THE QUESTION

What did the early Christians believe about baptism?

Asked by a THF member on May 21, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 14 numbered quotations · the 55 early Christian passages and 286 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

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

They saw baptism as the washing where sins are forgiven and a person is born again by water and the Spirit. It was also called illumination. They baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, after repentance, fasting and renouncing the devil, and saw Noah's flood as a picture of it.

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.

IN THIS STUDY

1	Baptism washes away past sins	**2**
2	Born again by water and the Spirit	**2**
3	The old man dies, the new is born	**3**
4	Baptism was called illumination	**3**
5	In the name of Father, Son and Spirit	**4**
6	Repentance, fasting and renouncing the devil first	**5**
7	Cleansed in water, prepared for the Spirit	**5**
8	Noah's flood pictured saving baptism	**6**
	What these passages don't tell us	**6**
	The Sources: 55 early Christian passages and 286 Bible verses, with links	**6**

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POINT 1 OF 8

Baptism washes away past sins

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

Justin Martyr says that in the water the person who repents and chooses to be born again receives forgiveness of past sins. Irenaeus compares us to lepers like Naaman, made clean from old sins by the sacred water and the calling on the Lord.

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 6, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2 “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 13, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

Born again by water and the Spirit

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

Irenaeus ties baptism to the Lord's words about being born again of water and the Spirit. Hippolytus calls all nations to come to baptism, by which a person is born again and clothed with life.

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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 13, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

4 “Therefore I preach this message: Come, all you families of the nations, to the immortality of baptism.”

later in the same passage

“And someone says, "How shall we come? How?" By water and the Holy Spirit.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 22, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 8

The old man dies, the new is born

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

Cyprian says that in baptism the old man dies and the new man is born. He reads Paul's washing of regeneration as speaking of baptism itself.

5 “For the blessed apostle declares and proves that baptism is where the old man dies and the new man is born, saying, "He saved us by the washing of regeneration,"”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 31, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

Baptism was called illumination

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

Justin explains that the washing is called illumination, because those who learn the faith are enlightened in their minds. Clement of Alexandria says that when we were regenerated we were illuminated, which means to know God.

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6 “This washing is called illumination because those who learn these things are enlightened in their understanding.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 6, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

7 “At once, when we were regenerated, we attained that perfection for which we longed. For we were illuminated, and this is to know God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Instructor* 1.6 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 16, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 8

In the name of Father, Son and Spirit

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

The Didache gives the words of Matthew 28:19 and prefers flowing water, but allows pouring water three times on the head when needed. The Apostolic Constitutions require three immersions into the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

8 “And concerning baptism, baptize in this way: After you have first said all these things, baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Matthew 28:19, in living water.”

later in the same passage

“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 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

9 “Therefore, O bishops, baptize three times into one Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost, according to the will of Christ and our constitution by the Spirit.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 45, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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POINT 6 OF 8

Repentance, fasting and renouncing the devil first

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

The Didache asks both the baptizer and the one being baptized to fast beforehand. The Apostolic Constitutions say the candidate must learn to renounce the devil and join himself to Christ before receiving baptism.

10 "But before the baptism, let the one who baptizes fast, and the one being baptized, and any others who can."

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

11 "When the time comes for the catechumen to be baptized, let him learn what concerns renouncing the devil and joining himself to Christ."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 42, page 9** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 8

Cleansed in water, prepared for the Spirit

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

Tertullian says we do not receive the Spirit in the water itself. In the water we are made clean, with sins washed away, and so prepared for the Holy Spirit. Faith obtains this when it is sealed in the threefold name.

12 "Rather, in the water, under the witness of the angel, we are made clean and prepared for the Holy Spirit."

later in the same passage

"Faith obtains this, when it is sealed in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Baptism* 6 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 17, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 8 OF 8

Noah's flood pictured saving baptism

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

Justin sees Christ as the head of a new human race reborn through water, faith and the wood of the cross, as Noah was saved by wood over the waters. Cyprian cites Peter's comparison of the ark with baptism.

