THE QUESTION

What did the early Christians believe about predestination?

Asked by a THF member on May 21, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 13 numbered quotations · the 34 early Christian passages and 183 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-predestination

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

They taught that God foreknows all things and chooses and predestines His people, and that salvation is by grace, not our works. But they denied that His foreknowledge forces anything. God made people free, invites everyone, forces no one, and those who are lost are foreknown as wicked, not made wicked.

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 8

God foreknew and predestined His people

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

Origen speaks plainly of the foreknowledge and predestination of God, quoting Romans 8:29. An early church prayer praises God, who knows all things before they happen and has delighted from the foundation of the world in those He chose.

1 “Or have angels been appointed over them from birth, according to the foreknowledge and predestination of God, over those whom God also foreknew and predestined to be conformed to the glory of the Christ, Romans 8:29?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on Matthew* 13 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 16, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2 “From the foundation of the world, You have delighted in those whom You chose to be glorified in.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 26, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

Salvation comes by grace, not our works

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

Methodius, in a work on free will, still begins from Ephesians 2: we are saved by grace and not by works. Ignatius likewise says that if God paid us back by our works, we would not survive, and he speaks of those ordained to eternal life in Christ.

3 “Since grace and truth certainly came by Jesus Christ, as John 1:17 says, and since by grace we are saved, according to the apostle's word, "and that not of yourselves, nor of works, lest any man should boast," in Ephesians 2:8-9, by the will of God the Word was made flesh and was found in form as a man, as Philippians 2:7 says.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Methodius,** *Concerning Free Will* 1 (c. 270–311 AD) **Source 27, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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

later in the same passage

“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)
THF's updated English

Source 1, page 6 Read it in the library ›

POINT 3 OF 8

Being foreseen is not fate

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

Justin Martyr says Christians do not believe things happen by fatal necessity just because God foresees them. If one person were destined to be good and another evil, he argues, neither praise nor blame would make sense.

5 “To clarify what we've said and to prevent misunderstandings, we affirm that we do not claim everything happens out of a fatal necessity because it is foreseen.”

later in the same passage

“For example, if it were destined that one person be good and another evil, the first would not be deserving of praise nor the second deserving of blame.”

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

Source 5, page 7 Read it in the library ›

POINT 4 OF 8

Foreknowledge does not cause what happens

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

Origen answers a pagan critic: a prediction does not make the event happen. Rather, the future event gives the one who foreknows it the reason to foretell it. Tatian also says the Word foretold things not as fated, but as the choices of free beings.

6 “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)
THF's updated English

Source 17, page 8 Read it in the library ›

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7 “It did this not as if they were fated, but as things taking place by the choice of free agents.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Address to the Greeks* 7 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 7, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 8

The lost are foreknown, not made wicked

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

Justin explains that when Scripture foretells that some will be punished, it is because God foreknows their lasting wickedness, not because He made them that way. Anyone who repents and desires it can still receive mercy.

8 “If the word of God predicts that some angels and people will definitely be punished, it is because it foreknows they will be unchangeably wicked, not because God made them that way.”

later in the same passage

“Therefore, if they repent, all who desire it can receive mercy from God: and Scripture declares that they will be blessed, saying, 'Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute sin;' meaning, after he has repented of his sins so that he may receive forgiveness from God.”

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

POINT 6 OF 8

Christ invites everyone and forces no one

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

Arnobius answers the question of why Christ does not save everyone: He invites all alike and gives all the same power to come. Clement of Alexandria says the choice belongs to the person, while the gift belongs to God, who does not compel.

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9 “I reply, does He not free everyone alike when He invites everyone alike?”

later in the same passage

“God forces no one and terrifies no one with overwhelming fear.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Arnobius,** *Against the Heathen* 2 (c. 290–330 AD) **Source 31, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

10 “For the choice was upon the man, as upon a free being, but the gift was upon God, as upon Lord.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 10 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 12, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 8

God's commands assume real freedom

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

Irenaeus asks why the apostles and the Lord would give commands if obeying were not in our power. Tertullian adds that God gave man freedom once for all and held back His power so as not to take that freedom away.

11 “If it were not within our power to do or not do these things, why would the apostle, and even more so the Lord Himself, advise us to do some things and avoid others?”

