THE QUESTION

What did the early church think was most important about baptism?

Asked by a THF member on July 12, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 12 numbered quotations · the 41 early Christian passages and 218 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-think-was-most-important-about-baptism

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

The early writers saw baptism as the washing of new birth, where sins are forgiven and a person dies and rises with Christ. They gave it once, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to people who freely chose it after repenting, and they warned against despising it.

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

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POINT 1 OF 8

Baptism is the washing of new birth

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

Cyprian reads Titus 3:5 as teaching that the old self dies and a new self is born in baptism. Theophilus, explaining the creation of sea life, sees in the waters a sign that people receive forgiveness and are born again through the washing of regeneration.

1 “For the blessed apostle declares and proves that baptism is where the old man dies and the new man is born, saying, "He saved us by the washing of regeneration,"”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 28, page 8** 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 8, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

Sins are forgiven in the water

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

Justin says the one being washed receives forgiveness for sins committed before. Cyprian says the same plainly, and adds that martyrdom is a second baptism of blood that brings a crown.

3 “Since at birth we were born without our own knowledge or choice, due to our parents coming together, and were raised with bad habits and wicked training; so that we may not remain children of necessity and ignorance, but may become children of choice and knowledge, and may obtain in the water the remission of sins previously committed, the name of God the Father and Lord of the universe is pronounced over the one who chooses to be born again and has repented of sins.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 5, page 6** Read it in the library ›
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4 “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) **Source 24, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 8

Baptism joins us to Christ's death and rising

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

The Apostolic Constitutions explain each part of the rite: going down into the water is dying with Christ, and coming up is rising with Him. Ignatius likewise says the one baptism is given so that we share in the Lord's death.

5 “The going down into the water is dying together with Christ. The coming up out of the water is rising again with Him.”

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

6 “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 4, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

It is a free choice after repentance

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

Justin contrasts our first birth, which we did not choose, with the new birth in baptism. The person baptized is one who chooses it and has repented, so baptism is God's gift received by a free and willing response.

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7 “Since at birth we were born without our own knowledge or choice, due to our parents coming together, and were raised with bad habits and wicked training; so that we may not remain children of necessity and ignorance, but may become children of choice and knowledge, and may obtain in the water the remission of sins previously committed, the name of God the Father and Lord of the universe is pronounced over the one who chooses to be born again and has repented of sins.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 5, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 8

Given in the name of the Trinity

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

The Apostolic Constitutions tell bishops and presbyters to baptize as the Lord commanded, naming Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Cyprian also stresses that Christ commanded baptism in the full Trinity, not in one name only.

8 “Baptize in the name of the Father who sent, of Christ who came, and of the Comforter who testified.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 30, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

9 “Finally, after the resurrection, when the apostles are sent by the Lord to the Gentiles, they are commanded to baptize the Gentiles in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 23, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

There is one baptism, not to be repeated

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

The Apostolic Constitutions link the oneness of baptism to the oneness of God, Christ, the Comforter and the Lord's death. Proper baptism is not to be undone by a second one.

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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) **Source 29, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 8

Refusing baptism is a serious matter

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

The same text warns that someone who looks down on baptism and refuses it is treated as an unbeliever. It supports this with the Lord's words about being born of water and the Spirit.

11 “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 29, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 8 OF 8

Christian baptism gives more than John's

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

Tertullian says John's baptism was a baptism of repentance that prepared for heavenly things. He reasons that if it had been heavenly, it would have given the Spirit and forgiveness, which Christ's baptism brings.

12 “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 Spirit except God only.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Baptism* 10 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 14, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not settle every question about baptism, such as the age of those baptized or whether water is poured or the person is dipped.

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- Some of these writers also speak of martyrdom as a baptism of blood, which these passages do not fully explain.
- 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 41 early Christian passages and 218 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–41, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 42–129, in Bible order), then 130 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 *41 passages from 16 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 7 (1885 English; on point 5) "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* (on point 1) indeed descend into the water full of sins and defilement, but come up, bearing fruit in our heart, having the fear of God and trust in Jesus in our spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · source 3*

3 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 2) heard, sir, some teachers maintain that there is no other repentance than that which takes place, when we descended into the water and received remission of our former sins… [continues online] **read ›**

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

4 *Epistles of Ignatius* **Quote 6, page 3** 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 ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 5–7*

5 *First Apology* (1885 English) **Quotes 3, 7, pages 2, 4** "order that we may not remain the children of necessity and of ignorance, but may become the children of choice and knowledge, and may obtain in the water the remission… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *First Apology* (1885 English; on point 1) "they are brought by us where there is water, and are regenerated in the same manner in which we were ourselves regenerated… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 8) baptize you with water to repentance; but He that is stronger than I shall come, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy… [continues online] **read ›**

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

8 *To Autolycus* 16 (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** "the monsters of the deep and the birds of prey are a similitude of covetous men and transgressors… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 9–10*

9 *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 ›**

10 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (1885 English; on point 1) "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 11–12*

11 *Instructor* 1.6 (on point 2) human faith and divine grace, our transgressions being taken away by one Paeonian medicine, the baptism of the Word. We are washed from all our sins and are no longer… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Instructor* 1.6 (on point 1) 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 ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 13–17*

13 *On Baptism* 18 (1885 English) "any understand the weighty import of baptism, they will fear its reception more than its delay: sound faith is secure of salvation… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *On Baptism* 10 **Quote 12, page 5** "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 ›**

15 *On Baptism* 15 (1885 English; on point 6) "well according to the Lord's gospel as according to the apostle's letters, inasmuch as he says, One God, and one baptism, and one church in the heavens… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *On Baptism* 12 (on point 8) 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 ›**

17 *On Baptism* 2 (1885 English) "that from the very fact, that with so great simplicity, without pomp, without any considerable novelty of preparation, finally, without expense, a man is dipped in water, and amid the… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 18–20*

18 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (on point 8) "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 ›**

19 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (on point 4) "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 ›**

20 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (1885 English; on point 7) "me, John, in order that no one may despise baptism… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 21–22*

21 *Commentary on John* 6 (on point 8) "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 ›**

22 *Commentary on John* 6 the spirit of this passage, let us also pray that God may grant us understanding of the spiritual meaning of Joshua's crossing through the Jordan. About that also, Paul… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 23–28*

23 *Epistles* **Quote 9, page 4** Him whom Christ called His Lord and His God is rewarded by Christ, and receives forgiveness of sins and the sanctification of baptism! But by what power can the one… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** "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 ›**

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25 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 2) “because in baptism remission of sins is granted once for all, constant and ceaseless labour, following the likeness of baptism, once again bestows the mercy of God… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *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 ›**

27 *Epistles* (on point 2) 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* **Quote 1, page 2** “3:5. But if regeneration is in the washing, that is, in baptism, how can heresy, which is… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 29–33*

29 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quotes 10, 11, page 5** me." Nor are those baptized by them truly initiated; rather, they are polluted, receiving not the remission of sins, but the bond of impiety. Besides this, those who try to… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 8, page 4** “all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** baptism, therefore, is given into the death of Jesus… [continues online] **read ›**

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

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

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 34*

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

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 35*

35 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 2) “said: "Is baptism, then, given on account of the remission of sins… [continues online] **read ›**

Anonymous · *sources 36–41*

36 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 “Although they were already righteous and, as we have said, had been baptized with the Lord's baptism, just as the apostles themselves had been, yet on the night when… [continues online] **read ›**

37 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (on point 6) “by bishops whose opinions are unsound, or who are very ignorant? They may not have spoken clearly and honestly, or may even have spoken otherwise than is fitting in the… [continues online] **read ›**

38 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (on point 8) 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 known everywhere, made and begun… [continues online] **read ›**

39 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (on point 2) “the Gospel according to Luke, spoke to His disciples, saying, "But I have another baptism to be baptized with" (Luke 12:50). Also, according to Mark, He said with the… [continues online] **read ›**

40 *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 ›**

41 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “also, that bodies are washed by water, and moreover that by blood we may more readily attain at once to the rewards of salvation… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *88 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

42 **Genesis 48:16** the angel who delivers me from all evils, bless these boys; and my name shall be called upon them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and may they grow into a great multitude on the earth.” **read ›**

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43 **Exodus 19:14** So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified them, and they washed their garments. **read ›**

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

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

46 **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 ›**

47 **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 ›**

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

49 **Leviticus 5:6** And for what he has trespassed against the Lord, for the sin which he has sinned, he shall bring a female from the sheep, a lamb, or a female goat from the goats, as a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin which he has sinned, and the sin shall be forgiven him. **read ›**

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

51 **Leviticus 10:10** to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean, **read ›**

52 **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 ›**

53 **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 ›**

54 **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 ›**

55 **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 ›**

56 **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 ›**

57 **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 ›**

58 **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 ›**

59 **Numbers 7:28** one male goat of the goats for a sin offering; **read ›**

60 **Numbers 7:52** one male goat of the goats for a sin offering; **read ›**

61 **Numbers 7:58** one male goat of the goats for a sin offering; **read ›**

62 **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 ›**

63 **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 ›**

64 **Numbers 14:19** Forgive the sin of this people according to your great mercy, just as you have been gracious to them from Egypt until now." **read ›**

65 **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 ›**

66 **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 ›**

67 **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 ›**

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68 **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 ›**

69 **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 ›**

70 **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 ›**

71 **Deuteronomy 29:9** So you shall take care to do all the words of this covenant, that you may understand all that you do. **read ›**

72 **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 ›**

73 **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 ›**

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

75 **Ecclesiastes 8:4** as a king who has power; and who will say to him, “What are you doing?” **read ›**

76 **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 ›**

77 **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 ›**

78 **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 ›**

79 **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 ›**

80 **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 ›**

81 **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 ›**

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

83 **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 ›**

84 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:14** For an act of mercy to a father will not be forgotten, and in place of sins it will be built up for you. **read ›**

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

86 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:1** My child, have you sinned? Do not do so again, and pray concerning your former sins. **read ›**

87 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:21** The first need of life is water and bread and clothing, and a house to cover nakedness. **read ›**

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

89 **Wisdom of Sirach 37:15** And above all these things, pray to the Most High that he may direct your way in truth. **read ›**

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

91 **1 Maccabees 9:34** Bacchides learned of it on the Sabbath day, and he and all his army came across the Jordan. **read ›**

92 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

93 **2 Maccabees 8:4** and to remember the lawless destruction of the innocent infants and the blasphemies committed against his name, and to show his hatred of evil. **read ›**

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94 **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 ›**

95 **4 Maccabees 15:3** loved more the godliness that saves to eternal life according to God. **read ›**

96 **4 Maccabees 18:10** While he was still with you, he used to teach you the Law and the Prophets. **read ›**

97 **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 ›**

98 **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 ›**

99 **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 ›**

100 **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 ›**

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

102 **Matthew 3:11** I indeed baptize you in water for repentance, but he who comes after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

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

104 **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 ›**

105 **Mark 1:8** I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit." **read ›**

106 **Mark 16:16** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who disbelieves will be condemned. **read ›**

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

108 **Luke 3:16** John answered them all, "I indeed baptize you with water, but he comes who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to loosen. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire. **read ›**

109 **John 3:5** Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **read ›**

110 **John 20:23** If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they have been retained." **read ›**

111 **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 ›**

112 **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 ›**

113 **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 ›**

114 **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 ›**

115 **Acts 19:3** He said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." **read ›**

116 **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 ›**

117 **Acts 22:16** Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.' **read ›**

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

119 **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 ›**

120 **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 ›**

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121 **1 Corinthians 6:11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and in the Spirit of our God. **read ›**

122 **1 Corinthians 10:2** and were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; **read ›**

123 **1 Corinthians 15:29** Or else what will they do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for the dead? **read ›**

124 **Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **read ›**

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

126 **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 ›**

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

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 *130 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

Psalms 18:26 · 19:1 · 110:4

Isaiah 1:18

Jeremiah 2:12 · 2:13 · 5:8

Ezekiel 47:1

Matthew 3:7 · 3:10 · 3:15 · 3:17 · 4:3 · 7:6 · 9:2 · 9:29 · 11:11 · 11:13 · 17:12 · 19:14 · 19:17 · 21:23 · 21:25 · 25:29 · 28:19

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

Luke 1:76 · 3:2 · 3:9 · 6:30 · 7:18 · 7:37 · 7:48 · 7:50 · 10:21 · 10:35 · 12:50 · 14:11 · 18:16 · 18:27 · 20:4 · 22:32

John 1:3 · 1:6 · 1:9 · 1:17 · 1:21 · 1:24 · 1:33 · 3:3 · 3:8 · 3:9 · 3:30 · 3:36 · 4:10 · 4:20 · 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 · 13:10 · 16:6 · 19:34 · 19:37 · 20:22

Acts 1:4 · 4:12 · 5:31 · 8:26 · 8:28 · 9:11 · 10:44 · 11:15 · 15:7 · 15:9 · 19:1

Romans 8:5

1 Corinthians 1:27 · 2:8 · 5:11 · 7:14 · 12:13 · 13:11 · 14:20

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

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

Ephesians 4:4 · 5:8

Philippians 2:7

1 Thessalonians 4:8

1 Timothy 5:22

Hebrews 6:4 · 10:26 · 12:16

1 John 3:9 · 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 think was most important about baptism?” on July 12, 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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How to cite this study. The Historic Faith, “What did the early church think was most important about baptism?” Early Church Questions, published November 9, 2026, https://thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-church-think-was-most-important-about-baptism. To cite one quotation, add its number and source, for example “quote 1, source 28.”

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THE END OF THIS STUDY