13 “Christ, being the firstborn of every creature, became the leader of a new human race, regenerated by Himself through water, faith, and wood, symbolizing the mystery of the cross; just as Noah was saved by wood when he floated over the waters with his family.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *Dialogue with Trypho* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 9, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

14 “In the ark of Noah," he says, "few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water; baptism will likewise save you also."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 36, page 9** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not discuss whether infants were baptized.
- Early writers disagreed about whether baptism given outside the church should be repeated, and these passages do not settle it.
- 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 55 early Christian passages and 286 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–55, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 56–193, in Bible order), then 148 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages

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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 *55 passages from 19 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 7 (1885 English) **Quotes 8, 10, pages 4, 5** "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 ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · source 2*

2 *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 · sources 3–4*

3 *Epistles of Ignatius* (on point 5) "also the Lord, when He sent forth the apostles to make disciples of all nations, commanded them to "baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* "was born and baptized, that by His passion He might purify the water… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 5–10*

5 *First Apology* (1885 English; on point 2) "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 *First Apology* (1885 English) **Quotes 1, 6, pages 2, 4** "order that we may not remain the children of necessity and of ignorance, but may become the children of choice and knowledge, and may obtain in the water the remission… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 1) "as might have been expected, this was that saving bath of the olden time which followed those who repented, and who no longer were purified by the blood of goats… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 1) "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 ›**

9 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English) **Quote 13, page 6** "as Noah was saved by wood when he rode over the waters with his household… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English) baptize you with water to repentance; but He that is stronger than I shall come, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · source 11*

11 *Diatessaron* 55 (1885 English; on point 5) "28:19b and teach all the peoples, and 7 baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 12*

12 *To Autolycus* 16 (1885 English; on point 1) "the things proceeding from the waters were blessed by God, that this also might be a sign of men's being destined to receive repentance and remission of sins, through… [continues online] **read ›**

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Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 13–14*

13 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (1885 English) **Quotes 2, 3, pages 2, 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 ›**

14 *Against Heresies: Book V* (1885 English; on point 2) "inasmuch as man, with respect to that formation which, was after Adam, having fallen into transgression, needed the laver of regeneration, [the Lord] said to him [upon whom He had… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 15–16*

15 *Instructor* 1.6 "is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Instructor* 1.6 **Quote 7, page 4** "Clearly. Then He did not learn anything more from him? Certainly not. But is He perfected by the washing of baptism alone, and sanctified by the descent of the Spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 17–21*

17 *On Baptism* 6 (1885 English) **Quote 12, page 5** "as, wherever there are three, (that is, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,) there is the Church, which is a body of three… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *On Baptism* 10 (on point 7) "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 ›**

19 *On Baptism* 20 (on point 6) "who are about to enter baptism ought to pray with repeated prayers… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *On Baptism* 9 (on point 8) with all his forces, Exodus 14:27-30. What figure is more clearly fulfilled in the sacrament of baptism? The nations are set free from the world by means of… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *On Baptism* 3 (1885 English) "the world had been hereupon set in order through its elements, when inhabitants were given it, the waters were the first to receive the precept to bring forth living creatures… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 22–23*

22 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** "water and the Holy Ghost. This is the water in conjunction with the Spirit, by which paradise is watered, by which the earth is enriched, by which plants grow, by… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (on point 6) "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 ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 24–29*

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

25 *Commentary on John* 6 in the wilderness. 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… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *Commentary on John* 6 very well stumble over the explanation given above about the Jordan. John says, "I baptize with water, but He who comes after me is stronger than I. He will baptize… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Commentary on John* 6 It is as if they quietly agreed and showed that they accepted what was said, and saw that baptism suited a voice crying in the wilderness to prepare the way… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Commentary on John* 6 (1885 English; on point 1) "it is for forgiveness of sins that this washing is given… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 3 (1885 English; on point 5) "all which we learn that the person of the Holy Spirit was of such authority and dignity, that saving baptism was not complete except by the authority of the most… [continues online] **read ›**

Gregory Thaumaturgus, *c. 240–270 AD · source 30*

30 *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (1885 English; on point 5) "what can the impious have to say if the Lord sends forth His disciples to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy… [continues online] **read ›**

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Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 31–40*

31 *Epistles* (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** “the blessed apostle sets forth and proves that baptism is that wherein the old man dies and the new man is born, saying, He saved us by the washing of… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Epistles* (1885 English) “also, showing this, set forth that the Church is one, and that only they who are in the Church can be baptized… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *Epistles* laying on of hands, if, as they claim, it had power in the sanctifying of baptism? For if someone born outside the Church can become God's temple, why can… [continues online] **read ›**

34 *Epistles* (on point 1) mean from that death which the blood of Christ once destroyed, and from which the saving grace of baptism and of our Redeemer has delivered us, but from that death… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Epistles* 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 ›**

36 *Epistles* (1885 English) **Quote 14, page 6** “as, in that baptism of the world in which its ancient iniquity was purged away, he who was not in the Ark of Noah could not be saved by water… [continues online] **read ›**

