THE QUESTION

What did the early church teach about not repaying evil for evil?

Asked by a THF member on May 19, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 8 numbered quotations · the 43 early Christian passages and 308 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-teach-about-not-repaying-evil-for-evil

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

Early Christians taught that believers must not pay back evil with evil. Polycarp, Ignatius, the Didache and others tell Christians to bless those who curse them, pray for enemies and bear wrongs with patience. They point to Christ, who did not strike back, and leave judgment to God.

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	Polycarp repeats the apostles' rule against payback	2	6	Christians were known for blessing their insulters	4
2	Ignatius says to win enemies with kindness	2	7	The same teaching is found in older Scripture	5
3	Leave vengeance to the Lord	3		What these passages don't tell us	5
4	Bless and pray for those who curse	3		The Sources: 43 early Christian passages and 308 Bible verses, with links	5
5	Christ and Stephen show the way	4			

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POINT 1 OF 7

Polycarp repeats the apostles' rule against payback

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

Polycarp lists the rule among the things a believer must keep. He spells it out: no evil for evil, insult for insult, blow for blow or curse for curse. He ties it to the Lord's own teaching on mercy and forgiveness.

1

> “not returning evil for evil, or reviling for reviling," or blow for blow, or cursing for cursing, but remembering what the Lord said in His teaching: "Judge not, that you be not judged; forgive, and it shall be forgiven to you; be merciful, that you may obtain mercy; with the same measure you use, it will be measured to you again;" and once more, "Blessed are the poor, and those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of God.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Polycarp,** *Epistle to the Philippians* (c. 100–155 AD) **Source 6, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Ignatius says to win enemies with kindness

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

Ignatius tells believers not to take revenge on those who hurt them. Instead they should answer anger with gentleness and try to make their enemies into brothers by kindness. The goal is the other person's repentance, not just holding back.

2

> “Do not seek to avenge yourselves on those who injure you, for says [the Scripture], “If I have returned evil to those who returned evil to me.” Let us make them brethren by our kindness.”
>
> *later in the same passage*
>
> “Conquer their harsh temper with gentleness, their passion with meekness.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 4, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

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POINT 3 OF 7

Leave vengeance to the Lord

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

The Apostolic Constitutions tell believers to bear injury with patience instead of taking revenge. Quoting Proverbs, they say to accept wrongs quietly so that the Lord himself will defend the one who was hurt.

3

“When you are injured, do not take revenge, but endure it with patience.”

later in the same passage

“For Scripture says this: “Do not say, I will avenge myself on my enemy for the wrongs he has done to me. Instead, accept them quietly, so that the Lord may defend you and bring vengeance on the one who injures you.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 36, page 8** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Bless and pray for those who curse

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

The Didache, an early church manual, puts this at the heart of the way of life. Believers bless those who curse them, pray and even fast for persecutors. It promises that if you love those who hate you, you will have no enemy.

4

“And the teaching of these words is this: Bless those who curse you, and pray for your enemies, and fast for those who persecute you.”

later in the same passage

“But love those who hate you, and you will not have an enemy.”

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

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POINT 5 OF 7

Christ and Stephen show the way

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

Ignatius points to the Lord, who did not answer insults or threaten while he suffered. Cyprian points to Stephen, the first martyr, who asked pardon for the men killing him instead of asking for revenge. Both hold these up as patterns to copy.

5 “And let us imitate the Lord, “who, when He was reviled, reviled not again;” when He was crucified, He answered not; “when He suffered, He threatened not;” but prayed for His enemies, “Father, forgive them; they know not what they do.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 4, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

6 “When he was killed by the Jews with violence and stoning, he did not ask for vengeance for himself, but for pardon for his murderers, saying, "Lord, do not lay this sin to their charge."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 32, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Christians were known for blessing their insulters

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

Athenagoras, defending Christians to the rulers, says this teaching sets them apart. Philosophers rarely love their enemies, but Christians are taught to bless those who insult them and pray for those who plot against them.

