THE QUESTION

What did the early Christians believe about baptism?

Asked by a THF member on May 21, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 13 numbered quotations · the 50 early Christian passages and 215 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-baptism-2

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

The early Christians taught that baptism is a washing in which sins are forgiven and a person is born again by water and the Spirit. It was given in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to people who believed, repented and fasted, and it joined them to Christ's death and new life.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
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 7

Sins are forgiven in the water

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

Justin says the church learned from the apostles that a person who repents receives forgiveness of past sins in the water. Cyprian says the same in a few words, setting water baptism beside the 'baptism of blood' of martyrs.

1

"Since at birth we were born without our own knowledge or choice, due to our parents coming together, and were raised with bad habits and wicked training; so that we may not remain children of necessity and ignorance, but may become children of choice and knowledge, and may obtain in the water the remission of sins previously committed, the name of God the Father and Lord of the universe is pronounced over the one who chooses to be born again and has repented of sins."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 7, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

2

"In the baptism of water, the remission of sins is received; in the baptism of blood, the crown of virtues."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 35, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Baptism is a new birth

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

Irenaeus compares Naaman washing away his leprosy to Christians washed clean of sin and born again like newborn babies. Theophilus sees the water creatures of Genesis as a sign of the 'washing of regeneration' for all who come to the truth.

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3 “For just as we are lepers in sin, we are made clean by means of the sacred water and the invocation of the Lord from our old transgressions, being spiritually regenerated as newborn babes, just as the Lord has declared: "Unless a man is born again through water and the Spirit, he shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 10, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

4 “Also, the things that come from the waters were blessed by God, so that this too might be a sign that human beings are meant to receive repentance and forgiveness of sins through the water and washing of regeneration—as many as come to the truth, are born again, and receive blessing from God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Theophilus of Antioch,** *To Autolycus* 16 (c. 169–183 AD) **Source 9, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 7

Faith and repentance come before baptism

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

Justin describes who was baptized: people who were convinced the teaching was true and promised to live by it. They prayed and fasted first, and the church fasted with them. The Didache also asks the one being baptized to fast beforehand.

5 “All who are convinced and believe that what we teach and say is true, and commit to living accordingly, are instructed to pray and ask God for the remission of their past sins with fasting, while we pray and fast with them.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 5, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

6 “And you shall instruct the one being baptized to fast one or two days beforehand.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 7 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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POINT 4 OF 7

It is given in the Trinity's name

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

Both Justin and the Didache say baptism is done in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Didache prefers flowing water but allows pouring water three times on the head when there is not enough.

7 “In the name of God, the Father and Lord of the universe, and of our Savior Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, they receive the washing with water.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 5, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

8 “But if you have neither, pour out water three times on the head in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 7 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 7

Baptism joins us to Christ's death

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

An early prayer over the water in the Apostolic Constitutions asks that the one baptized may die, be buried and rise with Christ. Ignatius also says the one baptism is given so that we share in the Lord's death.

9 “Therefore, let the priest now call on Him in baptism, and let him say: Look down from heaven, and sanctify this water, and give it grace and power, so that he who is to be baptized, according to the command of Your Christ, may be crucified with Him, and may die with Him, and may be buried with Him, and may rise with Him to the adoption that is in Him, so that he may be dead to sin and live to righteousness.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 41, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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10 “For if there is one God of the universe, the Father of Christ, "of whom are all things;" and one Lord Jesus Christ, our Lord, "by whom are all things;" and also one Holy Spirit, who worked in Moses, and in the prophets and apostles; and also one baptism, which is administered so that we should share in the death of the Lord; and also one chosen Church; there should likewise be but one faith in respect to Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistles of Ignatius* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 4, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Christ baptizes with water and the Spirit

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

Hippolytus says Christ came to wash people with water and the Spirit and so give them new life. Origen contrasts John's baptism with Christ's, which fills the repentant person with the Holy Spirit.