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

12 “For once He had allowed man, once for all, freedom of will and self-control, and, as we have shown, had rightly allowed it, then by His own authority as Creator He certainly permitted those gifts to be used.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Against Marcion* 7 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 15, page 7** Read it in the library ›
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POINT 8 OF 8

God is never the author of evil

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

Clement of Alexandria places the blame for sin on how we use our free choice. God stays blameless, because He never causes evil. This guards against any idea that God predestines people to sin.

13 "The blame lies in the use of free choice. But God is blameless, because He is never the author of evil."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 5.14 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 13, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**

THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- These passages do not give one full explanation of how God's choosing and human choice fit together.
- They touch on Jacob and Esau in Romans 9 but do not settle every question it raises.
- 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 34 early Christian passages and 183 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–34, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 35–141, in Bible order), then 76 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 *34 passages from 17 writers*

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 1–2*

1 *Epistle to the Magnesians* **Quote 4, page 3** "in his seed all those have been blessed who were ordained to eternal life in Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

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2 *Epistle to the Magnesians* wrought not by God, but by the devil. I do not mean to say that there are two different human natures, but that there is one humanity, sometimes belonging to… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · source 3*

3 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 2) 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 4–6*

4 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 7) "yet, since He knew that it would be good, He created both angels and men free to do that which is righteous, and He appointed periods of time during which… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *First Apology* **Quote 5, page 3** "of blame. Furthermore, if humanity did not have the power to avoid evil and choose good through free will, they would not be responsible for their actions. We demonstrate that… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** "if the word of God foretells that some angels and men shall be certainly punished, it did so because it foreknew that they would be unchangeably [wicked], but not because… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · source 7*

7 *Address to the Greeks* 7 **Quote 7, page 4** the creation of men, was the Framer of angels. And each of these two orders of creatures was made free to act as it pleased. They did not have the… [continues online] **read ›**

Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 8*

8 *To Autolycus* 27 (1885 English; on point 7) "God made man free, and with power over himself… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 9–11*

9 *Against Heresies: Book V* (on point 7) "His Father has made everyone in the same state, each person having a choice of their own and a free understanding, and that He cares for all things and oversees… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Against Heresies: Book III* (on point 1) "All these things were foreknown by the Father… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** "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 ›**

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

12 *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 10 (1885 English) **Quote 10, page 5** "choice depended on the man as being free… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Stromata* 5.14 (1885 English) **Quote 13, page 6** "blame lies in the exercise of free choice… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Stromata* 5.1 if a person is saved by nature, as Valentinus wants, and is by nature a believer and one of the elect, as Basilides thinks. And nature would have been able… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · source 15*

15 *Against Marcion* 7 **Quote 12, page 5** "remains fully preserved for God: both His natural goodness, the purposes of His rule and foreknowledge, and the fullness of His power. However, if you want to stop asking whether… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 16–21*

16 *Commentary on Matthew* 13 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** "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 ›**

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17 *Against Celsus* 20 **Quote 6, page 3** logicians an idle argument, which is a sophism, will be no sophism as far as Celsus can help, but according to sound reasoning it is a sophism. And that this… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 2 (on point 7) “freedom of will being preserved to us in either case… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 9 (on point 1) being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of Him who calls, it… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 3 (1885 English; on point 7) “freedom of will is always directed either to good or evil… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Against Celsus* 18 (on point 4) “if He had foreknowledge of the traitor, He knew the wickedness… [continues online] **read ›**

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

22 *Metaphrase of Ecclesiastes* 3 (1885 English; on point 1) “those which are to be, have already been, as regards His foreknowledge… [continues online] **read ›**

Novatian, *c. 240–258 AD · sources 23–24*

23 *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 1 (on point 7) And when He had given him all things for his service, He willed that he alone should be free. But lest unlimited freedom should again fall into danger, He laid… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 16 (on point 1) “even if He is said to be glorious in predestination, and that this predestination was before the foundation… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · source 25*

25 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 6) “does He impose the yoke of necessity, since the free choice of the will is left… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · source 26*

26 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** “appointed beforehand the race righteous from the beginning that came from Abraham to be rulers, and constituted them priests, not leaving Your sanctuary without ministers… [continues online] **read ›**