7 “Which of them, instead of speaking evil of those who have insulted him—although even holding back from that would itself be a sign of no small self-control—blesses them, and prays for those who plot against his life?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Athenagoras,** *A Plea for the Christians* 11 (c. 170–190 AD) **Source 14, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 7 OF 7

The same teaching is found in older Scripture

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

Origen answers a critic who set the Gospel against the law. He says the command to turn the other cheek already appears in Lamentations. So he sees no clash between the God of the Old Testament and the teaching of Jesus.

8

> “So we must answer that this command, "Whoever strikes you on one cheek, turn the other to him," is not unknown in the older Scriptures.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 25 (c. 215–254 AD) *THF's updated English* **Source 31, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages speak to how believers treat those who wrong them; they do not settle questions about courts, rulers or self-defense.
- One church manual adds that revenge is not evil in itself but patience is more honorable, so the writers do not all word the reason the same way.
- 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 43 early Christian passages and 308 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–43, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 44–183, in Bible order), then 168 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).

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EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *43 passages from 19 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 1 **Quote 4, page 3** “have an enemy. Keep away from fleshly and worldly desires. If someone strikes your right cheek, turn the other cheek to him also, and you will be perfect. If someone… [continues online] **read ›**

Mathetes, *c. 80–200 AD · source 2*

2 *Epistle to Diognetus* (on point 6) “spoken evil of, yet they are justified; they are reviled, and they bless; they are insulted, and repay the insult with honor; they do good, yet are punished as evildoers… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome, *c. 88–99 AD · source 3*

3 *Second Epistle* 13 (on point 4) fable and a delusion. For whenever they hear from us that God says, "You receive no thanks if you love those who love you, but you receive thanks if you… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 4–5*

4 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* **Quotes 2, 5, pages 2, 4** “men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those who oppose themselves.” Do not seek to avenge yourselves on those who injure you, for says [the Scripture], “If I have… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Epistle to the Ephesians* 10 (on point 2) Pray for everyone; for there is hope of repentance for them, that they may be counted worthy of God. Let them be instructed by your works especially. Be conciliatory against… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · sources 6–8*

6 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Epistle to the Philippians* (on point 1) always "providing for that which is becoming in the sight of God and man… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 4) potentates, and princes, and for those that persecute and hate you… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 9–10*

9 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 4) “He taught us to pray for our enemies also, saying, "Love your enemies… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *On the Resurrection, Fragments* (1885 English; on point 4) “the Saviour also taught us to love our enemies, since, says He, what thank have ye… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 11–12*

11 *Diatessaron* 9 (on point 4) “6:35 But love your enemies, and do good to them… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Diatessaron* 9 “I say to you, do not stand in opposition to evil. But whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. Matthew 5:40 And if… [continues online] **read ›**

Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 13*

13 *To Autolycus* 14 (on point 4) “66:5 And the Gospel says: "Love your enemies, and pray for… [continues online] **read ›**

Athenagoras, *c. 170–190 AD · source 14*

14 *A Plea for the Christians* 11 **Quote 7, page 4** “atheists. What, then, are the teachings in which we are raised? I say to you, "Love your enemies. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who persecute you, so… [continues online] **read ›**

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Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 15–17*

15 *Against Heresies: Book II* (1885 English) “not only not to strike, but even, when themselves struck, to present the other cheek [to those that maltreated them… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (on point 3) Israel to unjust punishment, it is similar now, as the Lord truly declares, "And shall not God avenge His own elect, who cry to Him day and night? I tell… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English) “not to love our neighbours only, but even our enemies… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 18–21*

18 *Exhortation to the Heathen* 10 “him who strikes you on the cheek, present also the other… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Stromata* 4.16 (on point 4) is clearly described. It is fulfilled both in action and in contemplation. Therefore we must bless those who persecute us. "Bless, and do not curse." Romans 12:14. For this… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Stromata* 2.9 (1885 English) “be not overcome of evil, it is said, but overcome evil with good… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Instructor* 3.12 (1885 English) “He says: If any one strike you on the one cheek, turn to him the other also… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 22–27*

22 *Against Marcion* 15 (1885 English; on point 1) “is to offer the other cheek; which is not only not to return railing for railing, but contrariwise blessing… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Against Marcion* 8 (on point 1) “5:21. "Recompense to no man evil for evil… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *On Patience* 6 (1885 English) “men were of old wont to require eye for eye, and tooth for tooth and to repay with usury evil with evil… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *On Patience* 8 (1885 English) “one attempt to provoke you by manual violence, the monition of the Lord is at hand: To him, He says, who smites you on the face, turn the other cheek… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *On Idolatry* 21 (on point 4) to the command, he should not return a curse even in the name of God, but should graciously bless in the name of God, so that you may both tear… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *De Spectaculis (On the Shows)* 16 (on point 4) “He commands us to love our enemies… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 28–31*

28 *Against Celsus* 38 (1885 English; on point 6) “we have been taught, Bless, and curse not, and it is said that revilers shall not inherit the kingdom of God… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Against Celsus* 41 (on point 6) “we insult no one, for we believe that revilers will not inherit the kingdom of God. And we read, “Bless those who curse you; bless, and do not curse”; also… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Against Celsus* 61 (1885 English; on point 7) “these remarks it is evident, that when Jesus said coarsely, as Celsus terms it, To him who shall strike you on the one cheek, turn the other also… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Against Celsus* 25 **Quote 8, page 5** “for a tooth." On the other hand, we have read, "I say to you, whoever strikes you on one cheek, turn the other also to him." But there is good… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 32–35*

32 *Treatises* **Quote 6, page 4** “goods back when they are taken from you. When you are struck on one cheek, you should offer the other cheek to the one who strikes you. You should forgive… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 4) “I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them which persecute you… [continues online] **read ›**

34 *Treatises* (on point 3) “is mine; I will repay, says the Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 4) “I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them which persecute you… [continues online] **read ›**

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Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 36–38*

36 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 3, page 3** "if anyone curses you, bless him. For it is written in the book of Numbers: "He who blesses you is blessed, and he who curses you is cursed." Numbers 24… [continues online] **read ›**

37 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 4) "5:44 Love your enemies; for what thanks is it if you… [continues online] **read ›**

38 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) that forbade revenge, now commands long-suffering… [continues online] **read ›**

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 39*

39 *Writings* "of all, overcome the evil one with your good acts by living well… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 40*

40 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English) "as to His injunction, that a man, when struck on the one cheek, should offer the other also, that is the expression of goodness… [continues online] **read ›**

Arnobius, *c. 290–330 AD · source 41*

41 *Against the Heathen* 1 (1885 English; on point 6) "since we, a numerous band of men as we are, have learned from His teaching and His laws that evil ought not to be requited with evil,Matthew 5:39… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 42–43*

42 *Divine Institutes* 18 (1885 English) "he who endeavours to return an injury, desires to imitate that very person by whom he has been injured… [continues online] **read ›**

43 *Divine Institutes* 21 (1885 English; on point 3) "we remit vengeance to God, not as they act who would have it appear that they are defenders of their gods, and rage without restraint against those who do not… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *140 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

44 **Genesis 12:3** I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you, and in you all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed." **read ›**

45 **Genesis 19:7** He said to them, "By no means, brothers, do not do evil. **read ›**

46 **Genesis 27:29** Let nations serve you, and let rulers bow down to you. Be lord over your brother, and the sons of your father shall bow down to you. Cursed is the one who curses you, and blessed is the one who blesses you." **read ›**

47 **Genesis 50:20** You took counsel against me for evil, but God took counsel concerning me for good, so that it might be as it is today, and many people might be fed." **read ›**

48 **Exodus 21:24** eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, **read ›**

49 **Exodus 21:25** burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise. **read ›**

50 **Exodus 23:4** And if you meet your enemy's ox or his beast of burden going astray, you shall turn them back and return them to him. **read ›**

51 **Leviticus 19:17** You shall not hate your brother in your mind. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and you shall not bear sin because of him. **read ›**

52 **Leviticus 19:18** Your hand shall not take vengeance, and you shall not bear a grudge against the children of your people; but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord. **read ›**

53 **Leviticus 24:19** If anyone injures his neighbor, as he has done to him, so it shall be done to him in return: **read ›**

54 **Leviticus 24:20** fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; as he has injured the man, so it shall be done to him. **read ›**

55 **Leviticus 26:7** You shall pursue your enemies, and they shall fall before you in slaughter. **read ›**

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56 **Numbers 22:6** Now then, come, curse this people for me, for it is stronger than we are; perhaps we shall be able to strike some of them, and I will drive them out of the land. For I know that those whom you bless are blessed, and those whom you curse are cursed." **read ›**

57 **Numbers 22:12** But God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them, nor shall you curse the people, for they are blessed." **read ›**

58 **Numbers 23:8** How shall I curse whom the Lord does not curse? Or how shall I call down a curse on whom God does not curse? **read ›**

59 **Numbers 24:9** He lay down and rested like a lion and like a lion's cub; who shall rouse him? Those who bless you are blessed, and those who curse you are cursed." **read ›**

60 **Deuteronomy 7:10** and who repays those who hate him to their face, to destroy them utterly; and he will not be slow toward those who hate him; he will repay them to their face. **read ›**

61 **Deuteronomy 19:19** then you shall do to him as he wickedly planned to do against his brother, and you shall remove the evil from among yourselves. **read ›**

62 **Deuteronomy 19:21** Your eye shall not spare him: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. **read ›**

63 **Deuteronomy 27:16** "Cursed is he who dishonors his father or his mother." And all the people shall say, "So be it." **read ›**

64 **Deuteronomy 27:18** "Cursed is he who leads a blind man astray on the road." And all the people shall say, "So be it." **read ›**

65 **Deuteronomy 28:3** Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. **read ›**

66 **Deuteronomy 30:7** And the Lord your God shall put these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. **read ›**

67 **Deuteronomy 33:11** Bless, O Lord, his strength, and accept the works of his hands; break the hips of the enemies who have risen against him, and let those who hate him not rise up. **read ›**

68 **1 Samuel 24:20** And now, behold, I know that you shall surely reign, and the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. (Septuagint 1 Kingdoms 24:21 (1 Samuel 24:20 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

69 **2 Samuel 19:6** by loving those who hate you and hating those who love you. You have declared today that your rulers and servants are nothing to you; for I know today that if Absalom were alive and all of us dead today, then it would be right in your eyes. (Septuagint 2 Kingdoms 19:7 (2 Samuel 19:6 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

70 **1 Kings 8:50** and be gracious to their unrighteousness in which they sinned against you, and with regard to all their transgressions by which they transgressed against you; and you shall give them compassion before those who carry them captive, and they shall have compassion on them; **read ›**

71 **Job 7:15** You will separate my soul from my spirit, and my bones from death. **read ›**

72 **Psalms 4:7** You have put gladness into my heart; from the fruit of their grain and wine and oil they have been multiplied. (Septuagint Psalm 4:8 (Psalm 4:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

73 **Psalms 28:4** Give to them according to their works, and according to the wickedness of their practices; give to them according to the works of their hands; render to them their repayment. (Septuagint Psalm 27:4 (Psalm 28:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

74 **Psalms 34:14** Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. (Septuagint Psalm 33:15 (Psalm 34:14 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

75 **Psalms 35:12** They repaid me evil for good, and childlessness to my soul. (Septuagint Psalm 34:12 (Psalm 35:12 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

76 **Psalms 54:5** He will turn back the evils upon my enemies; in your truth destroy them utterly. (Septuagint Psalm 53:7 (Psalm 54:5 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

77 **Psalms 109:28** They will curse, but you will bless; let those who rise up against me be put to shame, but your slave shall be glad. (Septuagint Psalm 108:28 (Psalm 109:28 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

78 **Psalms 129:8** and those who pass by have not said, "The blessing of the Lord be upon you; we have blessed you in the name of the Lord." (Septuagint Psalm 128:8 (Psalm 129:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

79 **Proverbs 13:21** Evils will pursue sinners, but good things will overtake the righteous. **read ›**

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

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81 **Proverbs 16:17** The paths of life turn aside from evil, and the ways of righteousness are length of life. He who receives instruction will be among good things, and he who keeps correction will be made wise. He who keeps his own ways guards his own soul, and he who loves his life will spare his mouth. **read ›**

82 **Proverbs 17:13** As for him who repays evils for good, evils will not be moved from his house. **read ›**

83 **Proverbs 20:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

84 **Proverbs 24:25** but those who rebuke will appear better, and blessing will come upon them; **read ›**

85 **Proverbs 24:29** Do not say, “As he treated me, so I will treat him, and I will repay him for the wrongs he did me.” **read ›**

86 **Ecclesiastes 7:19** Wisdom will help the wise man more than ten men who hold power in the city. **read ›**

87 **Ecclesiastes 7:29** Only, see, this I have found: that God made man upright, but they have sought out many reasonings. Who knows the wise? And who knows the interpretation of a saying? **read ›**

88 **Song of Solomon 5:8** I have charged you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the powers and by the strengths of the field: if you find my kinsman, what will you tell him? That I am wounded with love. **read ›**

89 **Isaiah 3:4** And I will make youths their rulers, and mockers shall have dominion over them. **read ›**

90 **Isaiah 8:9** Know, O Gentiles, and be defeated; listen, to the end of the earth; you who have grown strong, be defeated; for if you grow strong again, again you shall be defeated. **read ›**

91 **Isaiah 50:6** I gave my back to whips, and my cheeks to blows; and I did not turn my face away from the shame of spitting. **read ›**

92 **Isaiah 59:18** as one who will repay what is due, disgrace to his adversaries. **read ›**

93 **Jeremiah 7:5** For if you truly set right your ways and your practices, and truly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor, **read ›**

94 **Jeremiah 18:20** Is evil repaid for good? For they have spoken words against my soul, and they have hidden their punishment for me. Remember that I stood before your face to speak good for them, to turn away your wrath from them. **read ›**

95 **Jeremiah 27:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

96 **Jeremiah 33:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

97 **Jeremiah 34:12** And the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, (Septuagint Jeremiah 41:12 (Jeremiah 34:12 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

98 **Jeremiah 36:8** Baruch did according to all that Jeremiah commanded him, reading in the book the words of the Lord in the house of the Lord. (Septuagint Jeremiah 43:8 (Jeremiah 36:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

99 **Jeremiah 36:9** In the eighth year of King Jehoiakim, in the ninth month, all the people in Jerusalem and the house of Judah proclaimed a fast before the Lord. (Septuagint Jeremiah 43:9 (Jeremiah 36:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

100 **Jeremiah 36:22** The king was sitting in the winter house, and a brazier of fire was before him. (Septuagint Jeremiah 43:22 (Jeremiah 36:22 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

101 **Jeremiah 36:27** The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah after the king had burned the scroll—all the words which Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah—saying, (Septuagint Jeremiah 43:27 (Jeremiah 36:27 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

102 **Jeremiah 37:21** The king gave orders, and they put him into the prison house, and gave him one loaf a day from outside, where they bake, until the bread was gone from the city. And Jeremiah stayed in the court of the prison. (Septuagint Jeremiah 44:21 (Jeremiah 37:21 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

103 **Lamentations 3:30** Yod. He will give his cheek to the one who strikes him; he will be filled with taunts. **read ›**

104 **Ezekiel 29:13** Thus says the Lord: After forty years I will gather the Egyptians from the nations among whom they were scattered, **read ›**

105 **Daniel 4:27** Therefore, O king, let my counsel please you: redeem your sins by acts of mercy, and your unrighteous deeds by compassion to the poor; perhaps God will be long-suffering toward your trespasses.” **read ›**

106 **Daniel 9:8** In you, O Lord, is our righteousness, and to us belongs shame of face—to our kings and to our rulers and to our fathers—for we have sinned. **read ›**

107 **Daniel 11:27** And as for both kings, their hearts shall be set on evil, and at one table they shall speak lies; but it shall not succeed, for the end is still for a set time. **read ›**

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

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109 **Micah 5:14** And I will cut down your groves from your midst, and I will make your cities disappear. (Septuagint Micah 5:13 (Micah 5:14 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

110 **Zephaniah 1:15** A mighty day of anger is that day, a day of trouble and distress, a day of calamity and desolation, a day of thick darkness and darkness, a day of cloud and mist, **read ›**

111 **Tobit 4:7** Give alms from your possessions, and do not let your eye be envious when you give alms. Do not turn your face away from any poor man, and the face of God will certainly not be turned away from you. **read ›**

112 **Tobit 12:10** but those who sin are enemies of their own life. **read ›**

113 **Judith 7:15** and you shall repay them with an evil reward, because they rebelled and did not come to meet you in peace." **read ›**

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

115 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:22** He overcame the multitude, not by bodily strength, nor by force of arms, but by a word he subdued the one who punished, recalling the oaths and covenants given to the fathers. **read ›**

116 **Wisdom of Sirach 4:5** Do not turn your eye away from one who asks, and give a man no occasion to curse you. **read ›**

117 **Wisdom of Sirach 4:6** For if he curses you in the bitterness of his soul, the one who made him will hear his plea. **read ›**

118 **Wisdom of Sirach 4:8** Turn your ear to the poor, and answer him in words of peace with meekness. **read ›**

119 **Wisdom of Sirach 4:31** Do not let your hand be stretched out to receive and drawn back when it is time to repay. **read ›**

120 **Wisdom of Sirach 5:3** And do not say, "Who will have power over me?" for the Lord will surely punish you. **read ›**

121 **Wisdom of Sirach 7:1** Do no evil, and evil will certainly not overtake you. **read ›**

122 **Wisdom of Sirach 7:16** Do not count yourself among the multitude of sinners. **read ›**

123 **Wisdom of Sirach 7:17** Humble your soul greatly. Remember that anger will not delay, for the punishment of the ungodly is fire and worm. **read ›**

124 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:11** Do not rise up from the presence of an arrogant man, lest he sit like an ambush for your mouth. **read ›**

125 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:16** Do not fight with a hot-tempered man, and do not cross the desert with him; for blood is as nothing in his eyes, and where there is no help, he will strike you down. **read ›**

126 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:19** Do not open your heart to every man, and let him not bring you back a favor. **read ›**

127 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:6** Do not bear a grudge against your neighbor for every wrong, and do nothing at all by deeds of arrogance. **read ›**

128 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:2** Do good to a godly man, and you will find a reward, if not from him, then from the Most High. **read ›**

129 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:5** Do good to the lowly, and do not give to the ungodly; hold back his bread, and do not give it to him, lest by it he overpower you; for you will find twice as much evil for all the good you do him. **read ›**

130 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:10** Never trust your enemy; for as bronze corrodes, so does his wickedness. **read ›**

131 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:16** The enemy will speak sweetly with his lips, but in his heart he will plan to throw you down into a pit; the enemy will weep with his eyes, but if he finds an opportunity, he will not be satisfied with blood. **read ›**

132 **Wisdom of Sirach 26:11** Keep watch behind a shameless eye, and do not be surprised if she trespasses against you. **read ›**

133 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:17** Love a friend and keep faith with him; but if you reveal his secrets, you will never catch up with him. **read ›**

134 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:18** For as a man has destroyed his enemy, so you have destroyed the friendship of your neighbor; **read ›**

135 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:1** He who takes vengeance will find vengeance from the Lord, and he will surely keep strict account of his sins. **read ›**

136 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:2** Forgive your neighbor the wrong he has done, and then, when you pray, your sins will be released. **read ›**

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137 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:7** Remember the commandments, and do not bear wrath against your neighbor; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook ignorance. **read ›**

138 **Wisdom of Sirach 32:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

139 **Wisdom of Sirach 36:14** Fill Zion, that it may praise your oracles highly, and fill your people with your glory. (Septuagint Wisdom of Sirach 36:19 (Wisdom of Sirach 36:14 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

140 **Wisdom of Sirach 37:9** and say to you, “Your way is good,” and then stand opposite to see what will happen to you. **read ›**

141 **Baruch 4:25** My children, endure with patience the anger that has come upon you from God. Your enemy has pursued you, but you will soon see his destruction, and you will tread upon their necks. **read ›**

142 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:66** For they will never curse or bless kings; **read ›**

143 **1 Maccabees 2:67** And you, gather to yourselves all who keep the law, and avenge the vengeance of your people. **read ›**

144 **1 Maccabees 2:68** Repay the nations with repayment, and pay attention to the statutes of the law.” **read ›**

145 **1 Maccabees 7:38** Take vengeance on this man and on his army, and let them fall by the sword; remember their blasphemies, and do not let them remain.” **read ›**

146 **1 Maccabees 16:17** So he committed a great act of treachery and repaid evil for good. **read ›**

147 **2 Maccabees 6:15** lest he should take vengeance on us afterward, when our sins have reached their height. **read ›**

148 **2 Maccabees 7:19** But do not think that you will go unpunished, since you have tried to fight against God.” **read ›**

149 **2 Maccabees 7:29** Do not fear this executioner, but prove worthy of your brothers and accept death, so that in mercy I may receive you back again with your brothers.” **read ›**

150 **3 Maccabees 3:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

151 **3 Maccabees 5:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

152 **4 Maccabees 3:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

153 **4 Maccabees 8:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

154 **4 Maccabees 8:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

155 **1 Enoch 10:16** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

156 **1 Enoch 95:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

157 **1 Enoch 108:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

158 **Matthew 5:39** But I tell you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. **read ›**

159 **Matthew 5:40** If anyone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak also. **read ›**

160 **Matthew 5:41** Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. **read ›**

161 **Matthew 5:42** Give to him who asks you, and do not turn away him who desires to borrow from you. **read ›**

162 **Matthew 5:43** “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ **read ›**

163 **Matthew 5:44** But I tell you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you, **read ›**

164 **Luke 6:27** But I tell you who hear: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **read ›**

165 **Luke 6:28** bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. **read ›**

166 **Luke 6:29** To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from him who takes your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. **read ›**

167 **Luke 6:35** But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing back; and your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind toward the unthankful and evil. **read ›**

168 **Luke 7:10** Those who were sent, returning to the house, found that the slave who had been sick was well. **read ›**

169 **Luke 8:17** For nothing is hidden that will not be revealed, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light. **read ›**

170 **John 3:15** that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. **read ›**

171 **Acts 25:3** to grant them a favor against Paul by sending for him to come to Jerusalem, while they planned an ambush to kill him on the way. **read ›**

172 **Acts 26:15** I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. **read ›**

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173 **Romans 12:14** Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse. **read ›**

174 **Romans 12:17** Repay no one evil for evil. Take thought for what is good in the sight of all people. **read ›**

175 **Romans 12:19** Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but leave room for God's wrath; for it is written: "Vengeance is mine; I will repay," says the Lord. **read ›**

176 **Romans 12:20** Therefore, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for in doing this you will heap coals of fire on his head. **read ›**

177 **Romans 12:21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **read ›**

178 **1 Corinthians 6:7** Therefore it is already altogether a defeat for you that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? **read ›**

179 **1 Thessalonians 5:15** See that no one returns evil for evil to anyone, but always follow after that which is good for one another and for all. **read ›**

180 **James 3:9** With it we bless God the Father, and with it we curse people who have been made in the likeness of God. **read ›**

181 **1 Peter 3:9** not repaying evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but instead blessing, knowing that you were called to this so that you might inherit a blessing. **read ›**

182 **1 Peter 3:11** Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. **read ›**

183 **3 John 1:11** Beloved, do not imitate evil, but good. He who does good is of God; he who does evil has not seen God. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *168 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 9:5 · 22:17

Deuteronomy 30:15

Psalms 4:4 · 8:2 · 27:3

Proverbs 1:7 · 2:16

Isaiah 10:23 · 45:1

Jeremiah 21:8

Lamentations 3:27

Zechariah 7:10

Matthew 4:3 · 4:10 · 5:3 · 5:7 · 5:8 · 5:11 · 5:17 · 5:22 · 5:26 · 5:28 · 5:32 · 5:33 · 5:38 · 5:45 · 5:46 · 6:3 · 6:12 · 6:20 · 6:25 · 7:1 · 7:2 · 7:12 · 7:15 · 8:10 · 10:10 · 11:12 · 12:36 · 22:37 · 22:39 · 23:27 · 24:11 · 25:33 · 27:5

Mark 2:19 · 7:15 · 12:30 · 12:32 · 12:41

Luke 2:51 · 6:20 · 6:22 · 6:30 · 6:31 · 6:32 · 6:36 · 6:37 · 6:38 · 11:1 · 12:23 · 14:33 · 16:9

John 1:17 · 3:18 · 4:16 · 8:26 · 11:25 · 12:6 · 13:33 · 13:34 · 17:3 · 19:19

Acts 1:18 · 7:60 · 10:14 · 17:31 · 20:35

Romans 2:29 · 3:13 · 4:3 · 6:14 · 7:23 · 8:3 · 8:5 · 8:10 · 8:11 · 9:28 · 10:2 · 10:4 · 10:10 · 10:17 · 10:19 · 11:11 · 11:33 · 11:34 · 12:3 · 12:9 · 12:10 · 12:12 · 12:16 · 12:18 · 13:7 · 13:9 · 13:14 · 14:10 · 14:12 · 15:29

1 Corinthians 1:10 · 1:24 · 2:8 · 5:13 · 6:10 · 6:14 · 7:18 · 8:6 · 10:26 · 15:50

2 Corinthians 1:12 · 3:14 · 4:8 · 4:12 · 4:14 · 5:10 · 6:9 · 6:10 · 8:21 · 10:3 · 13:3

Galatians 1:1 · 3:6 · 3:13 · 3:16 · 3:24

Ephesians 4:3 · 4:26 · 6:14

Philippians 2:2 · 2:10 · 3:14 · 3:16 · 3:20 · 4:11

1 Thessalonians 5:14

1 Timothy 2:2 · 4:12 · 6:10

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Hebrews 4:15 · 10:30 · 10:32 · 10:33 · 10:39 · 11:26 · 11:36 · 12:1 · 13:12 · 13:20

James 2:13 · 5:14

1 Peter 1:13 · 1:21 · 2:11 · 2:17 · 3:13 · 3:22

1 John 3:18 · 4:16

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 teach about not repaying evil for evil?” on May 19, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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