11 “He came to man in order to wash him with water and the Spirit. And by causing us to be born again to incorruption in soul and body, He breathed into us the breath, that is, the spirit, of life, and clothed us with an incorruptible full armor.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 20, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

12 “For His baptism is not that of the body only. He fills the penitent with the Holy Spirit, and His more divine fire does away with everything material and consumes everything that is earthly, not only from the man who admits it into his life, but even from the man who hears of it from those who have it.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on John* 6 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 24, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 7

Refusing baptism was a serious matter

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

The Apostolic Constitutions warn that someone who refuses baptism out of contempt is judged an unbeliever. It also teaches one baptism only, not repeated, just as there is one God and one death of the Lord.

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13 “No, the one who, out of contempt, refuses to be baptized will be condemned as an unbeliever and rebuked as ungrateful and foolish.”

later in the same passage

“For as there is one God, one Christ, one Comforter, and one death of the Lord in the body, so let the baptism into Him also be one.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 39, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not settle the baptism of infants or the age of those baptized.
- Writers in this pool disagreed about whether people baptized by heretics had to be baptized again.
- Some passages treat martyrdom as a 'baptism of blood' for those who die before water baptism, but they do not spell out every case.
- 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 50 early Christian passages and 215 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–50, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 51–131, in Bible order), then 134 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 *50 passages from 16 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 7 (1885 English) **Quotes 6, 8, pages 3, 4** “concerning baptism, baptize this way: Having first said all these things, baptize into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Matthew 28:19… [continues online] **read ›**

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Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 2*

2 *Epistle of Barnabas* (1885 English; on point 1) “the water, indeed, it is written, in reference to the Israelites, that they should not receive that baptism which leads to the remission of sins, but should procure another for… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · source 3*

3 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 1) heard, sir, some teachers maintain that there is no other repentance than that which takes place, when we descended into the water and received remission of our former sins… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · source 4*

4 *Epistles of Ignatius* **Quote 10, page 5** Mindful of your love and zeal in Christ, which you have shown towards us, we thought it appropriate to write to you, who display such a godly and spiritual love… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 5–8*

5 *First Apology* (1885 English) **Quotes 5, 7, pages 3, 4** “they are brought by us where there is water, and are regenerated in the same manner in which we were ourselves regenerated… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 1) of this cleansing of repentance and knowledge of God, which has been established due to the sins of God's people, as Isaiah declares, we have believed and testify that… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *First Apology* **Quote 1, page 2** “for this [rite] we have learned this reason from the apostles. Since at birth we were born without our own knowledge or choice, due to our parents coming together, and… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 2) enemies, as was predicted by Isaiah in many passages, which also contains the mystery of our own regeneration, as well as the regeneration of all who expect that Christ will… [continues online] **read ›**

Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 9*

9 *To Autolycus* 16 **Quote 4, page 3** “beings are meant to receive repentance and forgiveness of sins through the water and washing of regeneration—as many as come to the truth, are born again, and receive blessing… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 10–11*

10 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 3** “spiritually regenerated as new-born babes, even as the Lord has declared: “Except a man be born again through water and the Spirit, he shall not enter into the kingdom… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Against Heresies: Book V* (on point 2) “And since man, regarding the formation after Adam, having fallen into transgression, needed the laver of regeneration, the Lord said to the man upon whom He had given sight, after… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 12–14*

12 *Instructor* 1.6 (on point 1) 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 ›**

13 *Instructor* 1.6 so it was considered right to speak to the Word, and He is free. For at the moment of the Lord's baptism, a voice sounded from heaven as a… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Exhortation to the Heathen* 10 (on point 2) and you that have no money, come, buy and drink without money." Isaiah 55:1 He invites to the laver, to salvation, to illumination, almost crying out and saying, "The… [continues online] **read ›**

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Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 15–18*