Methodius, *c. 270–311 AD · sources 27–30*

27 *Concerning Free Will* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 2** “certainly grace and truth came by Jesus Christ, John 1:17 whence also by grace we are saved, according to that word of the apostle, and that not of yourselves… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Fragments* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “certainly grace and truth came by Jesus Christ, John 1:17 whence also by grace we are saved, according to that word of the apostle, and that not of yourselves… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Concerning Free Will* 1 (on point 1) And in this matter, according to the Word, when he speaks of the day of our holy feast, "the election has attained it, but the rest have become hardened," as… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Fragments* 1 (on point 1) of heart. This is what we, observing the law sincerely, have received. And in this matter, according to the Word, when He speaks of the day of our holy feast… [continues online] **read ›**

Arnobius, *c. 290–330 AD · source 31*

31 *Against the Heathen* 2 **Quote 9, page 5** “Christ came as the Savior of men, as you say, why does He not, with equal kindness, set everyone free without exception? I reply, does He not free everyone alike… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · source 32*

32 *On the Anger of God* 9 (1885 English; on point 1) “can divinity be attributed to Him in any other way than if He retains the past, and knows the present, and foresees the future… [continues online] **read ›**

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Clement of Rome · *sources 33–34*

33 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (on point 1) the Scripture] says, “With a harmless person you shall prove yourself harmless, and with an elect person you shall be elect, and with a perverse person you shall show yourself… [continues online] **read ›**

34 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (on point 2) we, too, being called by His will in Christ Jesus, are not justified by ourselves, nor by our own wisdom, or understanding, or godliness… [continues online] **read ›**

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

35 **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 ›**

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

37 **Genesis 15:6** Abram believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. **read ›**

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

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

40 **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 ›**

41 **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 ›**

42 **Deuteronomy 30:19** I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, that you may live, you and your seed, **read ›**

43 **2 Samuel 24:12** ‘Thus says the Lord: I lay three things on you; choose one of them for yourself, and I will do it to you.’” **read ›**

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

45 **Ecclesiastes 1:2** “Vanity of vanities,” said the Preacher, “vanity of vanities; all is vanity.” **read ›**

46 **Ecclesiastes 1:3** What advantage does a man have in all his labor at which he labors under the sun? **read ›**

47 **Song of Solomon 3:5** I have charged you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the powers and by the strengths of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases. **read ›**

48 **Song of Solomon 7:9** and your throat like the good wine, going down rightly to my kinsman, suited to my lips and teeth. (Septuagint Song of Solomon 7:10 (Song of Solomon 7:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

49 **Isaiah 1:16** Wash yourselves; become clean; remove the evils from your souls before my eyes; cease from your evils; **read ›**

50 **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 ›**

51 **Isaiah 3:2** the giant and the mighty man, and the man of war, and the judge, and the prophet, and the fortune-teller, and the elder, **read ›**

52 **Isaiah 7:21** And it shall be in that day that a man shall rear a young cow and two sheep; **read ›**

53 **Isaiah 8:21** And a hard famine shall come upon you, and it shall be that when you are hungry you shall be grieved, and you shall speak evil of the ruler and of the ways of your fathers; and they shall look up to heaven above, **read ›**

54 **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 ›**

55 **Isaiah 15:8** For the cry has reached the border of the land of Moab, of Eglaim, and her wailing as far as the well of Elim. **read ›**

56 **Jeremiah 36:18** Baruch said, “Jeremiah told me all these words from his own mouth, and I was writing them in a book.” (Septuagint Jeremiah 43:18 (Jeremiah 36:18 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

57 **Jeremiah 46:5** Why are they terrified and drawing back? Because their mighty men will be cut down; they have fled in flight and have not turned back, hemmed in on every side, says the Lord. (Septuagint Jeremiah 26:5 (Jeremiah 46:5 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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58 **Lamentations 1:6** Waw. And from the daughter of Zion all her majesty has been taken away; her rulers became like rams that find no pasture, and they went on without strength before the pursuer. **read ›**

59 **Lamentations 1:14** Nun. Watch has been kept over my ungodly deeds; they are twined together in my hands; they have come up upon my neck; my strength has failed; for the Lord has put pains in my hands; I shall not be able to stand. **read ›**

60 **Ezekiel 34:4** The weak you have not strengthened, and the sick you have not made whole, and the broken you have not bound up, and the straying you have not brought back, and the lost you have not sought; and the strong you have worn out with toil. **read ›**

61 **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 ›**

62 **Amos 8:4** Hear this, you who crush the needy in the morning, and oppress the poor, driving them from the land, **read ›**

63 **Amos 9:13** Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, when the harvest shall overtake the grape harvest, and the grape shall ripen in the time of sowing, and the mountains will drip sweetness, and all the hills shall be planted. **read ›**

