THE QUESTION

What did the early Christians believe about inherited sin?

Asked by a THF member on May 22, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 12 numbered quotations · the 38 early Christian passages and 181 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-inherited-sin

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

The early writers taught that Adam's disobedience brought death and corruption on the whole human race, so every person is born into a fallen condition. Cyprian says even infants share this inheritance from Adam, which baptism forgives. Yet they also insist that each person sins by free choice and answers for his own sins.

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

Adam's disobedience made corruption part of nature

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

A fragment of Justin says that once man turned to disobedience, corruption became part of human nature itself. Irenaeus puts it simply: through our first birth from Adam we inherited death, and through Christ's new birth we may inherit life.

1 "Man, having been created in this way, and immediately leaning towards disobedience, naturally became subject to corruption. With corruption becoming inherent in nature, it was necessary for Him who wanted to save to be one who would destroy the root cause of corruption."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *Other Fragments from the Lost Writings of Justin* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 2, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2 "Just as through the first generation we inherited death, through this new generation we might inherit life."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book V* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 13, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Every person is born under Adam's sentence

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

Cyprian says that because of Adam's sentence we are born into a life of toil and struggle. Theophilus traces how death, after Cain killed Abel, spread into every race of mankind.

3 "Then we will know how patient we ought to be in this life, since we are born into such a condition that we labor here amid afflictions and struggles."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 28, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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4 “And so death got its beginning in this world, and found its way into every race of mankind, even to this day.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Theophilus of Antioch,** *To Autolycus* 29 (c. 169–183 AD) **Source 6, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 7

Infants carry the contagion of ancient death

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

Cyprian argues that newborns should not be kept from baptism. An infant has not sinned himself, but being born from Adam he carries the contagion of death. So what is forgiven him is not his own sin, but another's.

5 “For an infant, being newly born, has not sinned, except that, being born according to the flesh after Adam, he has contracted the contagion of the ancient death from his first birth.”

later in the same passage

“For this very reason, he comes more easily to receive the forgiveness of sins, since what are remitted to him are not his own sins, but the sins of another.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 27, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Adam's story speaks for the whole race

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

Origen notes that Adam means man in Hebrew. He reads the curse on Adam as applying to every member of the human race, not to one man only.

6 “For in Adam, as Scripture says, all die, and were condemned in the likeness of Adam's transgression. The word of God says this not so much about one particular individual as about the whole human race.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 40 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 24, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 5 OF 7

We share Adam's sin by sinning like him

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

Clement links our place under Adam's sin to our being like him in sin. Tertullian notes that the law once visited the fathers' sins on children, but later taught that each person is charged with his own sin.

7 “In the same way, we also lie under Adam’s sin because of our similarity in sin.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Fragments* 1 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 16, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

8 “In other words, the father should not bear the son's sin, nor the son the father's sin, but each person should be charged with his own sin.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Against Marcion* 15 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 21, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Each person still sins by free will

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

Tatian says we were not made to die but die by our own fault. Archelaus says God gave each person free will, so sinning is our own doing, while not sinning is God's gift.

9 “We were not created to die, but we die by our own fault. Our free will has destroyed us. We who were free have become slaves. We have been sold through sin.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Address to the Greeks* 11 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 5, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

10 “To sin is ours, and that we do not sin is God's gift, since our will is formed to choose either to sin or not to sin.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Archelaus,** *Disputation with Manes* 1 (c. 270–300 AD) **Source 29, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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POINT 7 OF 7

Christ undoes what came through Adam

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

Irenaeus sets Christ's obedience against Adam's disobedience: as death came through one man, life came through another. Gregory Thaumaturgus says sin entered through the flesh, so Christ condemned sin in that same flesh.

11 “For just as sin entered through one man's disobedience, and death came through sin, so also through the obedience of one man, righteousness was introduced, bringing life to those who were once dead.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book III* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 11, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

12 “This was so that, just as sin entered the world through flesh, and death came to rule over all men through sin, so also sin in the flesh might be condemned through that same flesh in its likeness.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Gregory Thaumaturgus,** *Twelve Topics on the Faith* 1 (c. 240–270 AD) **Source 25, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages clearly say death and corruption come from Adam, but they do not agree on whether Adam's guilt itself passes to each person.
- Only Cyprian here speaks directly about infants; the others do not address them.
- 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 38 early Christian passages and 181 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–38, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 39–123, in Bible order), then 96 more verses THF links

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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 *38 passages from 16 writers*

Mathetes, *c. 80–200 AD · source 1*

1 *Epistle to Diognetus* (on point 7) righteousness of One should justify many transgressors… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 2–3*