15 *On Baptism* 10 (on point 6) “same nature. Otherwise, if it had been celestial, it would have given both the Holy Spirit and remission of sins. But no one either pardons sins or freely grants the… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *On Baptism* 13 (1885 English; on point 3) “all thereafter who became believers used to be baptized… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *On Baptism* 5 (on point 2) homes, temples, and whole cities. At any rate, at the Apollinarian and Eleusinian games they are baptized. And they think that the effect of doing this is their regeneration and… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *On Baptism* 12 answer those who claim that the apostles were not baptized. For if they had received John's human baptism, and were desiring the Lord's baptism, then the Lord Himself… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 19–23*

19 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (on point 3) “O Lord, baptize with the baptism of repentance, and I cannot baptize those who come to me unless they first confess fully their sins… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 **Quote 11, page 5** also be God. And if he is made God by water and the Holy Spirit after the regeneration of the laver, he is found to be also a joint heir… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (1885 English; on point 7) “me, John, in order that no one may despise baptism… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (on point 3) Like the earth that is not filled with water, he is never able to come to confession and to the laver of regeneration, and, like water and fire, never says… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 only two maidservants. For when the Church desires to receive the laver according to custom, she must necessarily have two maidservants to go with her. For it is by faith… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 24–28*

24 *Commentary on John* 6 **Quote 12, page 5** “did not take place with John, but with Jesus through His disciples… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Commentary on John* 6 (on point 6) did not baptize, but His disciples did, He who was Himself the prophet. And how have you come to believe that Elijah who is to come will baptize? He did… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *Commentary on John* 6 (on point 6) “And he came into all the region around the Jordan preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins; as it is written in the book of the words… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Commentary on John* 6 (on point 6) He is understood in different ways as living bread or as flesh. So also He, the same person, is baptism of water, and baptism of the Holy Spirit and of… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Commentary on Matthew* 13 (1885 English; on point 2) “they received this commission to discharge concerning them, from what time by the laver of regeneration, Titus 3:5 through which they were born as new-born babes, they long… [continues online] **read ›**

Dionysius of Alexandria, *c. 232–265 AD · source 29*

29 *Epistles and Epistolary Fragments* he had been initiated by those wicked words and things. Therefore he begged that by this purest laver he might be granted adoption and grace. And I, indeed, have not… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 30–38*

30 *Epistles* (on point 1) and His God is rewarded by Christ, and receives forgiveness of sins and the sanctification of baptism! But by what power can the one who denies God the Creator, the… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Epistles* (on point 6) Or if they say that the power of baptism comes from the greatness of the name, so that those who are baptized anywhere and in any way, in the name… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Seventh Council of Carthage* 1 (on point 4) “of Thenae said: God and our Lord Jesus Christ, teaching the apostles… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 1) “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 ›**

34 *Epistles* (on point 1) Since in baptism each person has his own sins forgiven, the Lord proves and declares in His Gospel that sins can be taken away only by those who have the… [continues online] **read ›**

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35 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** “and teaching that this is a baptism greater in grace, more lofty in power, more precious in honour— a baptism wherein angels baptize— a baptism in which God and His… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *Epistles* (on point 7) immersed by heretics should not be baptized when they come to us, because they say there is one baptism, which is one for this reason: the Church is one, and… [continues online] **read ›**

37 *Epistles* (on point 4) moreover, the very question asked in baptism is a witness to the truth. For when we say, “Do you believe in eternal life and the forgiveness of sins through the… [continues online] **read ›**

38 *Seventh Council of Carthage* 1 (1885 English) “of Thamugada said: Although we know that all the Scriptures give witness concerning the saving baptism, still we ought to declare our faith, that heretics and schismatics who come to… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 39–45*

39 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 13, page 6** be satisfied with one baptism only, the one into the death of the Lord; not the one given by wicked heretics, but the one given by blameless priests, in the… [continues online] **read ›**

40 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 4) “all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you… [continues online] **read ›**

41 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** “therefore, let the priest even now call upon in baptism, and let him say: Look down from heaven, and sanctify this water, and give it grace and power, that so… [continues online] **read ›**