37 *Seventh Council of Carthage* 1 (on point 5) “and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son… [continues online] **read ›**

38 *Treatises* (1885 English) “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 ›**

39 *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 ›**

40 *Epistles* 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 ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 41–45*

41 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) “But first you shall anoint the person with the holy oil, and afterward baptize him with water, and at the end you shall seal him with the ointment. In this… [continues online] **read ›**

42 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** “28:19 and then He adds this, and baptize them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost… [continues online] **read ›**

43 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) 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 ›**

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* **Quote 9, page 4** “the Lord did not say, “Baptize into my death,” but, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and… [continues online] **read ›**

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 46*

46 *Writings* (on point 1) “baptism, the coarse dress of your birth is washed… [continues online] **read ›**

Pamphilus, *c. 250–309 AD · source 47*

47 *Exposition on the Acts of the Apostles* 1 (1885 English) “of the faith of those present, and their salvation by baptism… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 48*

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

Anonymous · *sources 49–54*

49 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 most ancient baptism of Moses, and prepared the way for the new and true grace. By the baptism of water and of repentance, which he practiced for a time, he… [continues online] **read ›**

50 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 the truth from Philip the deacon, believed, and was baptized. And when he had come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away, and the… [continues online] **read ›**

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51 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 “well baptized in this baptism only, they might attain the sound faith and the simple love of the laver. And, baptized in both ways, they might likewise, to the same… [continues online] **read ›**

52 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 Since we seem to have divided all spiritual baptism in a threefold way, let us now also prove the statement we have made, so that we may not seem to… [continues online] **read ›**

53 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (on point 7) “these three are one. And, unless I am mistaken, we have also explained what our Lord says: "John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy… [continues online] **read ›**

54 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (on point 5) “them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 55*

55 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English; on point 8) being found faithful, preached regeneration to the world through his ministry; and the Lord saved by him the animals which, with one accord, entered into the ark… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *138 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

56 **Genesis 1:2** But the earth was invisible and unformed, and darkness was over the abyss, and the Spirit of God was moving over the water. **read ›**

57 **Genesis 6:8** But Noah found grace before the Lord God. **read ›**

58 **Genesis 6:14** So make for yourself an ark of squared timbers. You shall make the ark with compartments, and you shall coat it inside and outside with tar. **read ›**

59 **Genesis 6:15** This is how you shall make the ark: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, the breadth fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. **read ›**

60 **Genesis 6:18** And I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall go into the ark, you and your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. **read ›**

61 **Genesis 7:1** Then the Lord God said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen you righteous before me in this generation. **read ›**

62 **Genesis 7:7** Noah went into the ark, and his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives with him, because of the water of the flood. **read ›**

63 **Genesis 7:15** They went into the ark to Noah, two by two, male and female, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. **read ›**

64 **Genesis 7:16** Those that went in, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded Noah. And the Lord God shut the ark from outside, behind Noah. **read ›**

65 **Genesis 7:17** The flood was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. The water increased and lifted up the ark, and it was raised up from the earth. **read ›**

66 **Genesis 7:18** The water prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth, and the ark was borne along upon the water. **read ›**

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

68 **Genesis 9:19** These three are the sons of Noah; from these, people were scattered over all the earth. **read ›**

69 **Genesis 27:18** He brought them in to his father and said, “Father.” And he said, “Behold, here I am. Who are you, child?” **read ›**

70 **Genesis 48:16** the angel who delivers me from all evils, bless these boys; and my name shall be called upon them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and may they grow into a great multitude on the earth.” **read ›**

71 **Genesis 49:18** waiting for the salvation of the Lord. **read ›**

72 **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 ›**

73 **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 ›**

74 **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 ›**

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

76 **Leviticus 4:20** He shall do with the calf just as he did with the calf of the sin offering; so it shall be done. And the priest shall make atonement for them, and the sin shall be forgiven them. **read ›**

77 **Leviticus 5:5** then he shall confess the sin concerning the things in which he has sinned by that sin. **read ›**

78 **Leviticus 5:6** And for what he has trespassed against the Lord, for the sin which he has sinned, he shall bring a female from the sheep, a lamb, or a female goat from the goats, as a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin which he has sinned, and the sin shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

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

80 **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 ›**

81 **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 ›**

82 **Leviticus 14:9** On the seventh day he shall shave off all his hair—his head, his beard, and his eyebrows; all his hair he shall shave off—and he shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and he shall be clean. **read ›**