64 **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 ›**

65 **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 ›**

66 **Wisdom of Solomon 8:4** For she is an initiate in the knowledge of God, and one who chooses his works. **read ›**

67 **Wisdom of Solomon 9:13** For what man can know the counsel of God? Or who can conceive what the Lord wills? **read ›**

68 **Wisdom of Solomon 15:3** For to know you is complete righteousness, and to know your power is the root of immortality. **read ›**

69 **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 ›**

70 **Wisdom of Sirach 15:14** He himself made man from the beginning, and left him in the hand of his own counsel. **read ›**

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

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

73 **Wisdom of Sirach 16:14** He will make room for every act of mercy; each one will find according to his works. **read ›**

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

75 **Wisdom of Sirach 36:13** Have compassion on the city of your sanctuary, Jerusalem, the city of your rest. (Septuagint Wisdom of Sirach 36:18 (Wisdom of Sirach 36:13 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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

77 **Wisdom of Sirach 39:18** At his command is all his good pleasure, and there is no one who will lessen his salvation. **read ›**

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

79 **1 Maccabees 2:52** Was not Abraham found faithful in trial, and it was counted to him for righteousness? **read ›**

80 **1 Maccabees 3:60** But whatever the will in heaven may be, that he will do.” **read ›**

81 **2 Maccabees 1:2** May God do good to you, and may he remember his covenant with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, his faithful slaves. **read ›**

82 **2 Maccabees 1:3** May he give you all a heart to worship him and to do his will with a great heart and a willing soul. **read ›**

83 **2 Maccabees 9:20** If you and your children are well and your own affairs are as you wish, I give the greatest thanks to God, having my hope in heaven. **read ›**

84 **3 Maccabees 3:5** Yet by adorning their manner of life with the good conduct of the righteous, they had won a good name among all people. **read ›**

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85 **3 Maccabees 7:9** For know that if we plot any evil against them, or grieve them at all, we shall have against us not a man but the Most High God, who rules over all power, to avenge these things, inescapably in every way and at all times. Farewell." **read ›**

86 **4 Maccabees 1:16** And wisdom is knowledge of divine and human matters and of their causes. **read ›**

87 **4 Maccabees 1:33** For why else, when we are moved toward forbidden foods, do we turn away from the pleasures they would bring? Is it not because reason is able to master the appetites? I think so. **read ›**

88 **4 Maccabees 2:21** For when God fashioned man, he planted around him man's passions and habits. **read ›**

89 **4 Maccabees 3:2** For example, none of you can cut out desire, but reason can enable you not to be enslaved to desire. **read ›**

90 **4 Maccabees 7:21** For who, living as a philosopher devoutly by the whole rule of philosophy, and having believed God, **read ›**

91 **4 Maccabees 8:21** And even divine justice will forgive us if we fear the king out of necessity. **read ›**

92 **4 Maccabees 15:3** loved more the godliness that saves to eternal life according to God. **read ›**

93 **4 Maccabees 15:8** yet because of the fear of God she disregarded the temporary salvation of her children. **read ›**

94 **1 Enoch 1:3** Concerning the chosen ones I now speak, and concerning them I took up my parable. My Holy Great One shall come forth from his dwelling, **read ›**

95 **1 Enoch 1:6** The high mountains shall be shaken and shall fall and be broken apart, and the high hills shall be brought low, so that the mountains flow away; and they shall melt like wax before the fire, in the flame. **read ›**

96 **1 Enoch 1:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

97 **1 Enoch 5:8** Then light and grace shall be given to the chosen ones, and they shall inherit the earth. Then wisdom shall be given to all the chosen ones, and they shall all live and shall never sin again, neither through ungodliness nor through pride; and in an enlightened man there shall be light, and in a man of knowledge, understanding. **read ›**

98 **1 Enoch 9:11** And you know all things before they happen, and you see these things and let them be, and you do not even tell us what must be done to them concerning these things." **read ›**

99 **1 Enoch 41:2** And there I saw the dwelling places of the chosen ones and the dwelling places of the holy; and my eyes saw there all the sinners who deny the name of the Lord of Spirits being driven from there and being dragged off; and they could not remain because of the punishment which goes out from the Lord of Spirits. **read ›**

100 **1 Enoch 48:6** And for this reason he has been chosen and hidden before him, before the creation of the world and forevermore. **read ›**