42 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 3) hate every way of iniquity, and walk in the way of truth, that he might be thought worthy of the laver of regeneration, to the adoption of sons, which is… [continues online] **read ›**

43 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 5) baptism, therefore, is given into the death of Jesus… [continues online] **read ›**

44 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 2) “them the laver of regeneration and the garment of incorruption, which is the true life… [continues online] **read ›**

45 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 4) “Now this is blessed by the high priest for the remission of sins, and the first preparation for baptism… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 46*

46 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 1) “said: "Is baptism, then, given on account of the remission of sins… [continues online] **read ›**

Anonymous · *sources 47–50*

47 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (on point 3) by itself, could not be enough to give salvation. Otherwise, on that principle, we would have to believe that even Gentiles and heretics, who misuse the name of Jesus, could… [continues online] **read ›**

48 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 “leave this life without the laying on of the bishop's hands, and yet are considered complete believers. Just so, the Ethiopian eunuch, when he was returning from Jerusalem and… [continues online] **read ›**

49 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (on point 1) “what was said by the Lord, "I have another baptism to be… [continues online] **read ›**

50 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 by bishops whose opinions are unsound, or who are very ignorant? They may not have spoken clearly and honestly, or may even have spoken otherwise than is fitting in the… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *81 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

51 **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 ›**

52 **Exodus 30:18** “Make a bronze washbasin with a bronze base for washing, and put it between the tabernacle of witness and the altar, and pour water into it. **read ›**

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53 **Exodus 30:21** They shall wash their hands and their feet with water. Whenever they go into the tabernacle of witness, they shall wash with water, so that they do not die. It shall be a perpetual ordinance for them, for Aaron and for his generations after him." **read ›**

54 **Exodus 38:27** The hundred talents of silver went into the casting of the hundred pillar tops of the tabernacle and into the pillar tops of the veil: (Septuagint Exodus 39:4 (Exodus 38:27 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

55 **Exodus 40:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

56 **Exodus 40:30** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

57 **Leviticus 8:6** Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons near and washed them with water. **read ›**

58 **Leviticus 13:54** the priest shall give orders, and one shall wash the thing on which the plague is, and the priest shall set the plague apart seven days a second time. **read ›**

59 **Leviticus 13:58** And the garment, or the lengthwise threads, or the cross threads, or any article of skin that is washed and from which the plague departs, shall be washed a second time, and it shall be clean. **read ›**

60 **Leviticus 14:7** He shall sprinkle seven times on the one who has been cleansed from the leprosy, and he shall be clean; and he shall let the live bird go into the open field. **read ›**

61 **Leviticus 14:8** The one who is cleansed shall wash his garments, shave off all his hair, and bathe in water, and he shall be clean. After that he shall come into the camp, but he shall stay outside his house seven days. **read ›**

62 **Leviticus 15:12** A clay vessel that the man with the discharge touches shall be broken, and a wooden vessel shall be rinsed in water, and it shall be clean. **read ›**

63 **Leviticus 16:24** He shall bathe his body in water in a holy place and put on his garment; then he shall go out and offer his whole burnt offering and the whole burnt offering of the people, and make atonement for himself, for his house, and for the people, as for the priests. **read ›**

64 **Leviticus 16:30** For on this day he shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you from all your sins before the Lord, and you shall be cleansed. **read ›**

65 **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 ›**

66 **Leviticus 22:6** the person who touches any of these shall be unclean until evening. He shall not eat of the holy things unless he washes his body with water; **read ›**

67 **Numbers 5:17** The priest shall take pure running water in a clay vessel, and some of the earth that is on the floor of the tabernacle of witness; and the priest shall take the earth and put it into the water. **read ›**

68 **Numbers 8:7** And thus you shall perform their purification: you shall sprinkle them with water of purification, and a razor shall pass over their whole body, and they shall wash their garments and be clean. **read ›**

69 **Numbers 14:18** 'The Lord is long-suffering, great in mercy, and true, taking away lawlessness and unrighteousness and sins; yet he will by no means acquit the guilty, repaying the sins of fathers upon children to the third and fourth generation.' **read ›**

70 **Numbers 19:9** And a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the young cow and put them outside the camp in a clean place; and they shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel; it is a water of sprinkling, a purification. **read ›**

71 **Numbers 19:17** And for the unclean they shall take some of the burnt ashes of the purification, and they shall pour running water over them into a vessel. **read ›**

72 **Numbers 19:19** And the clean man shall sprinkle the unclean on the third day and on the seventh day, and he shall be purified on the seventh day; and he shall wash his garments and bathe in water, and he shall be unclean until evening. **read ›**

73 **Numbers 19:20** But the man who is defiled and does not purify himself, that person shall be utterly destroyed from the midst of the congregation, because he has defiled the holy place of the Lord, because the water of sprinkling was not sprinkled on him; he is unclean. **read ›**

74 **Numbers 19:21** And it shall be a perpetual ordinance for you. And he who sprinkles the water of sprinkling shall wash his garments; and he who touches the water of sprinkling shall be unclean until evening. **read ›**

75 **Numbers 31:23** everything that passes through fire shall be clean; yet it shall be purified with the water of purification. And whatever does not pass through fire shall pass through water. **read ›**

76 **Joshua 5:4** And this is the way Jesus purified the children of Israel: all who had been born on the way, and all who were uncircumcised of those who had come out of Egypt— **read ›**

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77 **2 Kings 5:10** And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go, wash seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh shall return to you, and you shall be clean.” **read ›**

78 **2 Kings 5:14** So Naaman went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of Elisha; and his flesh returned like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. **read ›**

79 **2 Chronicles 4:6** He made ten washbasins, and he set five on the right and five on the left, to wash in them the works of the whole burnt offerings and to rinse in them; and the sea was for the priests to wash in. **read ›**

80 **Psalms 51:7** You will sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; you will wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Septuagint Psalm 50:9 (Psalm 51:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

81 **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 ›**

82 **Isaiah 13:17** Behold, I am stirring up the Medes against you, who do not regard silver, nor have need of gold. **read ›**

83 **Isaiah 13:22** and donkey-centaurs will dwell there, and hedgehogs will make their nests in their houses. It comes quickly and will not delay. **read ›**

84 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

85 **Isaiah 18:3** all of them, will be inhabited like an inhabited country; their land will be as when a signal is raised from a mountain; it will be heard like the sound of a trumpet. **read ›**

86 **Jeremiah 31:1** At that time, said the Lord, I will be God to the family of Israel, and they shall be my people. (Septuagint Jeremiah 38:1 (Jeremiah 31:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

87 **Jeremiah 50:9** For behold, I am stirring up against Babylon congregations of nations from the land of the north, and they will line up for battle against her; from there she will be taken; as the arrow of a skilled warrior, it will not return empty. (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:9 (Jeremiah 50:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

88 **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 ›**

89 **Ezekiel 36:25** and I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be cleansed from all your uncleannesses and from all your idols, and I will cleanse you. **read ›**

90 **1 Esdras 5:40** And Nehemiah and Attharias told them not to share in the holy things until a high priest should arise clothed with the Manifestation and the Truth. **read ›**

91 **Tobit 12:9** For alms delivers from death, and it will purge away every sin. Those who do acts of alms and righteous deeds will be filled with life; **read ›**

92 **Wisdom of Solomon 11:7** as a rebuke for the decree to kill infants, you gave them abundant water beyond hope, **read ›**

93 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:5** And when they had resolved to kill the infants of the holy ones, and one child had been cast out and saved, you took away the multitude of their children as a rebuke, and destroyed them all together in mighty water. **read ›**

94 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:30** Water will quench a blazing fire, and an act of mercy will make atonement for sins. **read ›**

95 **Wisdom of Sirach 31:25** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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

97 **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 ›**

98 **2 Maccabees 12:45** And then, looking to the most splendid reward laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness—a holy and godly thought—he therefore made atonement for the dead, that they might be released from their sin. **read ›**

99 **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 ›**

100 **3 Maccabees 2:30** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

101 **3 Maccabees 6:31** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

102 **4 Maccabees 7:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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103 **4 Maccabees 13:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
104 **4 Maccabees 13:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
105 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
106 **4 Maccabees 16:25** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
107 **4 Maccabees 18:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
108 **4 Maccabees 18:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
109 **1 Enoch 1:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
110 **1 Enoch 22:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
111 **1 Enoch 67:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
112 **1 Enoch 67:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
113 **1 Enoch 89:38** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
114 **Matthew 3:6** They were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. **read ›**
115 **Mark 1:4** John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. **read ›**
116 **Mark 1:5** All the country of Judea and the people of Jerusalem went out to him, and they were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. **read ›**
117 **Luke 3:3** He came into all the region around the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for remission of sins, **read ›**
118 **Acts 1:16** “Brothers, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. **read ›**
119 **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 ›**
120 **Acts 4:4** But many of those who heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. **read ›**
121 **Acts 19:3** He said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” **read ›**
122 **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 ›**
123 **Acts 22:16** Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’ **read ›**
124 **Romans 6:3** Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **read ›**
125 **Romans 6:4** We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. **read ›**
126 **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 ›**
127 **Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **read ›**
128 **Ephesians 4:5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **read ›**
129 **Colossians 2:12** having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. **read ›**
130 **Hebrews 6:2** of the teaching of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. **read ›**
131 **1 Peter 3:21** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now also saves us—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but the appeal of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *134 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 9:18

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Exodus 4:6 · 32:34

Deuteronomy 32:10 · 32:23

Joshua 3:5 · 3:7 · 5:10

1 Kings 18:33

Psalms 18:26 · 19:1 · 110:4

Isaiah 1:18 · 9:6 · 46:12

Jeremiah 2:12 · 2:13 · 5:8

Ezekiel 47:1

Malachi 4:5

Matthew 3:7 · 3:10 · 3:11 · 3:17 · 4:3 · 9:29 · 11:11 · 11:13 · 11:27 · 19:14 · 19:17 · 21:23 · 21:25 · 25:29 · 28:18 · 28:19

Mark 1:3 · 1:8 · 2:8 · 5:9 · 5:15 · 6:13 · 10:38 · 11:30 · 14:27 · 16:16

Luke 1:76 · 3:2 · 3:9 · 7:18 · 7:37 · 10:21 · 10:35 · 12:50 · 14:11 · 18:10 · 20:4 · 22:32

John 1:3 · 1:6 · 1:9 · 1:16 · 1:17 · 1:18 · 1:21 · 1:24 · 1:26 · 1:33 · 2:5 · 2:13 · 3:3 · 3:5 · 3:9 · 3:30 · 3:36 · 4:10 · 4:20 · 5:1 · 5:8 · 6:40 · 6:53 · 7:38 · 7:39 · 8:19 · 8:35 · 8:39 · 8:41 · 8:42 · 8:44 · 8:48 · 9:7 · 13:9 · 16:6 · 19:34 · 19:37 · 20:22

Acts 4:12 · 5:31 · 9:1 · 19:1 · 19:2

Romans 6:5 · 8:5

1 Corinthians 2:8 · 2:9 · 5:11 · 7:14 · 12:13 · 13:11 · 14:20 · 15:46

2 Corinthians 1:21 · 5:5 · 5:21 · 6:16 · 7:1

Galatians 1:15 · 3:23 · 3:26 · 3:28 · 4:7

Ephesians 5:8

Philippians 2:7

1 Thessalonians 4:8

Titus 3:5

Hebrews 6:4 · 10:26 · 12:16

1 Peter 2:2

2 Peter 2:4

1 John 3:9 · 5:8

Jude 1:1

Revelation 22:1

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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 baptism?” on May 21, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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