THE QUESTION

What did the early church fathers teach about baptism?

Asked by a THF member on November 3, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 12 numbered quotations · the 44 early Christian passages and 217 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-church-fathers-teach-about-baptism

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

The early writers taught that baptism washes away sins and gives new birth by water and the Spirit. They held it necessary for believers and gave it once, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, often by three immersions after fasting. They saw it as sharing in Christ's death, and called martyrdom a baptism of blood.

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.
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POINT 1 OF 7

Baptism washes away sin and brings new birth

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

Irenaeus compares believers to Naaman the leper, made clean in the water, and says we are reborn like newborn babies. Theophilus sees in the blessing of the waters at creation a sign of forgiveness through the washing of regeneration.

1

"For just as we are lepers in sin, we are made clean by means of the sacred water and the invocation of the Lord from our old transgressions, being spiritually regenerated as newborn babes, just as the Lord has declared: "Unless a man is born again through water and the Spirit, he shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 6, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2

“Also, the things that come from the waters were blessed by God, so that this too might be a sign that human beings are meant to receive repentance and forgiveness of sins through the water and washing of regeneration—as many as come to the truth, are born again, and receive blessing from God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Theophilus of Antioch,** *To Autolycus* 16 (c. 169–183 AD) **Source 4, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Believers were expected to be baptized

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

Tertullian answers people who said faith alone was enough. He says Christ's command to baptize, joined with his words about being born of water and Spirit, bound faith to baptism. The Apostolic Constitutions warns that refusing baptism out of contempt is the mark of an unbeliever.

3

“So an addition has been made to the sacrament, namely, the sealing act of baptism. In a sense, this is the clothing of the faith that was formerly bare, and that now cannot exist without its proper law.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Baptism* 13 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 9, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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4 “No, the one who, out of contempt, refuses to be baptized will be condemned as an unbeliever and rebuked as ungrateful and foolish.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 32, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 7

Baptism used the name of the Trinity

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

The Didache gives early instructions: baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, preferably in running water. If water is scarce, water may be poured three times on the head. Both the one baptizing and the one being baptized were to fast first.

5 “But if you have neither, pour out water three times on the head in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit.”

later in the same passage

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

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 7 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Three immersions were the normal practice

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

The Apostolic Constitutions orders clergy to baptize with three immersions, one for each person of the Trinity, following Christ's command. Tertullian adds that the kind of water does not matter, whether sea, river, spring or trough.

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

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 31, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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7 “And so it makes no difference whether a person is washed in the sea or in a pool, in a stream or in a spring, in a lake or in a trough.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Baptism* 4 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 14, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 7

In baptism believers share Christ's death

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

Ignatius speaks of one baptism given so that we share in the Lord's death. The Apostolic Constitutions describes anointing before and after the water, and calls the water a symbol of Christ's death.

8 “For if there is one God of the universe, the Father of Christ, "of whom are all things;" and one Lord Jesus Christ, our Lord, "by whom are all things;" and also one Holy Spirit, who worked in Moses, and in the prophets and apostles; and also one baptism, which is administered so that we should share in the death of the Lord; and also one chosen Church; there should likewise be but one faith in respect to Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistles of Ignatius* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 3, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

9 “In this way, the anointing with oil may be the participation of the Holy Spirit, the water the symbol of the death of Christ, and the ointment the seal of the covenants.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 33, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

There is only one baptism

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

The Apostolic Constitutions ties the oneness of baptism to the one God, one Christ and one Spirit. It warns against baptizing again those who have already been rightly baptized.

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10 “For as there is one God, one Christ, one Comforter, and one death of the Lord in the body, so let the baptism into Him also be one.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 32, page 8 Read it in the library ›

POINT 7 OF 7

Martyrdom was called a baptism of blood

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

Cyprian prepares believers for martyrdom as a second baptism, greater in honor. He says water baptism brings forgiveness and the baptism of blood brings the crown. Another early writer says Christ knew the apostles would be baptized in their own blood.

11 “In the baptism of water, the remission of sins is received; in the baptism of blood, the crown of virtues.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 25, page 7 Read it in the library ›

12 “For He knew that those men had to be baptized not only with water, but also in their own blood.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Anonymous,** *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1
THF's updated English

Source 40, page 8 Read it in the library ›

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not settle the age at which people should be baptized.
- Early writers disagreed about whether baptism given by heretics should be repeated, and these passages show only part of that debate.
- 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.

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WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 44 early Christian passages and 217 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–44, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 45–129, in Bible order), then 132 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 *44 passages from 15 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 7 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** "concerning baptism, baptize this way: Having first said all these things, baptize into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Matthew 28:19… [continues online] **read ›**

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 2*

2 *Epistle of Barnabas* (1885 English; on point 1) "the water, indeed, it is written, in reference to the Israelites, that they should not receive that baptism which leads to the remission of sins, but should procure another for… [continues online] **read ›**

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

3 *Epistles of Ignatius* **Quote 8, page 4** Mindful of your love and zeal in Christ, which you have shown towards us, we thought it appropriate to write to you, who display such a godly and spiritual love… [continues online] **read ›**

Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 4*

4 *To Autolycus* 16 (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** "the things proceeding from the waters were blessed by God, that this also might be a sign of men's being destined to receive repentance and remission of sins, through… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 5–6*

5 *Against Heresies: Book V* (1885 English; on point 1) "inasmuch as man, with respect to that formation which, was after Adam, having fallen into transgression, needed the laver of regeneration, [the Lord] said to him [upon whom He had… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** "spiritually regenerated as new-born babes, even as the Lord has declared: "Except a man be born again through water and the Spirit, he shall not enter into the kingdom… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 7–8*

7 *Instructor* 1.6 (on point 1) evil. This is the one grace of illumination, that our characters are not the same as before our washing. And since knowledge rises up with illumination, shedding its beams around… [continues online] **read ›**

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

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Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 9–14*

9 *On Baptism* 13 (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 2** "all thereafter who became believers used to be baptized… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *On Baptism* 5 homes, temples, and whole cities. At any rate, at the Apollinarian and Eleusinian games they are baptized. And they think that the effect of doing this is their regeneration and… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *On Baptism* 11 "remission of sins, which He used to give by a word… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *On Baptism* 10 "same nature. Otherwise, if it had been celestial, it would have given both the Holy Spirit and remission of sins. But no one either pardons sins or freely grants the… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *On Baptism* 12 (on point 2) answer those who claim that the apostles were not baptized. For if they had received John's human baptism, and were desiring the Lord's baptism, then the Lord Himself… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *On Baptism* 4 (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** "it will suffice to have thus called at the outset those points in which withal is recognised that primary principle of baptism — which was even then fore-noted by the… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 15–17*

15 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 "baptize with the baptism of repentance, but He confers the gift of adoption. He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (1885 English) "me, John, in order that no one may despise baptism… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 "O Lord, baptize with the baptism of repentance, and I cannot baptize those who come to me unless they first confess fully their sins… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 18–21*

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

19 *Commentary on John* 6 "And he came into all the region around the Jordan preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins; as it is written in the book of the words… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Commentary on John* 6 (on point 7) He is understood in different ways as living bread or as flesh. So also He, the same person, is baptism of water, and baptism of the Holy Spirit and of… [continues online] **read ›**

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

Gregory Thaumaturgus, *c. 240–270 AD · sources 22–23*

22 *Four Homilies* I have taken my place among the works of my hands. It is fitting for me to be baptized with this baptism for the present, and afterward to give the… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Four Homilies* (on point 1) rite so that He may freely give us the grace of baptism. Come, let us look at the image of our regeneration, as it is symbolically shown in these waters… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 24–30*

24 *Epistles* (on point 1) and His God is rewarded by Christ, and receives forgiveness of sins and the sanctification of baptism! But by what power can the one who denies God the Creator, the… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** "and teaching that this is a baptism greater in grace, more lofty in power, more precious in honour— a baptism wherein angels baptize— a baptism in which God and His… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *Seventh Council of Carthage* 1 (on point 6) "of Thenae said: God and our Lord Jesus Christ, teaching the apostles… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Epistles* (on point 1) Since in baptism each person has his own sins forgiven, the Lord proves and declares in His Gospel that sins can be taken away only by those who have the… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Epistles* (on point 6) when they come to us, because they say there is one baptism, which is one for this reason: the Church is one, and there cannot be any baptism outside the… [continues online] **read ›**

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29 *Epistles* (on point 1) that baptism is where the old man dies and the new man is born, saying, "He saved us by the washing of regeneration," Titus 3:5. But if regeneration is… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Seventh Council of Carthage* 1 (1885 English; on point 6) “therefore we stand by the Church in which we preside, that, claiming her baptism for herself alone, we should baptize those whom the Church has not baptized… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 31–36*

31 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 3** “O bishops, baptize thrice into one Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost, according to the will of Christ, and our constitution by the Spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quotes 4, 10, pages 3, 5** be satisfied with one baptism only, the one into the death of the Lord; not the one given by wicked heretics, but the one given by blameless priests, in the… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 9, page 4** “instruction, and now we say this: you shall baptize as the Lord commanded us, saying, “Go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of… [continues online] **read ›**

34 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 5) “Now this is blessed by the high priest for the remission of sins, and the first preparation for baptism… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 5) baptism, therefore, is given into the death of Jesus… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 1) “them the laver of regeneration and the garment of incorruption, which is the true life… [continues online] **read ›**

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 37*

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

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 38*

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

Anonymous · *sources 39–44*

39 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (on point 6) some men, although they differed in their own judgment and were somewhat unsteady in faith and doctrine, yet if they had been baptized in the name of Jesus and were… [continues online] **read ›**

40 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 **Quote 12, page 5** “And even up to this point, that whole heretical baptism may be amended, after some time has passed, if a man should survive and amend his faith. For our God… [continues online] **read ›**

41 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 “as you are not ignorant, the Holy Spirit is found to have been given by the Lord without baptism of water to men who believe, as it is written in… [continues online] **read ›**

42 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 Therefore, for those who begin a discussion of saving and new baptism, that is, spiritual and evangelical baptism, the first thing that comes before them is the announcement that is… [continues online] **read ›**

43 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (on point 6) “that the invocation of the name of Jesus, which cannot be done… [continues online] **read ›**

44 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (1885 English) “this remission of sins that woman also which was a sinner in the city obtained, to whom the Lord said, Your sins are forgiven you… [continues online] **read ›**

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

45 **Exodus 10:17** Now therefore forgive my sin this once more, and pray to the Lord your God, and let him take this death away from me.” **read ›**

46 **Exodus 29:4** You shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doors of the tabernacle of witness, and wash them with water. **read ›**

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47 **Exodus 30:18** “Make a bronze washbasin with a bronze base for washing, and put it between the tabernacle of witness and the altar, and pour water into it. **read ›**

48 **Exodus 30:19** Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet with water from it. **read ›**

49 **Exodus 30:20** Whenever they go into the tabernacle of witness, and whenever they come near the altar to minister and to offer whole burnt offerings to the Lord, they shall wash with water, and so they shall certainly not die. **read ›**

50 **Exodus 30:21** They shall wash their hands and their feet with water. Whenever they go into the tabernacle of witness, they shall wash with water, so that they do not die. It shall be a perpetual ordinance for them, for Aaron and for his generations after him.” **read ›**

51 **Exodus 38:27** The hundred talents of silver went into the casting of the hundred pillar tops of the tabernacle and into the pillar tops of the veil: (Septuagint Exodus 39:4 (Exodus 38:27 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

52 **Exodus 40:12** You shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doors of the tabernacle of witness and wash them with water. **read ›**

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

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

55 **Leviticus 13:58** And the garment, or the lengthwise threads, or the cross threads, or any article of skin that is washed and from which the plague departs, shall be washed a second time, and it shall be clean. **read ›**

56 **Leviticus 14:8** The one who is cleansed shall wash his garments, shave off all his hair, and bathe in water, and he shall be clean. After that he shall come into the camp, but he shall stay outside his house seven days. **read ›**

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

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

59 **Leviticus 16:24** He shall bathe his body in water in a holy place and put on his garment; then he shall go out and offer his whole burnt offering and the whole burnt offering of the people, and make atonement for himself, for his house, and for the people, as for the priests. **read ›**

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

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

62 **Leviticus 16:30** For on this day he shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you from all your sins before the Lord, and you shall be cleansed. **read ›**

63 **Leviticus 19:22** The priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering before the Lord for the sin that he sinned, and the sin that he sinned shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

64 **Leviticus 22:6** the person who touches any of these shall be unclean until evening. He shall not eat of the holy things unless he washes his body with water; **read ›**

65 **Numbers 8:7** And thus you shall perform their purification: you shall sprinkle them with water of purification, and a razor shall pass over their whole body, and they shall wash their garments and be clean. **read ›**

66 **Numbers 14:18** ‘The Lord is long-suffering, great in mercy, and true, taking away lawlessness and unrighteousness and sins; yet he will by no means acquit the guilty, repaying the sins of fathers upon children to the third and fourth generation.’ **read ›**

67 **Numbers 19:9** And a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the young cow and put them outside the camp in a clean place; and they shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel; it is a water of sprinkling, a purification. **read ›**

68 **Numbers 19:17** And for the unclean they shall take some of the burnt ashes of the purification, and they shall pour running water over them into a vessel. **read ›**

69 **Numbers 19:19** And the clean man shall sprinkle the unclean on the third day and on the seventh day, and he shall be purified on the seventh day; and he shall wash his garments and bathe in water, and he shall be unclean until evening. **read ›**

70 **Numbers 19:20** But the man who is defiled and does not purify himself, that person shall be utterly destroyed from the midst of the congregation, because he has defiled the holy place of the Lord, because the water of sprinkling was not sprinkled on him; he is unclean. **read ›**

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71 **Numbers 19:21** And it shall be a perpetual ordinance for you. And he who sprinkles the water of sprinkling shall wash his garments; and he who touches the water of sprinkling shall be unclean until evening. **read ›**

72 **Numbers 31:23** everything that passes through fire shall be clean; yet it shall be purified with the water of purification. And whatever does not pass through fire shall pass through water. **read ›**

73 **2 Kings 5:10** And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go, wash seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh shall return to you, and you shall be clean.” **read ›**

74 **2 Kings 5:14** So Naaman went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of Elisha; and his flesh returned like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. **read ›**

75 **2 Chronicles 4:6** He made ten washbasins, and he set five on the right and five on the left, to wash in them the works of the whole burnt offerings and to rinse in them; and the sea was for the priests to wash in. **read ›**

76 **Ezra 1:11** All the vessels of gold and silver were five thousand four hundred; all these went up with Sheshbazzar from the exile out of Babylon to Jerusalem. **read ›**

77 **Proverbs 14:19** The evil will fall before the good, and the ungodly will wait at the doors of the righteous. **read ›**

78 **Isaiah 13:17** Behold, I am stirring up the Medes against you, who do not regard silver, nor have need of gold. **read ›**

79 **Isaiah 13:22** and donkey-centaurs will dwell there, and hedgehogs will make their nests in their houses. It comes quickly and will not delay. **read ›**

80 **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 ›**

81 **Jeremiah 31:1** At that time, said the Lord, I will be God to the family of Israel, and they shall be my people. (Septuagint Jeremiah 38:1 (Jeremiah 31:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

82 **Jeremiah 50:9** For behold, I am stirring up against Babylon congregations of nations from the land of the north, and they will line up for battle against her; from there she will be taken; as the arrow of a skilled warrior, it will not return empty. (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:9 (Jeremiah 50:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

83 **Lamentations 1:7** Zain. Jerusalem remembered the days of her humiliation and of her rejection, all her desirable things that were from days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the oppressor, and there was none to help her; her enemies saw it and laughed at her dwelling. **read ›**

84 **Ezekiel 36:25** and I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be cleansed from all your uncleannesses and from all your idols, and I will cleanse you. **read ›**

85 **1 Esdras 1:11** having the unleavened bread, by tribes and by the divisions of the fathers, before the people, to offer to the Lord as it is written in the book of Moses; and so they did in the morning. **read ›**

86 **1 Esdras 5:40** And Nehemiah and Attharias told them not to share in the holy things until a high priest should arise clothed with the Manifestation and the Truth. **read ›**

87 **Tobit 12:9** For alms delivers from death, and it will purge away every sin. Those who do acts of alms and righteous deeds will be filled with life; **read ›**

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

89 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:5** And when they had resolved to kill the infants of the holy ones, and one child had been cast out and saved, you took away the multitude of their children as a rebuke, and destroyed them all together in mighty water. **read ›**

90 **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 ›**

91 **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 ›**

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

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

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

95 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

96 **2 Maccabees 12:42** and they turned to pleading, asking that the sin that had been committed might be wholly blotted out. And the noble Judas urged the multitude to keep themselves free from sin, since they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. **read ›**

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97 **2 Maccabees 13:12** When they had all done this together and had pleaded with the merciful Lord with weeping and fasting and lying facedown for three days without ceasing, Judas encouraged them and ordered them to stand ready. **read ›**

98 **3 Maccabees 2:30** But so that he might not appear hostile to all, he wrote underneath: “But if any of them choose to live among those initiated into the rites, these shall have citizenship equal to the Alexandrians.” **read ›**

99 **3 Maccabees 6:31** Then those who before had been held in disgrace and near to Hades, or rather had already set foot in it, instead of a bitter and lamentable death held a drinking feast of salvation; and, full of joy, they divided the place prepared for their fall and their tomb into couches for feasting. **read ›**