83 **Leviticus 15:13** When the man with the discharge is cleansed of his discharge, seven days shall be counted for him for his cleansing; then he shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and he shall be clean. **read ›**

84 **Leviticus 16:26** The one who sends away the goat that was set apart for release shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and after that he may come into the camp. **read ›**

85 **Leviticus 16:28** The one who burns them shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and after that he may come into the camp. **read ›**

86 **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 ›**

87 **Leviticus 26:40** Then they shall confess their sins and the sins of their fathers, that they transgressed and disregarded me, and that they walked contrary before me, **read ›**

88 **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 ›**

89 **Numbers 12:4** At once the Lord said to Moses and Aaron and Miriam, “Come out, you three, to the tabernacle of witness.” **read ›**

90 **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 ›**

91 **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 ›**

92 **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 ›**

93 **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 ›**

94 **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 ›**

95 **Numbers 20:13** This is the Water of Dispute, because the children of Israel hurled insults before the Lord, and he was sanctified among them. **read ›**

96 **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 ›**

97 **Deuteronomy 6:5** And you shall love the Lord your God with all your mind, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. **read ›**

98 **Joshua 4:23** when the Lord our God dried up the water of the Jordan before them until they had crossed, just as the Lord our God did to the Red Sea, which the Lord our God dried up before us until we had passed through, **read ›**

99 **1 Kings 17:21** And he breathed on the child three times and called on the Lord and said, “O Lord my God, please let the soul of this child return to him.” **read ›**

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100 **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 ›**

101 **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 ›**

102 **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 ›**

103 **2 Chronicles 6:11** And there I have set the ark, in which is the covenant of the Lord that he made with Israel.” **read ›**

104 **Ezra 9:8** And now our God has been gracious to us, to leave us a remnant for salvation and to give us a support in the place of his sanctuary, to enlighten our eyes and to give us a little reviving in our slavery. **read ›**

105 **Psalms 5:1** For the end, concerning her who inherits, a Psalm of David. **read ›**

106 **Isaiah 7:11** “Ask for yourself a sign from the Lord your God, in the depth or in the height.” **read ›**

107 **Jeremiah 2:7** And I brought you into Carmel, to eat its fruits and its good things; and you went in and defiled my land, and made my inheritance an abomination. **read ›**

108 **Jeremiah 18:13** Therefore thus says the Lord: Ask now among the nations, who has heard such very dreadful things as the virgin of Israel has done? **read ›**

109 **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 ›**

110 **Jeremiah 31:5** For you have planted vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; plant, and praise. (Septuagint Jeremiah 38:5 (Jeremiah 31:5 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

111 **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 ›**

112 **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 ›**

113 **Lamentations 1:12** Lamed. All you who pass by on the way, turn and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which has come upon me; the Lord, who spoke in me, has humbled me in the day of the anger of his wrath. **read ›**

114 **Ezekiel 33:29** And they shall know that I am the Lord; and I will make their land desolate, and it shall be made desolate because of all their abominations that they have done. **read ›**

115 **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 ›**

116 **Amos 5:5** But do not seek Bethel, and do not go into Gilgal, and do not cross over to the Well of the Oath; for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall be as though it were not. **read ›**

117 **Haggai 2:6** For thus says the Lord Almighty: Yet once more I will shake the heaven and the earth, and the sea and the dry land; **read ›**

118 **1 Esdras 9:8** Now therefore make confession and give glory to the Lord God of our fathers, **read ›**

119 **Tobit 5:1** And Tobias answered and said to him, “Father, I will do all that you have commanded me. **read ›**

120 **Wisdom of Solomon 5:5** How has he been counted among the sons of God, and how is his lot among the holy ones? **read ›**

121 **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 ›**

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

123 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:8** Honor your father in deed and word, that a blessing may come upon you from him. **read ›**

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

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

126 **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 ›**

127 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:21** Before you fall sick, humble yourself, and in the time of sins, show your turning back. **read ›**

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

129 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:1** In three things I was made beautiful, and I stood up in beauty before the Lord and men: harmony among brothers, and friendship among neighbors, and a wife and husband who suit each other. **read ›**

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

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

132 **Wisdom of Sirach 33:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

133 **Wisdom of Sirach 39:22** His blessing covered like a river, and drenched the dry land like a flood. **read ›**

134 **Wisdom of Sirach 44:17** Noah was found perfect and righteous; in the time of anger he became an exchange; because of this a remnant was left to the earth, because of this the flood came. **read ›**

135 **Wisdom of Sirach 44:18** Everlasting covenants were made with him, that never should all flesh be blotted out by a flood. **read ›**

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

137 **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 ›**

138 **3 Maccabees 6:31** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

139 **4 Maccabees 5:37** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

140 **4 Maccabees 7:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

141 **4 Maccabees 15:31** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

142 **1 Enoch 1:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

143 **1 Enoch 1:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

144 **1 Enoch 1:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

145 **1 Enoch 13:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

146 **1 Enoch 13:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

147 **1 Enoch 22:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

148 **1 Enoch 54:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

149 **1 Enoch 59:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

150 **1 Enoch 60:18** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

151 **1 Enoch 60:20** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

152 **1 Enoch 67:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

153 **1 Enoch 67:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

154 **1 Enoch 69:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

155 **1 Enoch 89:38** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

156 **1 Enoch 106:18** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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

158 **Matthew 3:11** I indeed baptize you in water for repentance, but he who comes after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

159 **Matthew 3:16** Jesus, when he was baptized, went up directly from the water: and behold, the heavens were opened to him. He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming on him. **read ›**

160 **Matthew 28:19** Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **read ›**

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

162 **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 ›**

163 **Mark 1:8** I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.” **read ›**

164 **Mark 16:16** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who disbelieves will be condemned. **read ›**

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

166 **Luke 3:16** John answered them all, “I indeed baptize you with water, but he comes who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to loosen. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire. **read ›**

167 **Luke 3:21** When all the people were baptized, and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened, **read ›**

168 **Luke 3:22** and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, saying, “You are my beloved Son; in you I am well pleased.” **read ›**

169 **John 3:5** Jesus answered, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **read ›**

170 **John 20:23** If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone’s sins, they have been retained.” **read ›**

171 **Acts 1:5** for John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” **read ›**

172 **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 ›**

173 **Acts 1:18** Now this man acquired a field with the wages of unrighteousness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle, and all his intestines poured out. **read ›**

174 **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 ›**

175 **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 ›**

176 **Acts 11:2** When Peter had come up to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision contended with him, **read ›**

177 **Acts 12:3** When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This was during the days of unleavened bread. **read ›**

178 **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 ›**

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

180 **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 ›**

181 **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 ›**

182 **1 Corinthians 10:2** and were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; **read ›**

183 **Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **read ›**

184 **Ephesians 4:5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **read ›**

185 **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 ›**

186 **Hebrews 11:7** By faithfulness Noah, warned about things not yet seen, reverently prepared an ark to save his household. Through this he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is according to faithfulness. **read ›**

187 **1 Peter 3:20** who formerly disobeyed, when the patience of God waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being built, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. **read ›**

188 **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 ›**

189 **2 Peter 2:5** and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly, **read ›**

190 **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **read ›**

191 **1 John 5:6** This is he who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. **read ›**

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192 **1 John 5:7** For there are three who testify: **read ›**

193 **1 John 5:8** the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three agree as one. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *148 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 7:23 · 8:15 · 9:18

Exodus 4:6 · 15:25 · 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 · 46:12

Jeremiah 2:13 · 5:8

Malachi 4:5

Matthew 3:3 · 3:7 · 3:10 · 3:13 · 3:17 · 4:1 · 4:3 · 5:13 · 7:7 · 9:29 · 10:42 · 11:13 · 12:32 · 14:25 · 17:12 · 18:16 · 18:20 · 19:14 · 19:17 · 21:23 · 21:25 · 25:29 · 26:41 · 27:24

Mark 1:3 · 2:8 · 4:36 · 5:9 · 5:15 · 10:38 · 11:30 · 14:27

Luke 1:35 · 1:76 · 3:2 · 3:9 · 7:18 · 7:37 · 10:21 · 10:35 · 11:9 · 12:10 · 12:50 · 14:11 · 18:10 · 20:4 · 22:28

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

Acts 1:4 · 2:17 · 5:31 · 8:16 · 8:18 · 11:15 · 12:15 · 15:7 · 19:1 · 19:2 · 19:5

Romans 8:5 · 10:10

1 Corinthians 1:18 · 1:20 · 2:8 · 4:13 · 7:14 · 10:4 · 12:3 · 12:4 · 12:13 · 13:11 · 14:20

2 Corinthians 1:21 · 5:5 · 5:21 · 6:16 · 7:1 · 13:1

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

Ephesians 5:8

Philippians 2:7

Colossians 1:25

1 Thessalonians 4:8

1 Timothy 1:4

Hebrews 6:4 · 10:26 · 11:5 · 12:16

1 John 3:9

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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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