101 **1 Enoch 49:4** And he shall judge the secret things, and no one shall be able to utter a lying word before him; for he is the Elect One before the Lord of Spirits according to his good pleasure. **read ›**

102 **1 Enoch 51:2** And he shall choose the righteous and holy from among them; for the day has drawn near that they should be saved. **read ›**

103 **1 Enoch 58:2** Blessed are you, you righteous and chosen, for glorious shall be your lot. **read ›**

104 **1 Enoch 62:7** For from the beginning the Son of Man was hidden, and the Most High preserved him in the presence of his might, and revealed him to the chosen ones. **read ›**

105 **1 Enoch 62:8** And the congregation of the chosen and holy shall be sown, and all the chosen ones shall stand before him on that day. **read ›**

106 **1 Enoch 93:10** At its close the chosen righteous of the eternal plant of righteousness shall be chosen, to receive sevenfold instruction concerning all his creation. **read ›**

107 **Luke 4:7** If you therefore will worship before me, it will all be yours." **read ›**

108 **John 1:13** who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a man, but of God. **read ›**

109 **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 ›**

110 **John 7:17** If anyone desires to do his will, he will know about the teaching, whether it is from God or if I am speaking from myself. **read ›**

111 **Acts 2:23** this man, handed over by the determined counsel and foreknowledge of God, you took and killed, nailing him to a cross through the hands of lawless men. **read ›**

112 **Acts 4:28** to do whatever your hand and your counsel determined beforehand would happen. **read ›**

113 **Acts 15:11** But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are." **read ›**

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114 **Acts 15:18** All his works are known to God from eternity. **read ›**

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

116 **Romans 3:24** being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **read ›**

117 **Romans 3:28** We maintain therefore that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. **read ›**

118 **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 ›**

119 **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 ›**

120 **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 ›**

121 **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 ›**

122 **Romans 9:15** For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." **read ›**

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

124 **Romans 9:18** So then, he has mercy on whom he desires, and he hardens whom he desires. **read ›**

125 **Romans 9:19** You will say then to me, "Why does he still find fault? For who withstands his will?" **read ›**

126 **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 ›**

127 **Romans 11:32** For God has bound all to disobedience, that he might have mercy on all. **read ›**

128 **Romans 11:33** O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and how untraceable his ways! **read ›**

129 **Galatians 2:16** yet knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, even we believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by the faithfulness of Christ and not by works of the law, because no flesh will be justified by works of the law. **read ›**

130 **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 ›**

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

132 **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 ›**

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

134 **Ephesians 2:9** not of works, that no one would boast. **read ›**

135 **Philippians 2:13** for it is God who works in you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. **read ›**

136 **1 Thessalonians 1:4** knowing, brothers loved by God, that you are chosen, **read ›**

137 **Titus 2:11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, **read ›**

138 **Titus 3:5** not by works of righteousness which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy, he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, **read ›**

139 **Philemon 1:14** But I wished to do nothing without your consent, so that your good deed would be voluntary, not compelled. **read ›**

140 **James 2:24** You see then that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith. **read ›**

141 **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 ›**

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ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *76 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.

Exodus 20:8

Ecclesiastes 3:11 · 3:16

Isaiah 50:4

Matthew 2:20 · 3:12 · 4:9 · 5:19 · 5:45 · 9:22 · 10:25 · 10:32 · 11:12 · 13:30 · 13:40 · 17:20 · 18:6 · 19:21 · 25:33 · 25:41 · 26:24 · 27:63

Mark 9:42

Luke 3:17 · 8:51 · 10:12 · 10:41 · 11:23 · 17:2 · 17:5 · 17:6 · 17:34

John 1:18 · 3:5 · 4:13 · 5:17 · 11:26 · 13:2 · 16:14 · 17:3 · 17:5 · 19:30

Acts 2:24 · 10:28 · 17:3

Romans 1:11 · 1:17 · 8:20 · 9:5 · 12:5

1 Corinthians 1:10 · 12:11 · 12:26 · 13:2

2 Corinthians 8:16 · 10:5 · 11:2 · 11:29

Galatians 1:1 · 2:2

Ephesians 4:1 · 4:4 · 4:8 · 4:27 · 5:6 · 6:14

Philippians 1:5

2 Timothy 2:23

Hebrews 2:1

James 4:1

1 Peter 1:8 · 2:2

Jude 1:1 · 1:2 · 1:7 · 1:11

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

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY