THE QUESTION

# What did the early Christians believe about apostasy?

*Asked by a THF member on May 22, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 14 numbered quotations · the 28 early Christian passages and 174 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.*

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-christians-believe-about-apostasy

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

The early Christians taught that real believers can fall away from the faith, as Judas did. They saw apostasy as a free choice to leave God, often driven by pride, wealth or false teaching. Repentance stayed open to those who returned quickly, but those who never repented were counted as lost.

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| **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 8

## Even close followers can turn away

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

Alexander grieves over teachers who once learned the church's doctrine and then went back, and he points to Judas, who followed the Savior and later became an apostate. Cyprian likewise notes that the Lord chose Judas among the apostles, yet Judas betrayed Him.

**1** “Before them, Judas also did, who, though he followed the Savior, afterward became a traitor and an apostate.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Alexander of Alexandria,** *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 (c. 313–328 AD) *THF's updated English*

**Source 27, page 8** Read it in the library ›

**2** “For the Lord also chose Judas among the apostles, and yet afterward Judas betrayed the Lord.”

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

**Source 25, page 8** Read it in the library ›

POINT 2 OF 8

## Falling away is a free choice

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

Justin says eternal fire awaits the one who turned from God of his own will and all who stay in apostasy without repenting. Cyprian notes that Jesus did not force His disciples to stay, but let each person choose life or death.

**3** “But after the coming of the Lord, understanding clearly from the teachings of Christ and His apostles that eternal fire was prepared for him who voluntarily turned from God, and for all who, without repentance, persist in apostasy, then, through a man of this sort, he, as if already condemned, blasphemes that God who judges him, and attributes the sin of his apostasy to his Maker, instead of to his own will and preference.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *Other Fragments from the Lost Writings of Justin* (c. 130–165 AD) *THF's updated English*

**Source 8, page 7** Read it in the library ›

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**4** “Clearly, He was observing the law by which a man, left to his own liberty and established in his own choice, desires for himself either death or salvation.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 23, page 8** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

POINT 3 OF 8

## Leaving God means losing life and light

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

Irenaeus teaches that God gives communion with Himself to those who keep loving Him. Those who choose to leave Him receive the separation they chose. He compares it to people who blind themselves: the light did not harm them, but they lose its good.

**5** “But to those who choose to depart from God, He enforces the separation they have willingly chosen. Separation from God is death, and separation from light is darkness; it means losing all the benefits He offers.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book V* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 10, page 7** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

POINT 4 OF 8

## Wealth and worldly desire pull believers away

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

Hermas describes faithful people who grew rich and important among unbelievers, became proud, and drifted from the truth. Second Clement warns that setting our hearts on the things of this world turns us off the path of righteousness.

**6** “But after they gained wealth and became important among the heathen, they dressed themselves in great pride and became arrogant.”

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

**7** “For if we desire to possess them, we fall away from the path of righteousness.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *Second Epistle* 5 (c. 88–99 AD) **Source 1, page 6** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

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POINT 5 OF 8

## Pride and restless seeking lead people astray

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

Irenaeus warns that people puffed up by a claim to special knowledge fall away from God's love. Tertullian says that a believer who keeps hunting for some new truth after believing has either never truly believed or has stopped believing.

**8** “He did not mean to criticize a true knowledge of God, for then he would be accusing himself; rather, he knew that some, inflated by the pretense of knowledge, fall away from the love of God and mistakenly see themselves as perfect, claiming an imperfect Creator.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book II* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 11, page 7** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

**9** “If I desert my faith in this way, I am found to be one who denies it.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Prescription Against Heretics* 11 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 18, page 7** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

POINT 6 OF 8

## Repentance stays open for those who return

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

Hermas says that for those who wavered, repentance is still open, but they must repent quickly. Ignatius tells the church to welcome with tenderness those who repent and return to its unity, so they may escape the devil's snare.

**10** “Therefore, for those who were in doubt because of their deeds, repentance is still open. But their repentance ought to be quick, so that their dwelling may be in the tower.”

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

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**11** “I therefore exhort you in the Lord to receive with all tenderness those that repent and return to the unity of the Church, that through your kindness and patience they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, and becoming worthy of Jesus Christ, may obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (c. 98–117 AD)
*THF's updated English*

**Source 7, page 7** Read it in the library ›

POINT 7 OF 8

## Those who never repent are finally lost

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

In Hermas's vision, the withered branches stand for apostates and traitors who blasphemed the Lord and were ashamed of His name. None of them repented, even after hearing the call, and in the end they were lost to God.

**12** “Those whose branches were found withered and moth-eaten are the apostates and traitors of the Church, who have blasphemed the Lord in their sins, and have also been ashamed of the name of the Lord by which they were called.”

*later in the same passage*

“These, therefore, in the end were lost to God.”

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

**Source 5, page 6** Read it in the library ›

POINT 8 OF 8

## One person's fall does not topple the faithful

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

Cyprian says Judas's betrayal did not weaken the faith of the other apostles. Clement of Alexandria, reading John's words about those who went out, says the apostle separates those who remain in faith from those who do not.

**13** “But because the traitor Judas fell away from their fellowship, the faith and firmness of the apostles did not fail on that account.”

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

**Source 25, page 8** Read it in the library ›

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**14** “With enough clarity, he distinguishes the group of the elect from the group of the lost, and he also distinguishes the one that remains in faith and has an anointing from the Holy One, which comes through faith.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Fragments* 1 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 14, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

THE LIMITS

## What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not settle whether every kind of falling away can be forgiven.
- They do not give one fixed rule for how the church received returning apostates.
- 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 28 early Christian passages and 174 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–28, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 29–135, in Bible order), then 67 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 *28 passages from 13 writers*

**Clement of Rome**, *c. 88–99 AD · source 1*

**1** *Second Epistle* 5 **Quote 7, page 3** “if we desire to possess them, we fall away from the path of righteousness… [continues online] **read ›**

**Hermas**, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 2–6*

**2** *Shepherd* (1885 English) **Quotes 6, 10, pages 3, 4** “did not, however, depart from God, but remained in the faith, although not working the works of faith… [continues online] **read ›**

**3** *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 7) “some of them at last fell away: these, accordingly, have not repentance, for on account of their business they blasphemed the Lord, and denied Him… [continues online] **read ›**

**4** *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 7) those which fell into the fire and were burned are those who have departed for ever from the living God… [continues online] **read ›**

**5** *Shepherd* (1885 English) **Quote 12, page 5** “answered, To them whose heart He saw would become pure, and obedient to Him, He gave power to repent with the whole heart… [continues online] **read ›**

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**6** *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 6) any one is tempted by the devil, and sins after that great and holy calling in which the Lord has called His people to everlasting life, he has opportunity to… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Ignatius of Antioch**, *c. 98–117 AD · source 7*

**7** *Epistle to the Philadelphians* **Quote 11, page 5** "as many as fall away from him and embrace communion with the accursed, these shall be cut off along with them… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Justin Martyr**, *c. 130–165 AD · source 8*

**8** *Other Fragments from the Lost Writings of Justin* **Quote 3, page 2** "him by the prophets in parables and allegories. But after the coming of the Lord, understanding clearly from the teachings of Christ and His apostles that eternal fire was prepared… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Irenaeus**, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 9–12*

**9** *Against Heresies: Book V* (on point 7) because it was hidden in parables and allegories; but after the Lord's appearance, when he clearly learned from the words of Christ and His apostles that eternal fire has… [continues online] **read ›**

**10** *Against Heresies: Book V* (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** "therefore, who cast away by apostasy these forementioned things, being in fact destitute of all good, do experience every kind of punishment… [continues online] **read ›**

**11** *Against Heresies: Book II* (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** "that he should search after no other knowledge except [the knowledge of] Jesus Christ the Son of God, who was crucified for us, than that by subtle questions and hair… [continues online] **read ›**

**12** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English; on point 2) "when they have apostatized and fallen into transgression, they are ascribed to their chief, the devil—to him who first became the cause of apostasy to himself, and afterwards to… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Clement of Alexandria**, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 13–15*

**13** *Stromata* 2.6 (on point 5) "some, having put away concerning faith, have made shipwreck," 1 Timothy 1:18-19, because by unbelief they defiled the conscience that comes from God. Accordingly, faith may no longer… [continues online] **read ›**

**14** *Fragments* 1 **Quote 14, page 6** "19. They went out from us, but they were not of us… [continues online] **read ›**

**15** *Stromata* 7.16 (1885 English; on point 5) "in consequence of not learning the mysteries of ecclesiastical knowledge, and not having capacity for the grandeur of the truth, too indolent to descend to the bottom of things, reading… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Tertullian**, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 16–18*

**16** *Apology* 2 holding our crimes proved by our confession of the name of Christ, you drive us by torture to fall from our confession, so that, by rejecting the name, we may… [continues online] **read ›**

**17** *Scorpiace* 9 ago, alas, we shuddered at the struggle carried on in this way by some people with their whole faith, which had had favorable omens. Therefore it will be useless to… [continues online] **read ›**

**18** *On Prescription Against Heretics* 11 (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** "I thus desert my faith, I am found to be a denier thereof… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Origen**, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 19–20*

**19** *Commentary on John* 1 with sin to whom He, that is reason, has not fully come. But those are guilty, if they sin, who, after sharing in Him, act against the ideas by which… [continues online] **read ›**

**20** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 2 (1885 English; on point 5) "us notice next, how men fall away into the sin of false knowledge, or with what object the opposing powers are wont to stir up conflict with us regarding such… [continues online] **read ›**

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**Gregory Thaumaturgus**, *c. 240–270 AD · sources 21–22*

**21** *Metaphrase of Ecclesiastes* 8 (1885 English) “if once the impious man fall away from Him, he shall not be suffered long to misuse his own folly… [continues online] **read ›**

**22** *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (1885 English) “has fallen away into the worship of the creature, he has taken up the impiety of the Greeks, to that he has gone back… [continues online] **read ›**

**Cyprian**, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 23–25*

**23** *Epistles* **Quote 4, page 3** “John 2:19. Paul also warns us, when evil men perish out of the Church, not to be disturbed, nor to let our faith be lessened by the departure of… [continues online] **read ›**

**24** *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 1) “they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery… [continues online] **read ›**

**25** *Treatises* **Quotes 2, 13, pages 2, 5** “been broken. The blessed Apostle Paul speaks this way in his epistle: “For what if some of them fall away from the faith? Shall their unbelief make the faith of… [continues online] **read ›**

**Archelaus**, *c. 270–300 AD · source 26*

**26** *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 5) elect vessel, has given us very clear warning when he says, "Now in the last times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of… [continues online] **read ›**

**Alexander of Alexandria**, *c. 313–328 AD · source 27*

**27** *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** “21:8 Paul, too, having learned these things from the Saviour, wrote, In the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of… [continues online] **read ›**

**Anonymous** · *source 28*

**28** *Treatise Against the Heretic Novatian* 1 (1885 English; on point 6) “do we doubt but that deserters of the Church who have become apostates could now easily be converted into gold, but it must be that gold in which the first… [continues online] **read ›**

**THE BIBLE** *107 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

**29** **Genesis 31:30** Now then, you have gone, for you longed with longing to depart to your father’s house. Why have you stolen my gods?” **read ›**

**30** **Numbers 12:9** And the anger of the wrath of the Lord was upon them, and he departed. **read ›**

**31** **Numbers 14:9** Only do not become rebels against the Lord; and do not fear the people of the land, for they are food for you; for their time has departed from them, but the Lord is among us. Do not fear them.” **read ›**

**32** **Numbers 32:15** For you will turn away from him, so as to leave him once more in the wilderness, and you will act lawlessly against all this congregation.” **read ›**

**33** **Deuteronomy 13:14** then you shall examine and inquire and search thoroughly; and behold, if the report is clearly true and this abomination has been done among you, (Septuagint Deuteronomy 13:15 (Deuteronomy 13:14 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

**34** **Deuteronomy 32:15** So Jacob ate and was filled, and the beloved one kicked; he grew fat, he grew thick, he grew broad; and he forsook God who made him, and turned away from God his Savior. **read ›**

**35** **Deuteronomy 32:18** You forsook God who begot you, and forgot God who nourishes you. **read ›**

**36** **Deuteronomy 32:20** and he said: I will turn my face away from them, and I will show what will happen to them in the last days; for they are a perverse generation, sons in whom there is no faithfulness. **read ›**

**37** **Joshua 23:16** when you transgress the covenant of the Lord our God, which he commanded us, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them.” **read ›**

**38** **2 Kings 21:22** He forsook the Lord God of his fathers and did not walk in the way of the Lord. **read ›**

**39** **Proverbs 3:25** And you will not be afraid of terror when it comes, nor of the assaults of the ungodly when they come upon you. **read ›**

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40 **Proverbs 9:18** But he does not know that the earthborn perish beside her, and that he meets a trap of Hades. But spring away, do not linger in the place, nor fix your eye upon her; for so you will cross over another's water. But keep away from another's water, and do not drink from another's spring, that you may live a long time, and years of life may be added to you. **read ›**

41 **Ecclesiastes 5:8** If you see oppression of the poor and the seizing of judgment and righteousness in the land, do not marvel at the matter; for one who is high watches above the high, and there are higher ones over them. (Septuagint Ecclesiastes 5:7 (Ecclesiastes 5:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

42 **Ecclesiastes 6:9** Better is the sight of the eyes than wandering of the soul. This also is vanity and a choosing of the wind. **read ›**

43 **Ecclesiastes 8:13** But it will not be good for the ungodly man, and he will not prolong his days in a shadow, he who does not fear before God. **read ›**

44 **Isaiah 7:1** Now it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin king of Aram and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, came up against Jerusalem to make war on it, but they could not besiege it. **read ›**

45 **Isaiah 7:3** And the Lord said to Isaiah, "Go out to meet Ahaz, you and your son Jashub who is left, at the pool of the upper road of the fuller's field. **read ›**

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

47 **Ezekiel 14:6** Therefore say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord God: Turn back, and turn away from your practices and from all your ungodly deeds, and turn your faces back. **read ›**

48 **Daniel 2:16** And Daniel asked the king to give him time, so that he might declare its interpretation to the king. **read ›**

49 **Daniel 2:17** And Daniel went into his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his friends, **read ›**

50 **Daniel 11:31** And seeds from him shall arise, and they shall profane the sanctuary of might, and remove the continual offering, and set up an abomination made desolate. **read ›**

51 **Amos 5:10** They hated the one who rebukes in the gates, and detested holy speech. **read ›**

52 **Nahum 2:10** Shaking out and shaking up and tossing, and breaking of heart, and loosening of knees, and pains in every hip; and the faces of all are like the scorching of a pot. (Septuagint Nahum 2:11 (Nahum 2:10 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

53 **Haggai 1:4** "Is it a time for you to dwell in your paneled houses, while our house lies desolate? **read ›**

54 **Haggai 1:5** And now thus says the Lord Almighty: Set your hearts on your ways. **read ›**

55 **Haggai 1:6** You have sown much and brought in little; you have eaten, but not to fullness; you have drunk, but not to drunkenness; you have clothed yourselves, but have not been warmed by it; and he who earns wages has gathered them into a bag full of holes. **read ›**

56 **Haggai 1:13** And Haggai, the messenger of the Lord, spoke among the messengers of the Lord to the people: "I am with you, says the Lord." **read ›**

57 **Wisdom of Solomon 5:10** like a ship that passes through the surging water, and when it has gone by, no trace of it can be found, nor the track of its keel in the waves; **read ›**

58 **Wisdom of Solomon 10:4** Because of him, when the earth was flooded, wisdom saved it again, steering the righteous man by a worthless piece of wood. **read ›**

59 **Wisdom of Solomon 12:27** For in the things at which they were angry when they suffered, in those they thought to be gods, being punished by them, seeing him whom they had long refused to know, they recognized the true God; therefore the final condemnation came upon them. **read ›**

60 **Wisdom of Solomon 14:1** Again, one preparing to sail and about to pass through wild waves calls upon a piece of wood more rotten than the ship that carries him. **read ›**

61 **Wisdom of Solomon 14:4** showing that you can save from everything, so that even a man without skill may embark. **read ›**

62 **Wisdom of Solomon 14:5** You desire that the works of your wisdom should not be idle; therefore men trust their lives even to the smallest piece of wood, and passing through the surge on a raft they are brought safely through. **read ›**

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63 **Wisdom of Solomon 14:30** But just penalties will overtake them on both counts: because they thought wrongly about God, paying attention to idols, and because they swore unrighteously in deceit, despising holiness. **read ›**

64 **Wisdom of Sirach 2:13** Woe to the slack heart, for it does not trust; therefore it will not be sheltered. **read ›**

65 **Wisdom of Sirach 7:2** Keep away from what is unrighteous, and it will turn away from you. **read ›**

66 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:12** The beginning of a man's pride is departing from the Lord, and his heart has turned away from the one who made him. **read ›**

67 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:15** For an hour he will stay with you, but if you turn aside, he will certainly not hold out. **read ›**

68 **Wisdom of Sirach 15:11** Do not say, 'It was because of the Lord that I fell away'; for what he hates, you shall not do. **read ›**

69 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:2** Flee from sin as from the face of a serpent; for if you come near, it will bite you; its teeth are the teeth of a lion, killing the souls of men. **read ›**

70 **Wisdom of Sirach 23:5** and turn desire away from me. **read ›**

71 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:20** Do not pursue him, for he has gone far away, and has escaped like a gazelle from a trap. **read ›**

72 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:23** Those who forsake the Lord will fall into it, and it will burn among them and will certainly not be put out; it will be sent out against them like a lion, and like a leopard it will maul them. **read ›**

73 **Wisdom of Sirach 43:24** Those who sail the sea tell of its danger, and we marvel at what our ears hear. **read ›**

74 **Baruch 3:12** You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom. **read ›**

75 **Baruch 4:28** For as your mind was set on going astray from God, so turn back and seek him ten times more. **read ›**

76 **1 Maccabees 3:25** And the fear of Judas and his brothers, and terror, began to fall on the nations around them. **read ›**

77 **1 Maccabees 7:30** And the matter was made known to Judas, that Nicanor had come to him with deceit; and Judas was afraid of him and would not see his face again. **read ›**

78 **1 Maccabees 9:18** And Judas fell, and the rest fled. **read ›**

79 **1 Maccabees 15:37** But Trypho boarded a ship and fled to Orthosia. **read ›**

80 **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 ›**

81 **2 Maccabees 5:8** At last he met a miserable end. Confined at the court of Aretas the ruler of the Arabians, fleeing from city to city, pursued by everyone, hated as a rebel against the laws, and detested as the executioner of his country and his fellow citizens, he was cast ashore in Egypt. **read ›**

82 **2 Maccabees 6:9** and that they should slaughter those who would not choose to change over to Greek ways. So one could see the misery that had come. **read ›**

83 **2 Maccabees 8:13** those who were cowardly and who distrusted the justice of God ran away and went elsewhere. **read ›**

84 **2 Maccabees 12:24** Timothy himself fell into the hands of those with Dositheus and Sosipater, and he begged them with much deceit to let him go safe, because he held the parents of many of them and the brothers of some, and if he died, it would turn out that these would be disregarded. **read ›**

85 **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 ›**

86 **2 Maccabees 14:38** For in the former times of separation he had been brought to trial for Judaism, and he had risked body and soul for Judaism with all earnestness. **read ›**

87 **3 Maccabees 2:24** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

88 **3 Maccabees 2:33** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

89 **3 Maccabees 6:31** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

90 **4 Maccabees 7:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

91 **4 Maccabees 9:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

92 **4 Maccabees 13:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

93 **4 Maccabees 15:31** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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94 **4 Maccabees 16:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
95 **1 Enoch 81:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
96 **1 Enoch 89:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
97 **1 Enoch 89:33** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
98 **1 Enoch 93:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
99 **1 Enoch 95:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
100 **1 Enoch 99:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
101 **1 Enoch 101:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
102 **1 Enoch 101:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
103 **Matthew 1:6** Jesse became the father of King David. David the king became the father of Solomon by the woman who had been Uriah's wife. **read ›**
104 **Matthew 13:21** yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while. When distress or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. **read ›**
105 **Matthew 14:24** But the boat was already in the middle of the sea, battered by the waves, for the wind was against them. **read ›**
106 **Matthew 24:10** Then many will stumble, and will hand over one another, and will hate one another. **read ›**
107 **Mark 4:17** but they have no root in themselves and endure only for a time. Then, when trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they immediately stumble. **read ›**
108 **Acts 2:16** But this is what has been spoken through the prophet Joel: **read ›**
109 **Acts 27:10** saying to them, "Men, I perceive that the voyage will bring damage and great loss, not only to the cargo and the ship but also to our lives." **read ›**
110 **Acts 27:17** After hoisting it up, they used supports to bind the ship underneath. Fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered the gear and were driven along in this way. **read ›**
111 **Acts 27:22** Now I urge you to take courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, only of the ship. **read ›**
112 **Acts 27:30** As the sailors were trying to flee out of the ship and had lowered the boat into the sea, pretending that they would lay out anchors from the bow, **read ›**
113 **Acts 27:39** When day came, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach and decided, if possible, to drive the ship ashore there. **read ›**
114 **Acts 27:40** Casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea, at the same time untying the rudder ropes. Hoisting up the foresail to the wind, they made for the beach. **read ›**
115 **Acts 27:41** But coming to a place where two seas met, they ran the vessel aground. The bow struck and remained immovable, but the stern began to break up by the violence of the waves. **read ›**
116 **Acts 27:44** and the rest should follow, some on planks and some on other things from the ship. So they all escaped safely to the land. **read ›**
117 **Romans 2:19** and are confident that you yourself are a guide of the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, **read ›**
118 **Romans 3:7** For if the truth of God through my lie abounded to his glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner? **read ›**
119 **1 Corinthians 3:12** But if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, **read ›**
120 **2 Corinthians 4:15** For all things are for your sakes, that the grace, being multiplied through the many, may cause the thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. **read ›**
121 **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 ›**
122 **Galatians 5:4** You are alienated from Christ, you who desire to be justified by the law. You have fallen away from grace. **read ›**
123 **1 Timothy 1:19** holding faithfulness and a good conscience, which some have thrust away and so made shipwreck concerning the faith, **read ›**
124 **1 Timothy 4:1** But the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, **read ›**

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**125** **1 Timothy 5:12** having condemnation, because they have abandoned their former faithfulness. **read ›**

**126** **1 Timothy 6:21** which some profess, and thus have wandered from the faith. Grace be with you. Amen. **read ›**

**127** **2 Timothy 2:18** who have strayed from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and overthrow the faith of some. **read ›**

**128** **2 Timothy 4:4** and they will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to fables. **read ›**

**129** **Hebrews 3:12** Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there might be in any one of you an evil heart of unfaithfulness, in falling away from the living God; **read ›**

**130** **Hebrews 6:4** For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, who tasted the heavenly gift and became partakers of the Holy Spirit, **read ›**

**131** **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 ›**

**132** **2 Peter 2:20** For if, after they have escaped the defilement of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in it and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. **read ›**

**133** **2 Peter 2:21** For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. **read ›**

**134** **2 Peter 3:17** You therefore, beloved, knowing these things beforehand, beware, lest being carried away with the error of the wicked, you fall from your own steadfastness. **read ›**

**135** **1 John 2:19** They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us. But they went out so that it might be made manifest that none of them belong to us. **read ›**

## ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *67 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** 25:1

**Deuteronomy** 30:14

**Psalms** 13:3

**Proverbs** 4:6 · 18:3

**Matthew** 2:15 · 5:10 · 5:16 · 5:45 · 5:46 · 6:9 · 10:16 · 10:29 · 11:27 · 13:19 · 13:22 · 13:52 · 18:17 · 21:42 · 24:4 · 25:41

**Luke** 1:15 · 6:23 · 6:28 · 11:5 · 11:9 · 15:8 · 16:16 · 18:2 · 18:27 · 21:8 · 22:19

**John** 1:1 · 3:9 · 3:18 · 4:24 · 5:39 · 8:43 · 10:8 · 15:22 · 16:7 · 17:3

**Acts** 2:38 · 15:14

**Romans** 1:17 · 6:7 · 10:3 · 10:6

**1 Corinthians** 3:13

**2 Corinthians** 9:14 · 11:23 · 12:3

**Philippians** 3:2

**Colossians** 1:23 · 1:24 · 2:6

**1 Timothy** 1:18 · 5:6

**2 Timothy** 2:17 · 4:7

**Hebrews** 6:8 · 10:26 · 10:39 · 11:3 · 12:16

**1 John** 3:9

**Revelation** 21:14

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

## ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did the early Christians believe about apostasy?” on May 22, 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.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY