesus to be both Lord and Christ, yet not teaching His doctrines… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 17–18*

17 *Against Heresies: Book III* is not possible for the Gospels to be more or fewer in number than they are. Since there are four zones of the world we live in and four principal… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Against Heresies: Book III* (on point 8) these points, all who distort the shape of the Gospel are vain, ignorant, and also bold; those, I mean, who portray the aspects of the Gospel as being either more… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 19–25*

19 *Stromata* 2.13 **Quote 6, page 4** "who has received forgiveness of sins ought not to sin anymore. For besides the first and only repentance from sins, which is from the sins of the former life, the… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 39 (1885 English; on point 6) "should happen, either from ignorance or involuntary circumstances, after the seal and redemption, to fall into sins or transgressions so as to be quite carried away… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Instructor* 1.6 (on point 3) human faith and divine grace, our transgressions being taken away by one Paeonian medicine, the baptism of the Word. We are washed from all our sins and are no longer… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Stromata* 2.13 (on point 5) forgiveness of sins once. But if someone sins after this, then even if he receives pardon when he repents, he ought to be afraid, because he is no longer being… [continues online] **read ›**

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23 *Stromata* 1.17 (1885 English; on point 8) “the Shepherd, the angel of repentance, says to Hermas, of the false prophet: For he speaks some truths… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Stromata* 2.3 (1885 English; on point 5) “what place is there any longer for the repentance of him who was once an unbeliever, through which comes forgiveness of sins… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Stromata* 6.15 (1885 English; on point 1) “not the Power also, that appeared to Hermas in the Vision, in the form of the Church, give for transcription the book which she wished to be made known to… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 26–28*

26 *Against Marcion* 40 (on point 8) he added immediately afterward, "Though an angel from heaven preach any other gospel, let him be accursed," Galatians 1:8, because he knew that the Creator was going to introduce… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *On Prescription Against Heretics* 6 (on point 8) “therefore, even an angel from heaven should preach any other gospel than theirs, he would be called accursed by us… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *De Anima (On the Soul)* 47 (1885 English) “from God — who has promised, indeed, to pour out the grace of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh, and has ordained that His servants and His handmaids should see visions… [continues online] **read ›**

Caius, *c. 200–220 AD · source 29*

29 *Fragments* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “Pastor, moreover, did Hermas write very recently in our times in the city of Rome, while his brother bishop Plus sat in the chair of the Church of Rome… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · source 30*

30 *Refutation of All Heresies* 12 **Quote 11, page 6** there are others who are even more heretical by nature than those mentioned before, and they are Phrygians by birth. These people were led into error because they had first… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 31–33*

31 *Commentary on John* 6 (on point 3) repentance,” teaching that the benefit of baptism is connected with the intention of the person baptized. To him who repents it is salutary, but to him who comes to it… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 4.1 (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 2** “therefore we deduce this also from a book which is despised by some — The Shepherd— in respect of the command given to Hermas to write two books, and after so… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 4.1 (on point 2) “these are the words that are written: "And you will write," he says, "two books… [continues online] **read ›**

Dionysius of Alexandria, *c. 232–265 AD · sources 34–36*

34 *Miscellaneous Fragments* 1 “us his name, either as speaking about himself directly in the first person, or as being named by another in the third person. But the writer of Revelation presents himself… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Exegetical Fragments* 3 (1885 English) “Paul says: A man that is an heretic, after the first and second admonition, reject. Titus 3:10… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *Epistles and Epistolary Fragments* (1885 English; on point 8) “received this vision as being what was in accordance with the apostolic word, which thus urges all who are endowed with greater virtue, Be skilful money-changers… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 37–38*

37 *Epistles* **Quote 9, page 5** I am amazed that some are so stubborn that they think repentance should not be granted to the lapsed, or that pardon should be denied to those who repent, when… [continues online] **read ›**

38 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 4) “because in baptism remission of sins is granted once for all, constant and ceaseless labour, following the likeness of baptism, once again bestows the mercy of God… [continues online] **read ›**

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Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 39–41*

39 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 6) “do we also permit such as these to enter only to hear, until they show the fruit of repentance, that by hearing the word they may not utterly and irrecoverably… [continues online] **read ›**

40 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 6) who have not sinned, so that they may remain innocent; and those who do sin, so that they may repent. For the Lord says this to you: "Take heed that… [continues online] **read ›**

41 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 4) “he who sins after his baptism, unless he repent and forsake his sins, shall be condemned to hell-fire… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 42*

42 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 8) “if he that comes preaches another Christ, whom we have not preached, or if you receive another Spirit, which we have not received, or another gospel, which you have not… [continues online] **read ›**

Peter of Alexandria, *c. 300–311 AD · sources 43–46*

43 *Canonical Epistle* (on point 7) because they delayed carrying out their ministerial duties; and if, in the opinion of this divine father, nothing else is objected to them except that they deserted the brothers when… [continues online] **read ›**

44 *Canonical Epistle* (on point 7) of God through the prayers of others. Therefore we will pray for them, that God may grant them forgiveness of their sins. And with the others who have fallen away… [continues online] **read ›**

45 *Canonical Epistle* (on point 7) they would have shown a most complete repentance. Therefore, the subject covered in this canon is different from that in the first canon. There, those who had lapsed because of… [continues online] **read ›**

46 *Canonical Epistle* (on point 7) These canons deal with those who, during the persecution, denied the faith and are doing penance. The first canon orders that those who, after many tortures, sacrificed to the gods… [continues online] **read ›**

Anonymous · *source 47*

47 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (on point 6) “reason cut off from salvation. Rather, whenever they came to a right mind, they obtained through repentance a sound hope of salvation, especially when they received the Holy Spirit, by… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *158 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

48 **Genesis 8:6** After forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made. **read ›**

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

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

51 **Numbers 12:6** And he said to them, “Hear my words: If there is a prophet of the Lord among you, I will make myself known to him in a vision, and I will speak to him in sleep. **read ›**

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

53 **Numbers 24:16** he who hears the oracles of God, who knows knowledge from the Most High, and has seen a vision of God in sleep, with his eyes uncovered: **read ›**

54 **Numbers 27:16** “Let the Lord God of the spirits and of all flesh select a man over this congregation, **read ›**

55 **1 Kings 13:30** and they mourned for him, “Alas, brother!” **read ›**

56 **2 Chronicles 30:19** “May the good Lord be merciful toward every heart that is directed to seek the Lord God of their fathers, though not according to the purity of the sanctuary.” **read ›**

57 **Psalms 8:4** What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you visit him? (Septuagint Psalm 8:5 (Psalm 8:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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58 **Proverbs 14:19** The evil will fall before the good, and the ungodly will wait at the doors of the righteous. **read ›**

59 **Proverbs 29:18** There shall never be an interpreter for a lawless nation, but he who keeps the law is blessed. **read ›**

60 **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 ›**

61 **Ecclesiastes 10:4** If the spirit of the one in power rises up against you, do not leave your place; for healing will put an end to great sins. **read ›**

62 **Isaiah 13:9** For behold, the day of the Lord is coming, incurable, a day of wrath and anger, to make the world a desert and to destroy the sinners out of it. **read ›**

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

64 **Isaiah 13:18** They will shatter the arrows of the young men, and they will have no mercy at all on your children, nor will their eyes spare your children. **read ›**

65 **Isaiah 14:3** And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will give you rest from your anguish and your anger, and from your hard slavery, in which you served them. **read ›**

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

67 **Lamentations 1:8** Heth. Jerusalem has sinned a sin; therefore she has become a thing tossed about; all who honored her have humbled her, for they have seen her shame; and she herself groaned and turned backward. **read ›**

68 **Ezekiel 13:9** And I will stretch out my hand against the prophets who see false things and who utter empty things; they shall not be in the instruction of my people, nor shall they be written in the record of the house of Israel, and they shall not enter the land of Israel; and they shall know that I am the Lord. **read ›**

69 **Ezekiel 13:16** the prophets of Israel, who prophesy concerning Jerusalem and see peace for her, and there is no peace, says the Lord. **read ›**

70 **Ezekiel 31:3** Behold, Asshur was a cypress in Lebanon, beautiful in its shoots and lofty in stature; its top was among the clouds. **read ›**

71 **Daniel 5:11** There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the Spirit of God; and in the days of your father watchfulness and understanding were found in him; and King Nebuchadnezzar your father appointed him chief of the enchanters, magicians, Chaldeans, and gazarenes, **read ›**

72 **Amos 2:13** Therefore, behold, I am rolling beneath you, as a wagon full of straw is rolled. **read ›**

73 **Obadiah 1:1** The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord God to Idumea: I have heard a report from the Lord, and he has sent out a summons to siege among the nations: “Arise, and let us rise up against her to war.” **read ›**

74 **Micah 3:7** And those who see dreams will be put to shame, and the fortune-tellers will be laughed to scorn; and they all will speak against them, because there will be no one to answer them. **read ›**

75 **Micah 6:3** O my people, what have I done to you? Or how have I grieved you? Or how have I troubled you? Answer me. **read ›**

76 **Nahum 3:6** And I will cast abominable filth upon you according to your unclean deeds, and I will make you an example. **read ›**

77 **Nahum 3:7** And it will come to pass that all who see you will go down from you and say, “Wretched Nineveh! Who will mourn for her? From where shall I seek comfort for her?” **read ›**

78 **Habakkuk 2:2** Then the Lord answered me and said, “Write the vision, and that plainly, on a tablet, so that the one who reads it may run. **read ›**

79 **Zephaniah 1:1** The word of the Lord which came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah. **read ›**

80 **Malachi 2:2** If you will not listen, and if you will not lay it to your heart to give glory to my name, says the Lord Almighty, I will send the curse upon you, and I will curse your blessing; yes, I will curse it; and I will scatter your blessing, and it shall not be among you, because you do not lay it to your heart. **read ›**

81 **Tobit 8:4** And when the two had been shut in together, Tobias rose from the bed and said, “Sister, get up, and let us pray that the Lord may have mercy on us.” **read ›**

82 **Wisdom of Solomon 2:13** He professes to have knowledge of God, and calls himself the child of the Lord. **read ›**

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83 **Wisdom of Solomon 7:27** Though she is one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God and prophets. **read ›**

84 **Wisdom of Solomon 10:10** When a righteous man fled from his brother's anger, she guided him in straight paths; she showed him the kingdom of God, and gave him knowledge of holy things; she prospered him in his toils, and multiplied his labors. **read ›**

85 **Wisdom of Sirach 1:1** Since many great things have been given to us through the Law and the Prophets and the others who followed after them, for which Israel ought to be praised for its instruction and wisdom; and since not only must those who read become knowledgeable themselves, but lovers of learning must also be able to be of use to those outside, both by speaking and by writing: my grandfather Jesus, having given himself more and more to the reading of the Law and the Prophets and the other books of our fathers, and having gained considerable skill in them, was himself also led to write something pertaining to instruction and wisdom, so that lovers of learning, having become devoted to these things as well, might make still greater progress by living according to the law. You are urged, therefore, to read with goodwill and attention, and to be forgiving wherever, despite our diligent labor in translating, we may seem to fall short in some of the expressions; for what is said in Hebrew does not have the same force when it is brought over into another language. And not only these things, but the Law itself and the prophecies and the rest of the books differ not a little when they are spoken in their own language. For in the thirty-eighth year, in the reign of King Euergetes, having come into Egypt and stayed there some time, I found a copy of no small instruction; and I myself thought it most necessary to apply some diligence and labor to the translation of this book, bringing much watchfulness and skill to it in that space of time, in order to complete the book and publish it also for those living abroad who wish to love learning, preparing their character beforehand to live according to the law. All wisdom is from the Lord, and is with him forever. **read ›**

86 **Wisdom of Sirach 4:26** Do not be ashamed to confess your sins, and do not force the current of a river. **read ›**

87 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:5** Do not insult a man who turns from sin; remember that we are all under penalty. **read ›**

88 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:20** Among brothers their leader is honored, and those who fear the Lord in his eyes. **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:24** Yet to those who repent he has granted a way back, and he has encouraged those whose endurance was failing. **read ›**

90 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:25** Turn back to the Lord and forsake your sins; make your prayer before his face and lessen your offense. **read ›**

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

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

93 **Wisdom of Sirach 49:8** Ezekiel saw the vision of glory, which was shown him above the chariot of the cherubim. **read ›**

94 **Wisdom of Sirach 50:27** Jesus the son of Sirach of Jerusalem has engraved in this book instruction in understanding and knowledge, he who poured forth wisdom from his heart. **read ›**

95 **Baruch 1:5** And they wept and fasted and prayed before the Lord. **read ›**

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

97 **Baruch 4:1** This is the book of the statutes of God and the law that endures forever. All who hold fast to her will come to life, but those who forsake her will die. **read ›**

98 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:1** A copy of a letter which Jeremiah sent to those who were to be led captive to Babylon by the king of the Babylonians, to declare it to them as he had been commanded by God. **read ›**

99 **1 Maccabees 2:65** And behold, Simeon your brother—I know that he is a man of counsel; listen to him always; he shall be a father to you. **read ›**

100 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

101 **2 Maccabees 3:34** And you, having been flogged by him, report the mighty power of God to all." And when they had said this, they vanished. **read ›**

102 **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 ›**

103 **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 ›**

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104 **2 Maccabees 8:29** When they had done this, they made a common plea and begged the merciful Lord to be fully reconciled with his slaves. **read ›**

105 **2 Maccabees 10:4** When they had done this, they fell on their faces and begged the Lord that they might never again fall into such evils, but that if they should ever sin, they might be disciplined by him with gentleness, and not be handed over to blasphemous and barbaric nations. **read ›**

106 **2 Maccabees 12:42** and they turned to pleading, asking that the sin that had been committed might be wholly blotted out. And the noble Judas urged the multitude to keep themselves free from sin, since they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. **read ›**

107 **3 Maccabees 2:24** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

108 **3 Maccabees 5:51** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

109 **4 Maccabees 9:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

110 **4 Maccabees 12:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

111 **4 Maccabees 13:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

112 **4 Maccabees 13:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

113 **4 Maccabees 13:18** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

114 **4 Maccabees 13:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

115 **4 Maccabees 14:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

116 **1 Enoch 1:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

117 **1 Enoch 1:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

118 **1 Enoch 1:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

119 **1 Enoch 13:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

120 **1 Enoch 13:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

121 **1 Enoch 13:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

122 **1 Enoch 13:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

123 **1 Enoch 14:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

124 **1 Enoch 14:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

125 **1 Enoch 14:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

126 **1 Enoch 22:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

127 **1 Enoch 27:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

128 **1 Enoch 39:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

129 **1 Enoch 46:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

130 **1 Enoch 64:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

131 **1 Enoch 65:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

132 **1 Enoch 65:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

133 **1 Enoch 71:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

134 **1 Enoch 83:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

135 **1 Enoch 87:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

136 **1 Enoch 89:68** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

137 **1 Enoch 89:70** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

138 **1 Enoch 89:76** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

139 **1 Enoch 89:77** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

140 **1 Enoch 90:19** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

141 **1 Enoch 90:42** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

142 **1 Enoch 92:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

143 **1 Enoch 93:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

144 **1 Enoch 93:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

145 **1 Enoch 94:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

146 **1 Enoch 95:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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147 **1 Enoch 95:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

148 **1 Enoch 98:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

149 **1 Enoch 99:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

150 **1 Enoch 104:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

151 **1 Enoch 108:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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

153 **Matthew 18:15** "If your brother sins against you, go, show him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained back your brother. **read ›**

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

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

156 **Luke 17:4** If he sins against you seven times in the day, and seven times returns, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him." **read ›**

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

158 **Acts 3:19** Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, **read ›**

159 **Acts 8:22** Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to God that perhaps the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. **read ›**

160 **Acts 9:15** But the Lord said to him, "Go your way, for he is my chosen vessel to bear my name before the nations and kings, and the children of Israel. **read ›**

161 **Acts 13:24** after John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to Israel before Jesus' coming. **read ›**

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

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

164 **Acts 28:8** Publius's father lay sick with fevers and dysentery. Paul went in to him, prayed, laid his hands on him, and healed him. **read ›**

165 **Romans 1:2** which he promised before through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, **read ›**

166 **Romans 16:17** Now I beg you, brothers, look out for those who are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and turn away from them. **read ›**

167 **1 Corinthians 1:5** that in everything you were enriched in him, in all speech and all knowledge, **read ›**

168 **1 Corinthians 1:17** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be emptied of its power. **read ›**

169 **1 Corinthians 4:1** Let a man regard us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. **read ›**

170 **1 Corinthians 5:11** But now I have written to you not to associate with anyone called a brother who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; not even to eat with such a person. **read ›**

171 **1 Corinthians 11:19** For there also must be factions among you, that those who are approved may be revealed among you. **read ›**

172 **1 Corinthians 14:37** If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things I write to you are commandments of the Lord. **read ›**

173 **2 Corinthians 11:4** For if someone comes and preaches another Jesus whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit which you did not receive, or a different gospel which you did not accept, you bear with it well enough. **read ›**

174 **Galatians 1:1** Paul, an apostle—not from men, nor through man, but through Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— **read ›**

175 **Galatians 1:6** I marvel that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ for a different gospel, **read ›**

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176 **Galatians 1:7** which is not another gospel; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. **read ›**

177 **Galatians 1:8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach to you a gospel other than what we preached to you, let him be cursed. **read ›**

178 **Galatians 1:9** As we have said before, so I now say again: if anyone preaches to you a gospel other than what you received, let him be cursed. **read ›**

179 **Galatians 1:11** But I make known to you, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not according to man. **read ›**

180 **Galatians 1:12** For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came to me through revelation of Jesus Christ. **read ›**

181 **Galatians 2:2** I went up by revelation, and I laid before them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately before those who were respected, for fear that I might be running, or had run, in vain. **read ›**

182 **Philippians 2:28** So I have sent him the more eagerly, so that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. **read ›**

183 **Philippians 4:5** Let your gentleness be known to all people. The Lord is near. **read ›**

184 **2 Thessalonians 2:15** So then, brothers, stand firm and hold the traditions which you were taught by us, whether by word or by letter. **read ›**

185 **2 Thessalonians 3:6** Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to withdraw from every brother who walks in a disorderly way and not according to the tradition which they received from us. **read ›**

186 **2 Thessalonians 3:15** Do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. **read ›**

187 **1 Timothy 6:3** If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not consent to sound words, the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness, **read ›**

188 **2 Timothy 3:16** Every Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **read ›**

189 **Titus 3:10** Reject a divisive man after a first and second warning, **read ›**

190 **Hebrews 6:6** and fell away, to be renewed again to repentance, since they crucify the Son of God again for themselves and expose him to public shame. **read ›**

191 **Hebrews 13:9** Do not be carried away by various and strange teachings, for it is good that the heart be established by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited. **read ›**

192 **Hebrews 13:22** But I exhort you, brothers, endure the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words. **read ›**

193 **1 Peter 5:12** Through Silvanus, the faithful brother as I consider him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand. **read ›**

194 **2 Peter 1:20** knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation. **read ›**

195 **2 Peter 1:21** For no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

196 **2 Peter 2:1** But false prophets also arose among the people, as false teachers will also be among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master who bought them, bringing on themselves swift destruction. **read ›**

197 **2 Peter 3:2** so that you remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, **read ›**

198 **1 John 2:10** He who loves his brother remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in him. **read ›**

199 **1 John 4:1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. **read ›**

200 **Revelation 1:1** The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his slaves the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his slave John, **read ›**

201 **Revelation 1:2** who testified to the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, to everything he saw. **read ›**

202 **Revelation 1:3** Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things that are written in it, for the time is near. **read ›**

203 **Revelation 1:19** Therefore write the things you have seen, the things that are, and the things that are to take place after these. **read ›**

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204 **Revelation 10:8** The voice I had heard from heaven spoke with me again and said, “Go, take the little book that lies open in the hand of the angel standing on the sea and on the land.” **read ›**

205 **Revelation 22:6** He said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord God of the spirits of the prophets sent his angel to show his slaves what must soon take place.” **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *123 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 · 9:18

Exodus 32:34

Deuteronomy 32:10 · 32:23

Psalms 1:3 · 18:26

Proverbs 11:5

Song of Solomon 2:16

Isaiah 1:18 · 46:12

Jeremiah 1:5 · 2:13 · 5:8 · 23:21

Ezekiel 18:20 · 18:23 · 47:1

Daniel 2:1 · 7:22

Hosea 6:6

Joel 2:28

Matthew 6:14 · 7:15 · 9:13 · 9:29 · 10:33 · 10:39 · 10:40 · 12:31 · 18:10 · 18:17 · 18:22 · 19:17 · 24:11

Mark 3:29 · 9:50 · 14:27

Luke 3:13 · 7:37 · 10:21 · 11:13 · 12:48 · 14:11 · 14:26 · 15:4 · 15:10 · 16:16

John 1:3 · 1:13 · 1:17 · 1:26 · 3:9 · 3:29 · 3:36 · 6:40 · 14:15 · 14:16 · 16:14 · 19:34

Acts 4:12 · 6:1 · 14:4 · 15:5 · 16:4 · 19:2

Romans 2:4 · 8:5 · 9:1 · 11:16 · 11:17 · 12:12 · 15:18 · 16:7

1 Corinthians 1:3 · 6:2 · 12:3 · 12:13 · 12:26 · 13:11 · 14:2 · 14:20 · 15:3 · 15:5 · 15:9 · 15:11

2 Corinthians 5:17 · 11:3 · 11:14 · 12:8

Galatians 1:19 · 2:17 · 3:23 · 3:26 · 3:28 · 4:7 · 5:20

Ephesians 1:13 · 3:8 · 4:4 · 4:30 · 5:5 · 5:8

Philippians 1:5

1 Thessalonians 2:6 · 5:22

2 Thessalonians 2:3

Titus 3:11

Hebrews 6:4 · 10:1 · 10:26 · 10:39 · 12:16

James 1:12

1 John 3:9

Revelation 2:17 · 3:4 · 3:12 · 5:8 · 7:9 · 8:3 · 19:8 · 21:12

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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 should we view the Shepherd of Hermas and its teaching on repentance after baptism?” on May 5, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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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