100 **4 Maccabees 13:17** If we suffer in this way, Abraham and Jacob will receive us, and all the fathers will praise us.” **read ›**

101 **4 Maccabees 13:22** and they grow more strongly through being reared together, and through daily companionship, and through the rest of their education, and through our training in the Law of God. **read ›**

102 **4 Maccabees 15:3** loved more the godliness that saves to eternal life according to God. **read ›**

103 **4 Maccabees 16:25** And they saw this also, that those who die for God’s sake live to God, as do Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the patriarchs. **read ›**

104 **4 Maccabees 18:10** While he was still with you, he used to teach you the Law and the Prophets. **read ›**

105 **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 ›**

106 **1 Enoch 1:7** The earth shall be split apart, torn by a crack, and all that is on the earth shall perish, and there shall be judgment upon all. **read ›**

107 **1 Enoch 8:2** And there was much ungodliness, and they committed sexual immorality and were led astray and were ruined in all their ways. **read ›**

108 **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 ›**

109 **1 Enoch 67:11** And those same waters shall undergo a change in those days; for when those angels are punished in these waters, these springs shall change their temperature, and when the angels ascend, this water of the springs shall change and become cold. **read ›**

110 **1 Enoch 67:13** Because these waters of judgment minister to the healing of the body of the kings and the lust of their body, therefore they shall not see and shall not believe that those waters shall change and become a fire which burns forever. **read ›**

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

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

113 **Mark 1:5** All the country of Judea and the people of Jerusalem went out to him, and they were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. **read ›**

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

115 **John 2:10** and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when the guests have drunk freely, then that which is worse. You have kept the good wine until now!” **read ›**

116 **Acts 1:16** “Brothers, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. **read ›**

117 **Acts 2:38** Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

118 **Acts 4:4** But many of those who heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. **read ›**

119 **Acts 18:25** He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. **read ›**

120 **Acts 19:3** He said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” **read ›**

121 **Acts 19:4** Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Christ Jesus.” **read ›**

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122 **Romans 6:3** Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **read ›**

123 **Romans 6:4** We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. **read ›**

124 **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 ›**

125 **1 Corinthians 10:2** and were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; **read ›**

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

127 **Colossians 2:12** having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. **read ›**

128 **Hebrews 6:2** of the teaching of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. **read ›**

129 **1 Peter 3:21** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now also saves us—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but the appeal of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *132 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 9:18

Exodus 4:6 · 32:34

Deuteronomy 32:10 · 32:23

Joshua 3:5 · 3:7 · 5:10

1 Kings 18:33

Psalms 18:26 · 19:1

Jeremiah 2:12 · 2:13 · 5:8

Ezekiel 47:1

Malachi 4:5

Matthew 3:7 · 3:10 · 3:11 · 3:15 · 3:17 · 4:3 · 8:5 · 9:2 · 9:29 · 11:11 · 11:13 · 19:14 · 19:17 · 21:23 · 21:25 · 25:29 · 28:18 · 28:19

Mark 1:3 · 1:8 · 2:8 · 5:9 · 5:15 · 10:35 · 10:38 · 11:30 · 14:27 · 16:16

Luke 1:76 · 3:2 · 3:9 · 7:3 · 7:18 · 7:37 · 7:48 · 7:50 · 10:21 · 10:35 · 12:50 · 14:11 · 18:10 · 20:4 · 22:32

John 1:3 · 1:6 · 1:9 · 1:16 · 1:17 · 1:21 · 1:24 · 1:26 · 1:33 · 2:5 · 2:13 · 3:5 · 3:8 · 3:30 · 3:36 · 4:2 · 4:10 · 4:20 · 5:1 · 5:8 · 6:40 · 6:53 · 7:38 · 7:39 · 8:19 · 8:35 · 8:39 · 8:41 · 8:42 · 8:44 · 8:48 · 9:7 · 13:9 · 16:6 · 19:34 · 19:37 · 20:22

Acts 1:4 · 4:12 · 5:31 · 8:26 · 9:1 · 10:44 · 11:15 · 15:7 · 15:9 · 19:1 · 19:2

Romans 8:5

1 Corinthians 2:8 · 5:11 · 7:14 · 12:13 · 13:11 · 14:20 · 15:46

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

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

Ephesians 5:8

Philippians 2:7

1 Thessalonians 4:8

Titus 3:5

1 Peter 1:11

1 John 5:8

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Revelation 22:1

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did the early church fathers teach about baptism?” on November 3, 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