2 *Other Fragments from the Lost Writings of Justin* (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** "having been thus made, and immediately looking towards transgression, naturally became subject to corruption… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *First Apology* (1885 English; on point 6) "again, unless the human race have the power of avoiding evil and choosing good by free choice, they are not accountable for their actions, of whatever kind they be… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 4–5*

4 *Address to the Greeks* 15 (on point 1) "men, after the loss of immortality, have conquered death by submitting to death in faith… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Address to the Greeks* 11 **Quote 9, page 4** "free will has destroyed us. We who were free have become slaves… [continues online] **read ›**

Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · sources 6–9*

6 *To Autolycus* 29 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** "I my brother's keeper? God, being thus made angry with him, said, What have you done… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *To Autolycus* 25 (1885 English; on point 2) "from his disobedience did man draw, as from a fountain, labour, pain, grief, and at last fall a prey to death… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *To Autolycus* 27 (1885 English; on point 6) "God made man free, and with power over himself… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *To Autolycus* 17 (1885 English; on point 4) "in like manner it came to pass, that in the case of man's sin, he being master, all that was subject to him sinned with him… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 10–14*

10 *Against Heresies: Book III* (on point 7) in the adoption as children unless we had received from Him, through the Son, that fellowship related to Himself, unless His Word, having become flesh, had entered into communion with… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Against Heresies: Book III* **Quote 11, page 5** "just as sin entered through one man's disobedience, and death came through sin, so also through the obedience of one man, righteousness was introduced, bringing life to those who… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English; on point 6) "man, being endowed with reason, and in this respect like to God, having been made free in his will, and with power over himself, is himself the cause to himself… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Against Heresies: Book V* **Quote 2, page 2** it to be merely worldly water, not accepting God to unite with Him. They remain in the state of Adam, who was defeated and expelled from Paradise, failing to realize… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English; on point 6) "because man is possessed of free will from the beginning, and God is possessed of free will, in whose likeness man was created, advice is always given to him to… [continues online] **read ›**

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Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 15–17*

15 *Stromata* 3 (1885 English; on point 1) “regnavit mors ab Adam usque ad Moysen, Romans 5:12-14 inquit Apostolus: naturali autem divinæ ceconomiæ necessitate mors sequitur generationem: et corporis et animæ conjunctionem consequitur eorum dissolutio… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Fragments* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** “so also we lie under Adam's sin through similarity of sin… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Stromata* 5.14 (1885 English; on point 6) “blame lies in the exercise of free choice… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 18–21*

18 *On Exhortation to Chastity* 2 (1885 English) “I shall not make the assertion rashly — for you must needs correspond to the seed whence you spring — if indeed it be true, (as it is), that the originator of… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *On the Resurrection of the Flesh* 49 (on point 2) have indeed borne the image of the earthy by sharing in his transgression, by taking part in his death, and by being driven out of Paradise. Now, although the image… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *De Anima (On the Soul)* 20 (on point 6) “about fortune, it is man's freedom of will… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Against Marcion* 15 (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** “that the grace and the offense equally ran down through the whole race, with the reservation, indeed, of that subsequent ordinance by which it became possible to refrain from saying… [continues online] **read ›**

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

22 *Against the Jews* 1 (1885 English; on point 7) “is, on account of the sin of Adam I endured the death which was not mine by sinning… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (1885 English; on point 7) “by this was signified the imperishable and incorruptible tabernacle of (the Lord) Himself, which gendered no corruption of sin… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 24*

24 *Against Celsus* 40 (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 3** “in Adam (as the Scripture says) all die, and were condemned in the likeness of Adam's transgression, the word of God asserting this not so much of one particular… [continues online] **read ›**

Gregory Thaumaturgus, *c. 240–270 AD · source 25*

25 *Twelve Topics on the Faith* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 12, page 5** “16:33 And this He said, not as holding before us any contest proper only to a God, but as showing our own flesh in its capacity to overcome suffering… [continues online] **read ›**

Novatian, *c. 240–258 AD · source 26*

26 *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 1 (on point 6) “for his service, He willed that he alone should be free. But lest unlimited freedom should again fall into danger, He laid down a command. In it, man was taught… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 27–28*

27 *Epistles* (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** “again, if even to the greatest sinners, and to those who had sinned much against God, when they subsequently believed, remission of sins is granted — and nobody is hindered from… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 2** “3:17-19 We are all tied and bound with the chain of this sentence, until, death being expunged, we depart from this life… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · sources 29–32*

29 *Disputation with Manes* 1 **Quote 10, page 4** “because it was God who first gave the commandment, the Lord Jesus Himself said to the devil, "Get behind me, Satan… [continues online] **read ›**

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30 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 2) “said, "It is written that death reigned from Adam to Moses… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 6) “also over the righteous, because they refused to consent to it, and rather withstood it, by putting away from themselves the vices and concupiscence of lusts — men like those who… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 2) of the law, and all that men needed to observe and do under it, and when he handed over to death only those who transgressed the law, then death was… [continues online] **read ›**

Methodius, *c. 270–311 AD · sources 33–34*

33 *From the Discourse on the Resurrection* desired to eat, unless it had been said, "You shall not eat of it." For it was from there that sin took an opportunity to deceive me. For when the… [continues online] **read ›**

34 *From the Discourse on the Resurrection* (on point 1) “flesh was made to stand between incorruption and corruption, being itself neither one nor the other, and since it was overcome by corruption for the sake of pleasure, though it… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 35–36*

35 *Divine Institutes* 13 (1885 English; on point 2) “therefore followed man, according to the sentence of God, which even the Sibyl teaches in her verse, saying: Man made by the very hands of God, whom the serpent treacherously… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 27 (1885 English; on point 2) “death came upon man according to the sentence of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Peter of Alexandria, *c. 300–311 AD · sources 37–38*

37 *Genuine Acts of Peter* desired to eat, unless it had been said, "You shall not eat of it." For it was from there that sin took an occasion to deceive me. For when the… [continues online] **read ›**

38 *Genuine Acts of Peter* (on point 1) “the flesh was made to stand between incorruption and corruption, being itself neither one nor the other, and since it was overcome by corruption for the sake of pleasure, though… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *85 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

39 **Genesis 2:16** And the Lord God commanded Adam, saying, “From every tree that is in the garden you may eat for food; **read ›**

40 **Genesis 2:17** but from the tree of knowing good and evil you shall not eat. In whatever day you eat from it, you shall surely die.” **read ›**

41 **Genesis 3:3** but of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You shall not eat from it, nor shall you touch it at all, lest you die.’” **read ›**

42 **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 ›**

43 **Genesis 3:6** The woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasing to the eyes to look at, and beautiful to consider. She took from its fruit and ate, and she also gave to her husband with her, and they ate. **read ›**

44 **Genesis 3:8** They heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the afternoon, and both Adam and his wife hid themselves from the face of the Lord God in the midst of the trees of the garden. **read ›**

45 **Genesis 3:12** Adam said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.” **read ›**

46 **Genesis 3:13** Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” **read ›**

47 **Genesis 3:17** And to Adam he said, “Because you listened to the voice of your wife and ate from the tree from which alone I commanded you not to eat—from it you ate—cursed is the ground in your labors. In sorrows you shall eat from it all the days of your life. **read ›**

48 **Genesis 3:22** Then God said, “Behold, Adam has become like one of us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he stretch out his hand and take from the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” **read ›**

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49 **Genesis 3:24** He cast Adam out and settled him opposite the garden of Delight, and he stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword that turns about, to guard the way to the tree of life. **read ›**

50 **Genesis 5:1** This is the book of the generation of men. In the day that God made Adam, he made him according to the image of God. **read ›**

51 **Genesis 5:2** Male and female he made them, and he blessed them, and he called his name Adam, in the day that he made them. **read ›**

52 **Genesis 5:5** So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died. **read ›**

53 **Genesis 6:11** But the earth was corrupted before God, and the earth was filled with unrighteousness. **read ›**

54 **Genesis 6:12** The Lord God saw the earth, and it was corrupted, because all flesh had corrupted its way on the earth. **read ›**

55 **Genesis 7:21** And all flesh that moved on the earth died—birds, cattle, and wild beasts, and every creeping thing that moves on the earth, and every man. **read ›**

56 **Genesis 7:22** Everything that has the breath of life, and everything that was on the dry land, died. **read ›**

57 **Numbers 5:31** then the man shall be free from sin, and that woman shall bear her sin." **read ›**

58 **Numbers 16:29** If these men die the death of all men, and if their visitation is as the visitation of all men, then the Lord has not sent me. **read ›**

59 **Deuteronomy 2:16** When all the men of war had fallen, dying from among the people, **read ›**

60 **Deuteronomy 32:5** Blemished children, not his, have sinned, a crooked and perverse generation. **read ›**

61 **1 Chronicles 1:1** Adam, Seth, Enosh, **read ›**

62 **Psalms 51:5** For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins my mother conceived me. (Septuagint Psalm 50:7 (Psalm 51:5 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

63 **Isaiah 2:21** to go into the holes of the solid rock, and into the crevices of the rocks, from before the fear of the Lord, and from the glory of his might, when he rises to shatter the earth. **read ›**

64 **Jeremiah 50:7** All who found them devoured them; their enemies said, "Let us not release them, because they sinned against the Lord: a pasture of righteousness to him who gathered their fathers." (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:7 (Jeremiah 50:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

65 **Ezekiel 18:20** But the soul that sins shall die; the son shall not bear the unrighteousness of the father, nor shall the father bear the unrighteousness of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the iniquity of the lawless shall be upon him. **read ›**

66 **Ezekiel 25:6** For thus says the Lord: Because you clapped your hand and stamped with your foot, and rejoiced from your soul over the land of Israel, **read ›**

67 **Ezekiel 30:23** and I will scatter Egypt among the nations, and winnow them into the countries. **read ›**

68 **Ezekiel 34:15** I will feed my sheep, and I will make them rest; and they shall know that I am the Lord. Thus says the Lord God. **read ›**

69 **Daniel 5:22** And you, his son Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart before God; did you not know all these things? **read ›**

70 **Amos 3:13** Hear, O priests, and testify to the house of Jacob, says the Lord God Almighty. **read ›**

71 **Amos 5:13** Therefore the one who understands shall keep silent at that time, for it is a time of evils. **read ›**

72 **Amos 7:6** "This also shall certainly not be," says the Lord. **read ›**

73 **Wisdom of Solomon 2:23** For God created man for incorruption, and made him an image of his own nature. **read ›**

74 **Wisdom of Solomon 2:24** But through the envy of the devil death entered the world, and those who belong to his side experience it. **read ›**

75 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:13** their offspring is cursed. For blessed is the barren woman who is undefiled, who has not known a bed of transgression; she will have fruit at the visitation of souls. **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Solomon 5:13** so we also, as soon as we were born, ceased to be; we had no sign of virtue to show, but were consumed in our wickedness." **read ›**

77 **Wisdom of Solomon 6:19** and incorruption brings one near to God; **read ›**

78 **Wisdom of Solomon 7:6** there is one entrance into life for all, and a like departure. **read ›**

79 **Wisdom of Solomon 14:26** disturbance of the good, forgetfulness of favors, defilement of souls, confusion of sex, disorder in marriage, adultery, and shameless conduct. **read ›**

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80 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:9** For the holy children of good men offered sacrifice in secret, and in full agreement they established the divine law, that the holy ones would share alike in the same good things and dangers, the fathers already leading the songs of praise. **read ›**

81 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:12** And all together, by one kind of death, had countless dead; for the living were not even enough to bury them, since in a single moment their most honored offspring was destroyed. **read ›**

82 **Wisdom of Sirach 5:13** Glory and dishonor are in speaking, and a man's tongue is his downfall. **read ›**

83 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:11** For when a man dies, he will inherit creeping things and wild beasts and worms. **read ›**

84 **Wisdom of Sirach 14:17** All flesh grows old like a garment, for the covenant from of old is, 'You shall die the death.' **read ›**

85 **Wisdom of Sirach 15:17** Before men are life and death, and whichever he chooses will be given to him. **read ›**

86 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:8** What is man, and what is his use? What is his good, and what is his evil? **read ›**

87 **Wisdom of Sirach 23:12** There is a manner of speech clothed in death; let it not be found in the inheritance of Jacob. For all these things will be far from the godly, and they will not wallow in sins. **read ›**

88 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:24** From a woman sin had its beginning, and because of her we all die. **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Sirach 40:8** So it is with all flesh, from man to beast, and upon sinners sevenfold more than these. **read ›**

90 **Wisdom of Sirach 41:3** Do not dread the judgment of death; remember those before you and those after; this is the judgment from the Lord for all flesh. **read ›**

91 **Wisdom of Sirach 41:5** The children of sinners become abominable children, and they live among the homes of the ungodly. **read ›**

92 **Wisdom of Sirach 41:6** The inheritance of sinners' children will perish, and disgrace will continue with their seed. **read ›**

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

94 **2 Maccabees 6:15** lest he should take vengeance on us afterward, when our sins have reached their height. **read ›**

95 **2 Maccabees 7:32** For we are suffering because of our own sins. **read ›**

96 **4 Maccabees 2:21** For when God fashioned man, he planted around him man's passions and habits. **read ›**

97 **4 Maccabees 18:23** But the children of Abraham, with their victorious mother, are gathered together into the chorus of the fathers, having received immortal souls from God. **read ›**

98 **1 Enoch 12:6** they shall see the murder of their beloved ones, and over the destruction of their sons they shall groan, and they shall plead forever, and there shall be no mercy or peace for them.' " **read ›**

99 **1 Enoch 15:4** And you were holy, living, eternal spirits; yet you defiled yourselves with the blood of women, and with the blood of flesh you fathered children, and with the blood of men you lusted, just as they also produce flesh and blood—they who die and perish. **read ›**

100 **1 Enoch 22:10** And so this one was created for sinners, when they die and are buried in the earth and judgment has not come upon them in their lifetime. **read ›**

101 **1 Enoch 69:7** And from his hand they have proceeded against those who dwell on the earth from that day and forevermore. **read ›**

102 **1 Enoch 69:11** For men were created exactly like the angels, so that they would continue pure and righteous, and death, which destroys everything, could not have taken hold of them; but through this knowledge of theirs they are perishing, and through this power it is consuming me. **read ›**

103 **1 Enoch 84:4** And now the angels of your heavens are guilty of trespass, and upon the flesh of men your wrath remains until the great day of judgment. **read ›**

104 **1 Enoch 108:15** And the sinners shall cry aloud and see them shining brightly, and they indeed shall go where days and seasons are prescribed for them." **read ›**

105 **Acts 9:7** The men traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. **read ›**

106 **Acts 25:8** while he said in his defense, "Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar, have I sinned at all." **read ›**

107 **Romans 3:23** for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God; **read ›**

108 **Romans 5:12** Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin, so death passed to all men because all sinned. **read ›**

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109 **Romans 5:14** Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam's transgression, who is a pattern of the one to come. **read ›**

110 **Romans 5:17** For if by the trespass of the one, death reigned through the one, so much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ. **read ›**

111 **Romans 5:18** So then, as through one trespass condemnation came to all people, so also through one righteous act justification of life came to all people. **read ›**

112 **Romans 5:19** For as through the one man's disobedience many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one, many will be made righteous. **read ›**

113 **Romans 6:21** What fruit then did you have at that time in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. **read ›**

114 **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **read ›**

115 **Romans 8:21** that the creation itself also will be delivered from the slavery of decay into the liberty of the glory of the children of God. **read ›**

116 **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 ›**

117 **1 Corinthians 15:21** For since death came by man, the resurrection of the dead also came by man. **read ›**

118 **1 Corinthians 15:22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. **read ›**

119 **1 Corinthians 15:45** So also it is written: The first man Adam became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. **read ›**

120 **2 Corinthians 5:7** for we walk by faith, not by sight. **read ›**

121 **Ephesians 2:3** We also all once lived among them in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. **read ›**

122 **1 Timothy 2:14** And Adam was not deceived, but the woman, being deceived, has fallen into transgression; **read ›**

123 **Hebrews 9:27** Inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once, and after this, judgment, **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *96 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 1:26 · 2:7 · 3:1 · 3:20

Exodus 20:8

Psalms 105:15

Matthew 4:10 · 5:13 · 5:21 · 6:25 · 7:22 · 10:19 · 11:25 · 12:41 · 13:52 · 16:16 · 21:13 · 23:35 · 27:25

Mark 4:24 · 14:21

Luke 1:32 · 1:35 · 1:42 · 10:18 · 10:19 · 18:29 · 24:44

John 1:3 · 1:8 · 1:13 · 1:18 · 1:29 · 2:3 · 2:4 · 3:10 · 4:20 · 5:17 · 8:44 · 9:1 · 10:18 · 16:33 · 19:30

Acts 17:30

Romans 3:21 · 3:25 · 5:6 · 6:4 · 7:7 · 7:8 · 7:9 · 7:12 · 7:13 · 7:14 · 7:15 · 7:19 · 8:3 · 8:9 · 8:22 · 8:35 · 14:9

1 Corinthians 1:22 · 2:15 · 6:15 · 6:18 · 15:26 · 15:32 · 15:40 · 15:47 · 15:48 · 15:49 · 15:50 · 15:53 · 15:54

2 Corinthians 3:14 · 5:21 · 10:5

Galatians 4:4 · 5:21 · 6:14

Ephesians 2:5 · 2:17 · 4:22

Philippians 2:6

Colossians 1:18 · 4:2

1 Timothy 4:1

Titus 3:4

1 Peter 2:21 · 3:18

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2 Peter 3:8
1 John 1:8 · 3:10 · 4:10 · 4:20
Revelation 1:5

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 inherited sin?” on May 22, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY