THE QUESTION

What did the early Christians believe about election?

Asked by a THF member on May 22, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 12 numbered quotations · the 33 early Christian passages and 178 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-election

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

The early Christians taught that the church is God's chosen people in Christ, gathered from every nation. They linked election to God's foreknowledge and grace, but they did not treat it as fate. The elect are saved through faith, are called to holy living, and remain free to choose good or evil.

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

Christians are a people chosen by God

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

Clement of Alexandria reads Peter's words about a chosen generation as plainly meaning Christians. Ignatius lists one chosen Church alongside one God, one Lord, one Spirit and one baptism, so election belongs to the whole church together.

1 “It is very clear that we are a chosen race by God's choosing.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Fragments* 1 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 18, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

2 “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 3, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Believers from every nation are gathered in

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

Ignatius says that people from every nation who believe are gathered to God in Christ, and that even the hard-hearted became Abraham's children. Justin, arguing with a Jewish teacher, says Christ is the true Israel, so those joined to Christ belong to the true Israelite race.

3 “And those with a stony heart have become the children of Abraham, the friend of God; and in his seed all those have been blessed who were ordained to eternal life in Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle to the Magnesians* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 2, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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4 “Therefore, just as Christ is the Israel and the Jacob, so we, who have been brought out from the body of Christ, are the true Israelite race.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *Dialogue with Trypho* (c. 130–165 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 5, page 6 Read it in the library ›

POINT 3 OF 7

God's call rests on grace, not reward

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

Ignatius warns that if God paid us back for our works, none of us would survive, so we must not take His kindness lightly. Irenaeus repeats Paul's teaching that God's choice in Rebecca's sons did not depend on their works but on the One who calls.

5 “For if He were to reward us according to our works, we would cease to exist.”

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

Source 2, page 6 Read it in the library ›

6 “that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not based on works, but on Him who calls.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 11, page 7 Read it in the library ›

POINT 4 OF 7

Election goes together with God's foreknowledge

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

Justin says the Christian calling into the new covenant came about through God's wonderful foreknowledge. Irenaeus explains the choice of Jacob over Esau by pointing to the God who knows hidden things and foresees all events.

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7 “We have not believed in Him in vain, nor have we been misled by those who taught us these doctrines; this has come to pass through the wonderful foreknowledge of God, so that through the calling of the new and eternal covenant, that is, of Christ, we might be found more intelligent and God-fearing than you, who are considered lovers of God and men of understanding, but are not.”

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

8 “Our God, who knows hidden things and foresees all events, is also their God; and for this reason, He has said, “Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.””

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

POINT 5 OF 7

Knowing an event beforehand does not cause it

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

Answering a pagan critic, Origen denies that something happens because God foretold it. He says the future event is the reason it could be foretold, not the other way around. So God's foreknowledge does not force anyone's choices.

9 “Celsus imagines that an event, predicted through foreknowledge, comes to pass because it was predicted. But we do not grant this.”

later in the same passage

“We maintain that he who foretold it was not the cause of its happening because he foretold that it would happen.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 20 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 23, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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POINT 6 OF 7

People truly choose and answer for it

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

Origen gathers Scripture's calls to choose life and obey, and says Christ's commands show that keeping them is up to us. People are justly judged when they break them. Election, in this reading, does not cancel human choice.

10 "And the Saviour also, when He commands, "But I say unto you, Resist not evil;" and, "Whosoever shall be angry with his brother, shall be in danger of the judgment;" and, "Whosoever shall look upon a woman to lust after her, has already committed adultery with her in his heart;" and by any other commandment which He gives, declares that it lies with ourselves to keep what is enjoined, and that we shall reasonably be liable to condemnation if we transgress."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 1 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 24, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 7

The elect are saved through faith

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

In Hermas's vision, Faith is the first woman holding up the tower, and through her God's elect are saved. Clement of Rome tells a divided church to cling to the innocent and righteous, since these are God's elect, and warns that their schism has hurt the faith of many.

11 "The first one, who is clasping her hands, is called Faith. Through her, the elect of God are saved."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 1, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

12 "Let us join, therefore, to the innocent and righteous, since these are the elect of God."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 33, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not explain exactly how God's foreknowledge and human choice fit together.
- They do not say whether the number of the elect is fixed or who belongs to 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 33 early Christian passages and 178 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–33, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 34–109, in Bible order), then 102 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 *33 passages from 14 writers*

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · source 1*

1 *Shepherd* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** “do, Lady, said I. This tower, said she, is supported by them according to the precept of the Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 2–3*

2 *Epistle to the Magnesians* **Quotes 3, 5, pages 2, 3** “in his seed all those have been blessed who were ordained to eternal life in Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Epistles of Ignatius* (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** “also one elect Church; there ought likewise to be but one faith in respect to Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · source 4*

4 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 3) which joy many desire to enter, knowing that “by grace ye are saved, not of works… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 5–7*

5 *Dialogue with Trypho* **Quote 4, page 3** Holy One of Israel, who has made known Israel as your King,’ will you not understand that truly Christ is the everlasting King? For you know that Jacob, the son… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Dialogue with Trypho* **Quote 7, page 4** “been misled by those who taught us these doctrines; this has come to pass through the wonderful foreknowledge of God, so that through the calling of the new and eternal… [continues online] **read ›**

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7 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 2) “as the children of the free women and the children of the bond women born to Jacob were all sons and equal in dignity… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 8–10*

8 *Diatessaron* 30 (1885 English) “22:14 The called are many; and the chosen, few… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Diatessaron* 42 lying prophets will arise, and they will do signs and wonders in order to lead astray even the elect, if they are able. But as for you, beware, for I… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Diatessaron* 35 (on point 2) in my words, truly you are my disciples. And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They said to him, "We are the seed of… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 11–13*

11 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English) **Quotes 6, 8, pages 3, 4** “in the Epistle to the Romans, the apostle declares: “Moreover, when Rebecca had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac,” she received answer from the Word, “that the purpose… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Against Heresies: Book III* (on point 4) “shows that the genealogy tracing our Lord's lineage back to Adam includes seventy-two generations. This connects the end with the beginning, suggesting that Jesus encompasses in Himself all… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Against Heresies: Book III* (on point 4) “All these things were foreknown by the Father… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 14–18*

14 *Stromata* 5.1 (on point 7) “he adds, "The righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith." Romans 1:17 So the apostle clearly declares a twofold faith, or rather one faith that allows growth… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Stromata* 4.26 (on point 6) heaven to something worse. For God works all things toward what is better. But the soul that has chosen the best life — the life that is from God and righteousness… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Stromata* 5.10 “the election in safety, and beyond anxiety… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Stromata* 4.7 (1885 English; on point 4) “whom He did predestinate, them He also called… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Fragments* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** “Peter 2:9 That we are a chosen race by the election of God is abundantly clear… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 19–21*

19 *Against Marcion* 30 (1885 English; on point 2) “however, he condemns them beforehand as about to reject his call, then beforehand he also predicts the election of the Gentiles in their stead… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *De Anima (On the Soul)* 21 (1885 English; on point 6) “will be the power of the grace of God, more potent indeed than nature, exercising its sway over the faculty that underlies itself within us — even the freedom of our… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *On the Apparel of Women* 2.9 (1885 English; on point 4) “have been predestined by God, before the world was, (to arise) in the extreme end of the times… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · source 22*

22 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (on point 2) says that by the foal he means the calling of the Gentiles, and by the other colt, the calling of the circumcision. Also, the one donkey signifies that the two… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 23–28*

23 *Against Celsus* 20 **Quote 9, page 4** the following is our reply to such statements. Celsus imagines that an event, predicted through foreknowledge, comes to pass because it was predicted. But we do not grant this. We… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 1 **Quote 10, page 5** “was thirsty, and you gave Me to drink,” it is exceedingly manifest that He gives the promises to these as being deserving of praise… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 5 (1885 English; on point 1) “apostle also, in the Epistle to the Ephesians, has employed the same language, saying, Who has chosen us before the foundation of the world… [continues online] **read ›**

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26 *Against Celsus* 18 (on point 5) “if He had foreknowledge of the traitor, He knew the wickedness… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 9 (1885 English; on point 3) “the same question, as it seems to me, which is raised concerning Jacob and Esau, may be raised regarding all celestial and terrestrial creatures, and even those of the lower… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Commentary on Matthew* 13 (1885 English; on point 4) “whether from birth they had been appointed, according to the foreknowledge and predestination of God, over those whom God also foreknew, and foreordained to be conformed to the glory of… [continues online] **read ›**

Gregory Thaumaturgus, *c. 240–270 AD · source 29*

29 *Metaphrase of Ecclesiastes* 3 (1885 English; on point 4) “those which are to be, have already been, as regards His foreknowledge… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · source 30*

30 *Treatises* nor ever will arise. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved. But for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened. Then if anyone says… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 31–32*

31 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) eating with Him, and He wanted both to bring Judas back to his duty and to teach us of His own foreknowledge, He said, "Truly, truly, I say to you… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 1) because those which are now baptized are ordained priests, but as being Christians, or anointed, from Christ the Anointed, a royal priesthood, and an holy nation, the Church of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 33*

33 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quote 12, page 5** and tumults, and divisions, and schisms, and wars among you? Have we not all one God and one Christ? Is there not one Spirit of grace poured out upon us… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *76 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

34 **Genesis 3:5** For God knew that in whatever day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.” **read ›**

35 **Exodus 21:11** And if he does not do these three things for her, she shall go out free, without money. **read ›**

36 **Leviticus 22:19** unblemished males from the herds, or from the sheep, and from the goats are acceptable for you. **read ›**

37 **Numbers 16:5** And he spoke to Korah and to all his congregation, saying, “God has visited and known those who are his and those who are holy, and he has brought them near to himself; and those whom he has chosen for himself he has brought near to himself. **read ›**

38 **Deuteronomy 10:15** Yet the Lord preferred your fathers, to love them, and he chose their seed after them—you—above all the nations, as at this day. **read ›**

39 **1 Chronicles 16:13** O seed of Israel, his servants, sons of Jacob, his chosen ones. **read ›**

40 **Job 9:5** He wears out the mountains, and they do not know it; he overturns them in wrath. **read ›**

41 **Job 9:6** He shakes the earth under heaven from its foundations, and its pillars are shaken. **read ›**

42 **Isaiah 14:2** And the Gentiles will take them and bring them into their place, and they will take possession of them, and they will be multiplied on the land as male and female slaves; and those who took them captive will become captives, and those who ruled over them will be ruled. **read ›**

43 **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 ›**

44 **Jeremiah 32:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

45 **Jeremiah 46:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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

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47 **Amos 3:9** Proclaim it to the regions among the Assyrians, and to the regions of Egypt, and say, “Gather yourselves on the mountain of Samaria, and see the many marvels in her midst, and the oppression that is in her.” **read ›**

48 **Amos 3:14** For in the day when I avenge the ungodly deeds of Israel upon him, I will also take vengeance on the altars of Bethel; and the horns of the altar shall be broken off, and they shall fall to the ground. **read ›**

49 **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 ›**

50 **Tobit 6:12** And the young woman is beautiful and sensible. And now listen to me, and I will speak to her father; and when we return from Rages, we will hold the wedding. For I know that Raguel will by no means give her to another man according to the law of Moses; otherwise he will be liable to death, because it is right for you to take the inheritance rather than any other man.” **read ›**

51 **Judith 9:5** For you made the things before those, and those things, and the things after; you planned the things now and the things to come, and what you had in mind came to pass. **read ›**

52 **Judith 9:6** The things you planned stood ready and said, ‘Behold, we are here’; for all your ways are prepared, and your judgment is in your foreknowledge. **read ›**

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

54 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:9** Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will stay with him in love, for grace and mercy are for his chosen ones. **read ›**

55 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:14** And blessed is the eunuch who has done no lawless deed with his hand, nor devised evil things against the Lord; for to him will be given the choice grace of faith, and a more delightful lot in the temple of the Lord. **read ›**

56 **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 ›**

57 **Wisdom of Solomon 19:1** But merciless wrath pressed upon the ungodly to the end; for he knew beforehand even what they would do: **read ›**

58 **Wisdom of Sirach 15:16** He has set fire and water before you; you will stretch out your hand to whichever you wish. **read ›**

59 **Wisdom of Sirach 23:20** Before all things were created they were known to him, and so also after they were completed. **read ›**

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

61 **Wisdom of Sirach 37:21** for grace was not given him from the Lord, because he was deprived of all wisdom. **read ›**

62 **Wisdom of Sirach 42:19** declaring the things that have passed and those that will be, and revealing the traces of hidden things. **read ›**

63 **Wisdom of Sirach 45:4** In his faithfulness and meekness he sanctified him; he chose him out of all flesh. **read ›**

64 **4 Maccabees 14:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

65 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

66 **4 Maccabees 15:26** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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

68 **1 Enoch 1:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

69 **1 Enoch 5:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

70 **1 Enoch 9:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

71 **1 Enoch 39:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

72 **1 Enoch 39:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

73 **1 Enoch 40:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

74 **1 Enoch 41:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

75 **1 Enoch 48:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

76 **1 Enoch 51:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

77 **1 Enoch 58:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

78 **1 Enoch 58:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

79 **1 Enoch 58:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

80 **1 Enoch 61:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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81 **1 Enoch 62:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

82 **1 Enoch 62:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

83 **1 Enoch 62:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

84 **1 Enoch 93:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

85 **1 Enoch 94:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

86 **John 3:17** For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him. **read ›**

87 **John 15:16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you. **read ›**

88 **Acts 13:48** When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and glorified the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. **read ›**

89 **Romans 1:5** through whom we received grace and apostleship for obedience of faithfulness among all the nations for his name's sake; **read ›**

90 **Romans 5:15** But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if by the trespass of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. **read ›**

91 **Romans 6:14** For sin will not have dominion over you, for you are not under law, but under grace. **read ›**

92 **Romans 8:29** For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **read ›**

93 **Romans 8:30** Whom he predestined, those he also called. Whom he called, those he also justified. Whom he justified, those he also glorified. **read ›**

94 **Romans 9:11** For before the children had been born or had done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to choosing might stand, not from works but from him who calls, **read ›**

95 **Romans 9:16** So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who has mercy. **read ›**

96 **Romans 11:5** So then, at the present time too, there is a remnant chosen by grace. **read ›**

97 **Romans 11:6** And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work. **read ›**

98 **Romans 11:7** What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks, but the chosen ones obtained it, and the rest were hardened, **read ›**

99 **Romans 11:28** As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake; but as regards God's choosing, they are beloved for the fathers' sake. **read ›**

100 **Ephesians 1:4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before him in love, **read ›**

101 **Ephesians 1:5** having predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **read ›**

102 **Ephesians 1:6** to the praise of the glory of his grace, with which he graced us in the Beloved. **read ›**

103 **Ephesians 1:11** in him. In him we were also assigned an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **read ›**

104 **Ephesians 2:8** for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **read ›**

105 **1 Thessalonians 1:4** knowing, brothers loved by God, that you are chosen, **read ›**

106 **2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning for salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and faithfulness to the truth, **read ›**

107 **2 Timothy 1:9** who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, **read ›**

108 **1 Peter 1:2** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood: Grace to you and peace be multiplied. **read ›**

109 **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **read ›**

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ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *102 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.

2 Samuel 7:14

Ecclesiastes 3:11 · 3:16

Isaiah 2:5 · 52:15

Jeremiah 7:24 · 22:29

Matthew 2:20 · 4:9 · 9:22 · 12:40 · 17:20 · 18:6 · 19:12 · 24:21 · 25:41 · 26:15 · 26:21 · 26:24 · 26:30 · 26:31 · 26:39 · 26:41 · 26:47 · 27:9 · 27:46

Mark 9:42 · 16:9

Luke 11:23 · 14:12 · 14:16 · 14:18 · 14:21 · 14:23 · 17:2 · 17:5 · 17:6 · 22:32 · 22:34 · 22:47 · 23:2 · 23:14 · 23:21 · 23:34 · 23:39 · 23:46 · 24:18

John 3:5 · 3:18 · 12:6 · 13:21 · 15:1 · 16:32 · 17:3 · 18:1 · 18:38 · 20:11

Acts 2:24 · 10:28 · 17:3

Romans 1:11 · 1:17 · 1:24 · 2:4 · 8:7 · 8:20 · 8:28 · 12:5 · 13:13

1 Corinthians 1:10 · 5:11 · 7:29 · 7:30 · 7:31 · 10:11 · 12:11 · 12:26 · 13:2

2 Corinthians 11:2 · 11:29

Galatians 1:1 · 2:2 · 5:22

Ephesians 4:1 · 4:4 · 4:5 · 4:8 · 5:6 · 6:14

Philippians 1:5 · 3:3

1 Timothy 3:15 · 4:4

2 Timothy 2:23

Titus 3:5

James 4:1

1 Peter 1:8 · 1:20 · 2:2

2 Peter 1:5

Jude 1:1 · 1:2

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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 election?” 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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