THE QUESTION

# What did the early Christians believe about the eternal generation of the Son?

*Asked by a THF member on May 22, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 15 numbered quotations · the 40 early Christian passages and 209 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-the-eternal-generation-of-the

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

The early writers taught that the Son was truly begotten of the Father before time and before all creation, so there was never a time when He did not exist. They said He was begotten, not made, and that how this happened is beyond human understanding and unlike any human birth.

| | |
|---|---|
| **LIBRARY ONLY** | This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it. |
| **HOW IT WAS MADE** | Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith. |
| **SHARING WITH AN AI?** | Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us. |

IN THIS STUDY


| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | The Son was begotten before all ages | **2** | **6** | How it happened cannot be explained | **5** |
| **2** | There was never a time without the Son | **2** | **7** | The begotten Son is distinct from the Father | **5** |
| **3** | The Father has always been Father | **3** | **8** | Some spoke of the Word coming forth | **6** |
| **4** | Begotten, not created or made | **3** | | What these passages don't tell us | **6** |
| **5** | His birth is unlike any human birth | **4** | | The Sources: 40 early Christian passages and 209 Bible verses, with links | **7** |


© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

POINT 1 OF 8

## The Son was begotten before all ages

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

Ignatius places the Son's birth from the Father before time itself, long before His birth from Mary. The baptism confession in the Apostolic Constitutions says the same thing in the words new believers spoke: the only begotten Son was begotten before the ages, and all things were made through Him.

**1** “For the Son of God, who was begotten before time began and established all things according to the will of the Father, was conceived in the womb of Mary, according to the appointment of God, of the seed of David, and by the Holy Ghost.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 1, page 7** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

**2** “who before the ages was begotten by the good pleasure of the Father, by whom all things were made, both the things in heaven and the things on earth, visible and invisible”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 32, page 9** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

POINT 2 OF 8

## There was never a time without the Son

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

Origen and Dionysius of Alexandria both use the picture of light and its shining. Light never exists without its brightness, so the Father never existed without the Son. Dionysius adds that a Father always has an offspring: if the Father is eternal, so is the Son.

**3** “Accordingly, just as light could never exist without splendor, so neither can the Son be understood to exist without the Father.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 4 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 20, page 8** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

4 “Therefore, since the Father is eternal, the Son also is eternal, Light from Light. For where there is the one who begets, there is also the offspring.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Source 24, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
**Dionysius of Alexandria,** *Miscellaneous Fragments* 1
(c. 232–265 AD)
*THF's updated English*

POINT 3 OF 8

## The Father has always been Father

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

Alexander of Alexandria argues that God is called Father because the Son is always with Him. So the Son was not begotten at some point in time, after a gap, or out of nothing. To say otherwise would mean God was once not yet a Father.

5 “Therefore, since this idea of a creation from things that are not appears to be most impious, it is necessary to say that the Father is always the Father. But He is the Father because the Son is always with Him, on whose account He is called the Father.”

*later in the same passage*

“He has begotten His only begotten Son, not in time, nor after an interval, nor from things that are not.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Source 40, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
**Alexander of Alexandria,** *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1
(c. 313–328 AD)
*THF's updated English*

POINT 4 OF 8

## Begotten, not created or made

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

Dionysius of Rome warns that calling the Son a creature is a great error. Scripture says He was begotten, not made, and if He had been made there would have been a time when He did not exist. Gregory Thaumaturgus likewise says the Father alone is unbegotten and the Son comes from a true generation.

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

**6** “The divine statements testify that He was begotten, as is fitting and proper, but not that He was created or made.”

*later in the same passage*

“For if the Son was made, there was a time when He was not. But He always was, if, as He Himself declares, He is indeed in the Father.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Dionysius of Rome,** *Against the Sabellians* 1 (c. 259–268 AD) **Source 33, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

**7** “The Father remains unbegotten. The Son is begotten of the Father in a true generation, and not formed by an act of will.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Gregory Thaumaturgus,** *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (c. 240–270 AD) **Source 27, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

POINT 5 OF 8

## His birth is unlike any human birth

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

Origen says it is wrong to picture this generation like the birth of a man or animal. He compares it to the sun's brightness, which lasts as long as the sun. Gregory adds that the Son is not a son by adoption, the way angels and believers are called sons, but by nature.

**8** “For His generation is as eternal and everlasting as the brilliancy produced from the sun. For He is not made the Son by receiving the breath of life through some outward act, but by His own nature.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 2 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 21, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

**9** “He is not like a spoken word, nor like a son by adoption, in the sense in which angels and men are called sons of God, but as a Son who is by nature God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Gregory Thaumaturgus,** *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (c. 240–270 AD) **Source 28, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

POINT 6 OF 8

## How it happened cannot be explained

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

Irenaeus and Hippolytus both refuse to describe how the Son was begotten. Irenaeus says only the Father and the Son know it. Hippolytus points out that people cannot even fully explain their own births, so they should believe what has been revealed rather than pry into God's secret.

**10** "If anyone, therefore, asks us, "How then was the Son produced by the Father?" we respond that no one understands that production, or generation, or calling, or revelation, or whatever name one may use to describe His generation, which is truly indescribable."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book II* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 8, page 7** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

**11** "In your own case, you can give no explanation of the way in which you were begotten, although every day you see the cause according to man."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Against the Heresy of Noetus* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 16, page 8** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

POINT 7 OF 8

## The begotten Son is distinct from the Father

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

Justin reads the Wisdom passage of Proverbs as speaking of the Son begotten before creation, and he draws the point that the one begotten is distinct from the one who begets. Tertullian agrees that the Son is another than the Father, yet he insists this is not a division.

**12** "When I repeated these words, I added: "You see, my listeners, if you pay attention, that Scripture has declared that this Offspring was begotten by the Father before all created things; and anyone will admit that which is begotten is numerically distinct from that which begets.""

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *Dialogue with Trypho* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 3, page 7** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

**13** “In calling Him Another, we must mean that He is not identical. He is not identical, yet not as if separate. He is Other by divine arrangement, not by division.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Against Praxeas* 21 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 11, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

POINT 8 OF 8

## Some spoke of the Word coming forth

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

Theophilus says the Word always existed within God's heart, and then speaks of God begetting the Word when He set out to make the world. Tertullian also calls the Word's going forth at creation His perfect birth. These writers hold the Word always existed, but describe His going forth in stages.

**14** “Not as the poets and writers of myths speak of the sons of gods begotten from intercourse with women, but as the truth explains, the Word always exists, dwelling within the heart of God. For before anything came into being, He had Him as a counselor, being His own mind and thought.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Theophilus of Antioch,** *To Autolycus* 22 (c. 169–183 AD) **Source 6, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

**15** “This is the perfect nativity of the Word, when He proceeds forth from God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Against Praxeas* 7 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 12, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
*THF's updated English*

THE LIMITS

## What these passages don’t tell us

- The writers do not explain how the Son is begotten; several say plainly that it cannot be explained.
- Not all of them use the same words: Theophilus and Tertullian speak of the Word coming forth at creation, while Origen and Alexander stress a birth outside time.
- 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.

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

# The Sources

The 40 early Christian passages and 209 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–40, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 41–133, in Bible order), then 116 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 *40 passages from 17 writers*

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

**1** *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* **Quote 1, page 2** "the Son of God, who was begotten before time began and established all things according to the will… [continues online] **read ›**

**2** *Epistle to the Magnesians* (on point 1) "being begotten by the Father before the beginning of time, was God the Word, the only-begotten Son, and… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Justin Martyr**, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 3–5*

**3** *Dialogue with Trypho* **Quote 12, page 5** "begets me before all the hills.' When I repeated these words, I… [continues online] **read ›**

**4** *First Apology* with the Father and do not know that the Father of the universe has a Son, who, being the first-begotten Word of God, is even God. In the past… [continues online] **read ›**

**5** *Second Apology* (1885 English; on point 1) "His Son, who alone is properly called Son, the Word, who also was with Him and was begotten before the works, when at first He created and arranged all things… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Theophilus of Antioch**, *c. 169–183 AD · source 6*

**6** *To Autolycus* 22 **Quote 14, page 6** of whom, John, says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Athenagoras**, *c. 170–190 AD · source 7*

**7** *A Plea for the Christians* 10 (1885 English; on point 8) "if, in your surpassing intelligence, it occurs to you to inquire what is meant by the Son, I will state briefly that He is the first product of the Father… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Irenaeus**, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 8–9*

**8** *Against Heresies: Book II* **Quote 10, page 5** "then was the Son produced by the Father?" we respond that no one understands that production, or generation, or calling, or revelation, or whatever name one may use to describe… [continues online] **read ›**

**9** *Against Heresies: Book II* (1885 English; on point 2) "the Son, eternally co-existing with the Father, from of old, yea, from the beginning, always reveals the Father to Angels, Archangels, Powers, Virtues, and all to whom He wills… [continues online] **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

**Clement of Alexandria**, *c. 190–215 AD · source 10*

**10** *Fragments* 1 (on point 2) “when he says, "That which was from the beginning… [continues online] **read ›**

**Tertullian**, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 11–14*

**11** *Against Praxeas* 21 **Quote 13, page 6** was not the very same as He from whom the Word came. "His glory was seen, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father." John 1:14 Notice… [continues online] **read ›**

**12** *Against Praxeas* 7 (1885 English) **Quote 15, page 6** “1:15 and His only-begotten also, because alone begotten of God, in a way peculiar to Himself, from the womb of His own heart — even as the Father Himself… [continues online] **read ›**

**13** *Against Hermogenes* 18 (on point 1) “before the hills He generated me, and prior to the depths was I begotten… [continues online] **read ›**

**14** *Against Praxeas* 10 (on point 7) it is either the Father or the Son, and day is not the same as night. In the same way, the Father is not the same as the Son, so… [continues online] **read ›**

**Early Liturgies**, *c. 200–400 AD · source 15*

**15** *Liturgy of Adaeus and Maris* 1 (on point 2) “are You, eternal Son, through whom all things were made… [continues online] **read ›**

**Hippolytus**, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 16–17*

**16** *Against the Heresy of Noetus* 1 **Quote 11, page 5** what is meant in this sentence, "I came forth from the Father," except the Word? And what is begotten of Him except the Spirit, that is to say, the Word… [continues online] **read ›**

**17** *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “He who was co-existent with His Father before all time… [continues online] **read ›**

**Origen**, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 18–22*

**18** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 2 (on point 2) “we have always held that God is the Father of His only… [continues online] **read ›**

**19** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 2 (on point 3) then we will also understand what its efflux is. Just as no one can be a father without having a son, nor a master without having a servant, so even… [continues online] **read ›**

**20** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 4 **Quote 3, page 2** “God the Father is invisible and inseparable from the Son, the Son is not generated from Him by prolation, as some suppose… [continues online] **read ›**

**21** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 2 (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** “His generation is as eternal and everlasting as the brilliancy which is produced from the sun… [continues online] **read ›**

**22** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 2 (on point 2) “thus also the existence of the Son is generated by Him… [continues online] **read ›**

**Dionysius of Alexandria**, *c. 232–265 AD · sources 23–25*

**23** *Miscellaneous Fragments* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “He is that Wisdom which says, I was that wherein He delighted, and I was daily His delight before His face at all times… [continues online] **read ›**

**24** *Miscellaneous Fragments* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** “Since, therefore, the Father is eternal, the Son also is eternal, Light of Light… [continues online] **read ›**

**25** *Miscellaneous Fragments* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “Moreover, the Son alone, always co-existing with the Father, and filled with Him who is, Himself also is, since He is of the Father” **read ›**

**Gregory Thaumaturgus**, *c. 240–270 AD · sources 26–28*

**26** *On the Trinity* 1 (on point 6) “the generation of the Son by the Father is incomprehensible and ineffable… [continues online] **read ›**

**27** *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 **Quote 7, page 4** “of the Father in a true generation, and not formed by an act of will. The Spirit is sent forth eternally from the substance of the Father through the Son… [continues online] **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

**28** *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** “the Father, being Himself the perfect Person, has thus the perfect Word begotten of Him truly, not as a word that is spoken, nor yet again as a son by… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Novatian**, *c. 240–258 AD · sources 29–31*

**29** *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 31 (on point 1) “He who is before all time must be said to have… [continues online] **read ›**

**30** *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 18 (on point 1) is both Lord and God, who was not otherwise seen by Abraham except that as God the Word He was begotten of God the Father before Abraham himself. Moreover, Scripture… [continues online] **read ›**

**31** *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 16 (1885 English; on point 1) “let this be explained by predestination, since this is not so expressed, or let them add this who think so, but woe is denounced to them who add to, even… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Apostolic Constitutions**, *c. 250–380 AD · source 32*

**32** *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 2, page 2** “into the Lord Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, the First-born of the whole creation, who before the ages was begotten by the good pleasure of the Father, by… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Dionysius of Rome**, *c. 259–268 AD · source 33*

**33** *Against the Sabellians* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 4** “not He Himself your Father, that has possessed you and created you… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Lactantius**, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 34–37*

**34** *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 43 (on point 1) But so that there may be no doubt in your mind about why we call Him Jesus Christ, who was born of God before the world and was born of… [continues online] **read ›**

**35** *Divine Institutes* 6 (1885 English; on point 1) “He prepared the heaven, I was by Him: and when He separated His own seat, when He made the strong clouds above the winds, and when He strengthened the mountains… [continues online] **read ›**

**36** *Divine Institutes* 13 (1885 English; on point 5) which reason it was befitting that the Son also should be twice born, that He also might become fatherless and motherless. For in His first nativity, which was spiritual, He… [continues online] **read ›**

**37** *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 42 (on point 1) “in the beginning, before He made the world, from the fountain of His own eternity and from the divine and everlasting Spirit, begot for… [continues online] **read ›**

### **Alexander of Alexandria**, *c. 313–328 AD · sources 38–40*

**38** *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 (on point 2) “He is "the brightness of His glory, the express image of His Father's person… [continues online] **read ›**

**39** *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 (on point 4) who say that there was a time when He was not? Who, hearing these words of the Gospel, "the only begotten Son," John 1:18, and, "by Him were all… [continues online] **read ›**

**40** *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 **Quote 5, page 3** “not in time, nor after an interval, nor… [continues online] **read ›**

## THE BIBLE *93 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

**41** **Genesis 22:2** He said, “Take your son, the beloved one, whom you have loved, Isaac, and go into the high land, and offer him there as a whole burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall tell you of.” **read ›**

**42** **Genesis 25:19** These are the generations of Isaac the son of Abraham: Abraham fathered Isaac. **read ›**

**43** **Genesis 49:22** Joseph is a son increased, my son increased, to be envied, my youngest son: turn back to me. **read ›**

**44** **Deuteronomy 23:9** When you go out to encamp against your enemies, you shall keep yourself from every evil thing. (Septuagint Deuteronomy 23:10 (Deuteronomy 23:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

**45** **1 Chronicles 28:5** And of all my sons — for the Lord has given me many sons — he has chosen Solomon my son to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

46 **Psalms 2:7** declaring the statute of the Lord: the Lord said to me, ‘You are my Son; today I have begotten you. **read ›**

47 **Psalms 13:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

48 **Proverbs 8:22** The Lord created me as the beginning of his ways, for his works. **read ›**

49 **Proverbs 8:23** Before the age he founded me, in the beginning, before he made the earth, **read ›**

50 **Ecclesiastes 1:4** A generation goes, and a generation comes, and the earth stands forever. **read ›**

51 **Isaiah 13:20** It will never be inhabited, nor will they enter it at all for many generations; nor will Arabians ever pass through it, nor will shepherds ever rest in it. **read ›**

52 **Isaiah 15:1** The word against the land of Moab. By night the land of Moab will be destroyed, for by night the wall of the land of Moab will be destroyed. **read ›**

53 **Isaiah 15:4** For Heshbon and Elealeh have cried out; their voice was heard as far as Jahaz. Therefore the loins of the land of Moab cry aloud; her soul will know. **read ›**

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

55 **Jeremiah 9:1** Who will give water to my head, and a fountain of tears to my eyes? And I will weep for this my people day and night, for the wounded of the daughter of my people. (Septuagint Jeremiah 8:23 (Jeremiah 9:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

56 **Jeremiah 23:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

57 **Jeremiah 32:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

58 **Jeremiah 34:17** Therefore thus said the Lord: You have not listened to me, to proclaim a release, each to his neighbor. Behold, I proclaim a release for you to the sword and to death and to famine, and I will give you up to be scattered among all the kingdoms of the earth. (Septuagint Jeremiah 41:17 (Jeremiah 34:17 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

59 **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 ›**

60 **Ezekiel 8:8** And he said to me, “Son of man, dig.” And I dug, and behold, a door. **read ›**

61 **Ezekiel 15:7** And I will set my face against them; they shall come out of the fire, and fire shall devour them; and they shall know that I am the Lord, when I set my face against them. **read ›**

62 **Ezekiel 25:2** Son of man, set your face firmly against the children of Ammon, and prophesy against them, **read ›**

63 **Daniel 11:19** And he shall turn his face back toward the strength of his own land, and he shall grow weak and fall and not be found. **read ›**

64 **Hosea 1:4** And the Lord said to him, “Call his name Jezreel, for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel on the house of Judah, and I will bring to an end the kingdom of the house of Israel. **read ›**

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

66 **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 ›**

67 **Amos 7:5** And I said, “O Lord, cease, I pray! Who will raise up Jacob? For he is very small. Relent, O Lord, concerning this.” **read ›**

68 **Amos 9:1** I saw the Lord standing upon the altar, and he said: Strike the mercy seat, and the gateways shall be shaken; and cut into the heads of all; and the rest of them I will kill with the sword; no fugitive of them shall ever escape, and no survivor of them shall ever be saved. **read ›**

69 **Malachi 1:12** But you profane my name in that you say, “The table of the Lord is defiled, and his food set on it is despised.” **read ›**

70 **Tobit 13:4** There make known his greatness; exalt him before every living thing, for he is our Lord, and God himself is our Father forever. **read ›**

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

72 **Wisdom of Solomon 2:18** For if the righteous man is a son of God, God will help him, and deliver him from the hand of his adversaries. **read ›**

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

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

74 **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 ›**

75 **Wisdom of Solomon 7:5** For no king had any other beginning of birth; **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Solomon 7:28** For God loves nothing but the one who lives with wisdom. **read ›**

77 **Wisdom of Solomon 9:1** “O God of the fathers, and Lord of your mercy, who made all things by your word, **read ›**

78 **Wisdom of Solomon 10:1** She guarded the first-formed father of the world, when he alone had been created, and delivered him from his own transgression, **read ›**

79 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:6** That night was made known beforehand to our fathers, so that, knowing surely the oaths in which they had believed, they might take heart. **read ›**

80 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:2** For the Lord has glorified the father over the children, and has established the judgment of the mother over the sons. **read ›**

81 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:17** My child, perform your works in meekness, and you will be loved by an acceptable man. **read ›**

82 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:28** My child, glorify your soul in meekness, and give it honor according to its worth. **read ›**

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

84 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:1** He who lives forever created all things together. **read ›**

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

86 **Wisdom of Sirach 24:9** Before the age, from the beginning, he created me, and to the age I shall never fail. **read ›**

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

88 **Wisdom of Sirach 42:21** He has set in order the majestic works of his wisdom, as he is from before the ages and forever; nothing has been added, nor taken away, and he has no need of any counselor. **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Sirach 50:27** Jesus the son of Sirach of Jerusalem has engraved in this book instruction in understanding and knowledge, he who poured forth wisdom from his heart. **read ›**

90 **2 Maccabees 1:25** who alone are the provider, who alone are righteous and almighty and eternal, who deliver Israel from every evil, who made the fathers your chosen ones and sanctified them, **read ›**

91 **3 Maccabees 6:28** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

92 **4 Maccabees 5:37** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

93 **4 Maccabees 13:20** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

94 **4 Maccabees 15:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

95 **4 Maccabees 15:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

96 **4 Maccabees 15:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

97 **1 Enoch 9:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

98 **1 Enoch 9:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

99 **1 Enoch 15:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

100 **1 Enoch 25:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

101 **1 Enoch 46:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

102 **1 Enoch 48:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

103 **1 Enoch 48:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

104 **1 Enoch 48:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

105 **1 Enoch 58:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

106 **1 Enoch 62:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

107 **1 Enoch 70:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

108 **1 Enoch 71:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

109 **Matthew 3:17** Behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” **read ›**

110 **John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **read ›**

111 **John 1:2** He was in the beginning with God. **read ›**

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

**112** **John 1:18** No one has ever seen God; the only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father's chest, he has made him known. **read ›**

**113** **John 1:30** This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me, for he was before me.' **read ›**

**114** **John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. **read ›**

**115** **John 3:35** The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into his hand. **read ›**

**116** **John 3:36** He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who disobeys the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." **read ›**

**117** **John 5:26** For just as the Father has life in himself, so he also granted the Son to have life in himself. **read ›**

**118** **John 8:35** The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. **read ›**

**119** **John 17:5** Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory which I had with you before the world existed. **read ›**

**120** **John 17:24** Father, I desire that they also whom you have given me be with me where I am, that they may see my glory which you have given me, for you loved me before the foundation of the world. **read ›**

**121** **Romans 9:5** of whom are the fathers, and from whom is Christ as concerning the flesh, who is over all, God, blessed forever. Amen. **read ›**

**122** **2 Corinthians 5:19** namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not reckoning to them their trespasses, and having committed to us the word of reconciliation. **read ›**

**123** **Colossians 1:15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **read ›**

**124** **Colossians 1:17** He is before all things, and in him all things are held together. **read ›**

**125** **Hebrews 1:5** For to which of the angels did he ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? And again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? **read ›**

**126** **Hebrews 1:8** But of the Son, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; the scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness. **read ›**

**127** **Hebrews 7:3** without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God), remains a priest continually. **read ›**

**128** **James 1:18** Of his own will he gave birth to us by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. **read ›**

**129** **1 Peter 1:20** who was foreknown indeed before the foundation of the world, but was revealed in this last age for your sake, **read ›**

**130** **1 John 2:23** Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either. **read ›**

**131** **1 John 3:1** Behold what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God! Because of this the world does not know you, because it did not know him. **read ›**

**132** **1 John 4:9** In this the love of God was manifested among us, that God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. **read ›**

**133** **1 John 5:1** Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God. Whoever loves the Father also loves the child who is born of him. **read ›**

## ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *116 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** 5:3 · 11:4 · 12:7 · 18:1 · 32:28 · 49:11

**Exodus** 3:2 · 7:1 · 12:13

**Deuteronomy** 32:8

**Joshua** 5:2

**2 Kings** 19:20

**Psalms** 19:5 · 136:12

**Ecclesiastes** 1:9

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don't republish.

**Isaiah** 9:6 · 11:2 · 45:7

**Jeremiah** 1:5 · 8:6 · 17:7 · 25:3 · 32:1

**Ezekiel** 1:15

**Daniel** 3:27

**Hosea** 1:7 · 8:6

**Joel** 2:28

**Amos** 4:11

**Micah** 4:1

**Habakkuk** 3:3

**Malachi** 3:6

**Matthew** 3:14 · 3:15 · 3:16 · 11:27 · 16:16 · 16:17 · 19:26 · 28:19

**Mark** 2:28 · 14:44 · 16:15

**Luke** 1:17 · 10:16 · 10:22 · 18:27 · 19:42

**John** 1:3 · 1:5 · 1:14 · 1:29 · 1:49 · 1:50 · 2:16 · 2:19 · 3:17 · 3:19 · 4:24 · 4:25 · 4:34 · 5:17 · 5:19 · 5:21 · 5:22 · 5:36 · 6:29 · 6:37 · 10:30 · 10:36 · 11:26 · 14:6 · 14:9 · 14:11 · 14:28 · 16:14 · 16:33 · 17:3 · 17:6 · 17:10 · 20:31

**Acts** 15:10 · 28:25

**Romans** 1:20 · 7:15 · 8:26 · 11:36

**1 Corinthians** 1:27 · 2:11 · 8:6 · 15:50

**2 Corinthians** 4:13 · 6:14

**Ephesians** 2:12 · 5:14

**Philippians** 2:6 · 2:7 · 2:9 · 2:10

**Colossians** 1:18 · 2:4

**2 Timothy** 4:8

**Hebrews** 1:3 · 1:14 · 3:2 · 5:7 · 8:1 · 8:12 · 11:10 · 11:37 · 13:8

**James** 1:17

**2 Peter** 1:4 · 2:22

**1 John** 1:5

**Revelation** 1:8

© 2026 The Historic Faith · Library only, never the web · For personal study; please don’t republish.

*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 the eternal generation of the Son?” 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.

**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.

**How to cite this study.** The Historic Faith, “What did the early Christians believe about the eternal generation of the Son?” Early Church Questions, published November 9, 2026, https://thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-christians-believe-about-the-eternal-generation-of-the. To cite one quotation, add its number and source, for example “quote 1, source 1.”

© 2026 The Historic Faith. Selection, arrangement and editing by THF; machine-compiled text and public-domain quotations are not claimed. For personal study; please don’t republish.

THEHISTORICFAITH.COM

THE END OF THIS STUDY