THE QUESTION

What does God say about defending yourself?

Asked by a THF member on May 18, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 11 numbered quotations · the 33 early Christian passages and 233 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-does-god-say-about-defending-yourself

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

Jesus taught His followers not to strike back but to turn the other cheek, and the early Christians took this literally. They taught that believers should endure violence calmly, refuse revenge, and trust God as their guardian and judge. They also urged Christians to rescue people who are being harmed by the powerful.

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

Jesus said to turn the other cheek

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

Tatian's Gospel harmony gives Jesus' words plainly: do not stand against the one who does evil. The Didache, an early handbook for new believers, repeats the same command as part of the way of life.

1 “But 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.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 9 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 3, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2 “If someone strikes your right cheek, turn the other cheek to him also, and you will be perfect.”

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

POINT 2 OF 8

The early church treated it as a command

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

Cyprian lists turning the other cheek among the plain duties of a Christian, next to forgiving and loving enemies. He says only patience and endurance make this possible.

3 “When you are struck on one cheek, you should offer the other cheek to the one who strikes you.”

later in the same passage

“Can you do these things unless you keep the firmness of patience and endurance?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 18, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 3 OF 8

Christians must not take revenge

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

Lactantius teaches that a Christian should go beyond not hurting others. He should not pay back harm when it is done to him, and he should pray even for his enemies.

4 “Therefore we are bound not only to avoid injuring others, but even not to take revenge when injury is done to us, so that complete harmlessness may be in us.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 65 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 28, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

Endure violence and leave judgment to God

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

Lactantius says believers should bear violence calmly because God will judge every wrong done to the innocent. He describes Christians under persecution answering cruelty with gentleness and patience instead of force.

5 “And if violence is done to us, we must endure it calmly, since the death of an innocent person cannot go unavenged, and since we have a great Judge who alone always holds the power of vengeance in His hands.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 18 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 29, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

6 “For when those defenders of false gods, who rebel against the true God, persecute His name in us, we do not resist either by action or by word. Instead, with gentleness, silence, and patience, we endure whatever cruelty can be planned against us.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 53 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 30, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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POINT 5 OF 8

God Himself is the believer's guardian

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

Cyprian, explaining the Lord's Prayer, says the request to be delivered from evil puts believers under God's protection. For him, the person whom God guards has no reason to fear.

7 “Once we have asked for God's protection against evil and have received it, then we stand secure and safe against everything the devil and the world do against us.”

later in the same passage

“For what fear is there in this life for the man whose guardian in this life is God?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 21, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

Christians should rescue those being harmed

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

Lactantius says God gave people pity so they would protect one another, and he tells Christians to rescue anyone hurt by someone stronger. Theophilus quotes Isaiah's call to help the oppressed. These passages do not say what means of rescue are allowed.

8 “If anyone suffers harm from someone more powerful than himself, let us rescue him.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 65 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 28, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

9 “So Isaiah said, "Put away the evil of your deeds from your souls. Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the fatherless. Plead for the widow."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Theophilus of Antioch,** *To Autolycus* 12 (c. 169–183 AD) **Source 6, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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POINT 7 OF 8

Stephen prayed for those who killed him

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

Cyprian points to Stephen, the first martyr, as an example of this patience. Even while being put to death, Stephen asked God to pardon his killers rather than to avenge him.

10 “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)
THF's updated English

Source 18, page 7 **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 8 OF 8

The Old Testament taught the same patience

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

Origen answers a critic who set Jesus against the Law. He shows that Lamentations already speaks of giving the cheek to the one who strikes, so the same God stands behind both.

11 “There is no disagreement, then, between the God of the Gospel and the God of the law, even when we take literally the command about a blow on the face.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 25 (c. 215–254 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 15, page 7 **Read it in the library ›**

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not directly discuss defending your family from an attacker in the home.
- Jesus' words about buying a sword appear in Tatian's harmony, but no writer here explains them.
- 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 33 early Christian passages and 233 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–33, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 34–157, in Bible order), then 109 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 *33 passages from 16 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 1 **Quote 2, page 2** "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 ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 2*

2 *First Apology* (1885 English; on point 2) "concerning our being patient of injuries, and ready to serve all, and free from anger, this is what He said: "To him that smiteth thee on the one cheek, offer… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 3–5*

3 *Diatessaron* 9 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** "whosoever smites you on your right 8 cheek, turn to him also the other… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Diatessaron* 48 "His disciples saw what was happening, they said, "Our Lord, shall we strike them with swords?" And Simon Cephas had a sword. He drew it, struck the servant of the… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Diatessaron* 46 (1885 English) "said to him, Nothing. Luke 22:36 He said to them, Henceforth, whosoever has a purse, let him take it, and likewise the wallet also: and whosoever has not a… [continues online] **read ›**

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

6 *To Autolycus* 12 **Quote 9, page 4** said, "Put away the evil of your deeds from your souls. Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the fatherless. Plead for the widow." Isaiah 1:16… [continues online] **read ›**

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

7 *A Plea for the Christians* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) "we have learned, not only not to return blow for blow, nor to go to law with those who plunder and rob us, but to those who smite us on… [continues online] **read ›**

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

8 *Against Heresies: Book II* (1885 English; on point 2) "not only not to strike, but even, when themselves struck, to present the other cheek [to those that maltreated them… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Against Heresies: Book V* (1885 English) "he is the minister of God, the avenger for wrath upon him who does evil." And for this reason too, magistrates themselves, having laws as a clothing of righteousness whenever… [continues online] **read ›**

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Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 10–11*

10 *Exhortation to the Heathen* 10 (on point 1) “him who strikes you on the cheek, present also the other… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Instructor* 3.12 (1885 English; on point 1) “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 12–14*

12 *Against Marcion* 15 (on point 3) “those who slander us, when He taught us to count them as brothers. But, someone may say, Christ clearly teaches a new kind of patience, when He actually forbids the… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *On Patience* 8 (1885 English; on point 2) “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 ›**

14 *De Corona* 11 (1885 English) “it be held lawful to make an occupation of the sword, when the Lord proclaims that he who uses the sword shall perish by the sword… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 15–17*

15 *Against Celsus* 25 **Quote 11, 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 ›**

16 *Against Celsus* 58 (1885 English; on point 3) “us now consider what follows. They have also, says he, a precept to this effect, that we ought not to avenge ourselves on one who injures us, or, as he… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Against Celsus* 61 (1885 English; on point 8) “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 ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 18–22*

18 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quotes 3, 10, pages 2, 5** “when you receive a buffet, you should give your other cheek to the smiter… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 4) “innocent give place to the guilty; the harmless acquiesce in punishments and tortures, sure and confident that whatsoever we suffer will not remain unavenged, and that in proportion to the… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Epistles* (on point 5) worshiped, and whom we also worship, was able even to rescue them from the fiery furnace and to deliver them from the king’s hands and from immediate sufferings. We… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Treatises* **Quote 7, page 4** sentence that shortly and fully sums up all our requests and prayers. For we end by saying, "But deliver us from evil," including in this all the harmful things that… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Treatises* (on point 5) divine help shall not be lacking to God's servants in persecutions, saying: “But when they shall deliver you up, take no thought how or what you shall speak. For… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · source 23*

23 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 1) “from fleshly and worldly lusts. If any one gives you a stroke on your right cheek, turn to him the other also… [continues online] **read ›**

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 24*

24 *Writings* (1885 English; on point 4) “willingly to use force, nor to return force used against you, you will be a patient mind, understand that you are a martyr… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · sources 25–26*

25 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 1) “that our Lord bade us offer the other cheek also to him who smote the one… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 1) “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 ›**

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Arnobius, *c. 290–330 AD · source 27*

27 *Against the Heathen* 1 (1885 English; on point 3) “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 28–32*

28 *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 65 **Quotes 4, 8, pages 3, 4** “naked, let us clothe him. If anyone suffers harm from someone more powerful than himself, let us rescue him. Let our house be open to strangers, or to those who… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Divine Institutes* 18 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** “if any violence is offered to us, we must endure it with equanimity, since the death of an innocent person cannot be unavenged, and since we have a great Judge… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 53 **Quote 6, page 3** gods. First, if they are gods and have any power and influence, they do not need the defense and protection of men. They would clearly defend themselves. Or how can… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *On the Workmanship of God* 2 (1885 English; on point 6) “none of them is destitute of a defense for its own protection… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Divine Institutes* 1 (1885 English; on point 5) “any one is harassed by any violence, he implores His aid… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 33*

33 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (on point 6) “out judgment, deliver the oppressed, judge the fatherless, and see that justice is done to the widow… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *124 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

34 **Genesis 42:19** If you are men of peace, let one of your brothers be held in custody, and the rest of you go and carry home the grain you have bought. **read ›**

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

36 **Exodus 21:14** But if anyone lies in wait for his neighbor to kill him by treachery, and flees for refuge, you shall take him from my altar to put him to death. **read ›**

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

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

39 **Exodus 32:27** He said to them, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Let every man put his sword on his thigh, and go through and back, from gate to gate, throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his neighbor, and every man the one nearest him.’” **read ›**

40 **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 ›**

41 **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 ›**

42 **Deuteronomy 33:29** Blessed are you, O Israel; who is like you, a people saved by the Lord? Your helper will shield you, and the sword is your boast; your enemies shall lie to you, and you shall tread upon their neck. **read ›**

43 **2 Kings 11:10** And the priest gave the commanders of hundreds the lances and the triple arms of King David that were in the house of the Lord. **read ›**

44 **Esther 8:11** in which he commanded them to use their own laws in every city, and to come to their own aid, and to deal with their opponents and those who attacked them as they wished, **read ›**

45 **Job 5:15** and may they perish in war; and may the powerless escape from the hand of the mighty. **read ›**

46 **Job 8:19** that such is the overthrow of the ungodly, and that out of the earth he shall cause another to spring up? **read ›**

47 **Job 9:2** “Truly I know that it is so; for how shall a mortal be righteous before the Lord? **read ›**

48 **Job 9:11** If he goes past me, I shall not see him at all; if he passes by me, even so I have not known it. **read ›**

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49 **Psalms 7:10** My help is righteous, from God who saves the upright in heart. (Septuagint Psalm 7:11 (Psalm 7:10 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

50 **Psalms 10:18** to do justice for the orphan and the lowly, so that man upon the earth may no longer boast. (Septuagint Psalm 9:39 (Psalm 10:18 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

51 **Psalms 71:4** O my God, deliver me from the hand of the sinner, from the hand of the lawless and the unrighteous man. (Septuagint Psalm 70:4 (Psalm 71:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

52 **Psalms 72:4** in righteousness he will judge the poor of the people, and save the children of the needy, and bring low the false accuser, (Septuagint Psalm 71:4 (Psalm 72:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

53 **Psalms 72:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

54 **Psalms 82:4** Rescue the needy, and deliver the poor from the hand of the sinner. (Septuagint Psalm 81:4 (Psalm 82:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

55 **Psalms 119:134** Redeem me from the false accusation of men, and I will keep your commandments. (Septuagint Psalm 118:134 (Psalm 119:134 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

56 **Psalms 140:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

57 **Proverbs 3:29** Do not devise evils against your friend, who lives beside you and trusts in you. **read ›**

58 **Proverbs 8:28** and when he made strong the clouds above, and when he made secure the springs of the earth under heaven, **read ›**

59 **Proverbs 24:11** Deliver those being led away to death, and ransom those being killed; do not hold back. **read ›**

60 **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 ›**

61 **Song of Solomon 6:9** My dove, my perfect one, is one; she is the only one of her mother, the choice one of her who bore her. The daughters saw her and will call her blessed; the queens and the concubines also, and they will praise her. **read ›**

62 **Song of Solomon 7:8** I said, “I will go up to the palm tree; I will take hold of its heights.” And now your breasts shall be like clusters of the vine, and the fragrance of your nose like apples, (Septuagint Song of Solomon 7:9 (Song of Solomon 7:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

63 **Isaiah 1:17** learn to do good; seek out judgment; rescue the one who is wronged; judge for the orphan, and do justice for the widow. **read ›**

64 **Isaiah 7:8** but the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin; and yet within sixty-five years the kingdom of Ephraim shall fail from being a people; **read ›**

65 **Isaiah 9:15** the old man and those who show partiality—this is the head; and the prophet who teaches lawless things—he is the tail. (Septuagint Isaiah 9:14 (Isaiah 9:15 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

66 **Isaiah 16:14** And now I say: in three years, years of a hired worker, the glory of Moab will be dishonored with all his great wealth, and he will be left few in number, and without honor. **read ›**

67 **Isaiah 17:2** abandoned forever, a fold and resting place for flocks, and there will be no one to chase them. **read ›**

68 **Isaiah 49:25** For thus says the Lord: If anyone takes a giant captive, he shall take spoils; and he who takes from the strong man shall be saved. But I will judge your cause, and I will deliver your sons. **read ›**

69 **Isaiah 54:17** Every weapon formed against you I will not let prosper; and as for every voice that rises against you for judgment, you shall defeat them all, and those who are guilty toward you shall be caught in that judgment. There is an inheritance for those who serve the Lord, and you shall be righteous before me, says the Lord. **read ›**

70 **Jeremiah 5:13** Our prophets were wind, and the word of the Lord was not in them.” **read ›**

71 **Jeremiah 22:3** Thus says the Lord: Do judgment and righteousness, and rescue the one who is robbed out of the hand of him who wrongs him; and do not oppress the resident foreigner and the orphan and the widow, and do not act ungodly, and do not shed innocent blood in this place. **read ›**

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

73 **Jeremiah 34:1** The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord (when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and all his army, and all the land of his dominion were fighting against Jerusalem and against all the cities of Judah), saying, (Septuagint Jeremiah 41:1 (Jeremiah 34:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

74 **Jeremiah 34:2** “Thus said the Lord: Go to Zedekiah king of Judah and say to him, ‘Thus said the Lord: This city shall surely be handed over into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it and burn it with fire; (Septuagint Jeremiah 41:2 (Jeremiah 34:2 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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75 **Jeremiah 34:3** and you shall by no means escape from his hand, but you shall surely be taken and given into his hands; and your eyes shall see his eyes, and you shall go into Babylon.' (Septuagint Jeremiah 41:3 (Jeremiah 34:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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

77 **Ezekiel 22:30** And I sought from among them a man who walked uprightly and stood before me wholly in the time of anger, so that I should not utterly blot her out; and I found none. **read ›**

78 **Ezekiel 29:12** And I will make her land a destruction in the midst of a land laid waste, and her cities shall be in the midst of cities laid waste for forty years; and I will scatter Egypt among the nations and winnow them into the countries. **read ›**

79 **Joel 3:8** and I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hands of the children of Judah, and they will sell them into captivity to a nation far away; for the Lord has spoken. (Septuagint Joel 4:8 (Joel 3:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

80 **Amos 5:19** It is as if a man should flee from the face of a lion, and a bear meet him; and he should rush into his house and lean his hands on the wall, and a serpent bite him. **read ›**

81 **Judith 8:19** for which reason our fathers were given up to the sword and to plunder, and they fell with a great fall before our enemies. **read ›**

82 **Judith 9:2** "O Lord, God of my father Simeon, into whose hand you gave a sword to take vengeance on the strangers who loosed the womb of a virgin to defile her, and uncovered her thigh to shame her, and profaned her womb to her disgrace — for you said, 'It shall not be so,' and yet they did it — **read ›**

83 **Judith 9:11** For your power is not in numbers, nor your might in the strong; but you are the God of the lowly, the helper of the least, the protector of the weak, the shelter of the forsaken, the savior of those without hope. **read ›**

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

85 **Wisdom of Solomon 5:19** he will take holiness as an invincible shield, **read ›**

86 **Wisdom of Solomon 10:12** She guarded him from enemies, and kept him safe from those who lay in wait; and in a hard contest she awarded him the prize, that he might know that godliness is stronger than all. **read ›**

87 **Wisdom of Solomon 10:15** She delivered a holy people and a blameless seed from a nation of oppressors. **read ›**

88 **Wisdom of Solomon 17:2** For when the lawless supposed they could oppress a holy nation, they lay, prisoners of darkness and captives of a long night, shut in under their roofs, exiles from the eternal providence. **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:2** and because, though wronged before, they did not harm them, they gave thanks, and begged their pardon for having been at odds. **read ›**

90 **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 ›**

91 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:21** For a blameless man hastened to fight on their behalf; bringing the weapon of his own ministry, prayer and the atonement of incense, he withstood the wrath and put an end to the disaster, showing that he was your servant. **read ›**

92 **Wisdom of Sirach 2:13** Woe to the slack heart, for it does not trust; therefore it will not be sheltered. **read ›**

93 **Wisdom of Sirach 4:28** Contend for the truth even to death, and the Lord God will fight for you. **read ›**

94 **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 ›**

95 **Wisdom of Sirach 19:17** Question your neighbor before you threaten him, and give place to the law of the Most High. **read ›**

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

97 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:8** Keep away from quarrels, and you will lessen sins, for a hot-tempered man will kindle a quarrel. **read ›**

98 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:20** Help your neighbor as far as you are able, and be careful that you do not fall. **read ›**

99 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:14** And he holds a scepter like a man who is judge of a country, yet he will not put to death the one who sins against him. **read ›**

100 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:15** He has a dagger in his right hand, and an axe; but he will not deliver himself from war and robbers. **read ›**

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101 **1 Maccabees 2:64** And you, my children, be strong and courageous in the law, for by it you shall be glorified. **read ›**

102 **1 Maccabees 3:58** And Judas said, “Put on your belts and be valiant men, and be ready in the morning to fight these nations that have gathered against us to destroy us and our sanctuary. **read ›**

103 **1 Maccabees 8:28** And to the enemy’s allies there shall not be given grain, weapons, money, or ships, as it has seemed good to Rome; and they shall keep their obligations, and that without deceit. **read ›**

104 **2 Maccabees 1:28** Punish those who oppress us and who run wild in their arrogance. **read ›**

105 **2 Maccabees 4:42** As a result they wounded many of them and struck down some, and they put all the rest to flight; and they killed the temple robber himself beside the treasury. **read ›**

106 **2 Maccabees 8:36** So he who had undertaken to secure tribute for the Romans from the captives of Jerusalem proclaimed that the Jews had God as their champion, and that for this reason the Jews could not be harmed, because they followed the laws God had ordained. **read ›**

107 **2 Maccabees 11:23** Now that our father has passed on to the gods, we wish the subjects of the kingdom to be free from disturbance and to attend to their own affairs. **read ›**

108 **2 Maccabees 15:16** “Take this holy sword, a gift from God, with which you will shatter the adversaries.” **read ›**

109 **2 Maccabees 15:24** By the greatness of your arm may those who come with blasphemy against your holy people be struck with terror.” And with these words he ended. **read ›**

110 **3 Maccabees 1:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

111 **3 Maccabees 1:27** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

112 **3 Maccabees 3:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

113 **3 Maccabees 3:18** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

114 **3 Maccabees 5:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

115 **3 Maccabees 6:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

116 **3 Maccabees 7:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

117 **4 Maccabees 5:31** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

118 **4 Maccabees 7:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

119 **4 Maccabees 7:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

120 **4 Maccabees 9:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

121 **4 Maccabees 9:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

122 **4 Maccabees 9:24** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

123 **4 Maccabees 13:27** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

124 **4 Maccabees 15:32** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

125 **4 Maccabees 17:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

126 **1 Enoch 10:20** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

127 **1 Enoch 14:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

128 **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 ›**

129 **Matthew 26:52** Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place, for all those who take the sword will die by the sword. **read ›**

130 **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 ›**

131 **Luke 13:7** He said to the vine dresser, ‘Behold, these three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and found none. Cut it down! Why does it waste the soil?’ **read ›**

132 **Luke 22:36** Then he said to them, “But now, let him who has a money bag take it, and likewise a bag; and he who has none shall sell his cloak and buy a sword. **read ›**

133 **Acts 22:1** “Brothers and fathers, listen to the defense which I now make to you.” **read ›**

134 **Acts 25:4** However Festus answered that Paul was being kept in custody at Caesarea, and that he himself was about to depart shortly. **read ›**

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

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

137 **Romans 13:1** Let every soul be in subjection to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those who exist are ordained by God. **read ›**

138 **Romans 13:2** Therefore he who resists the authority withstands the ordinance of God; and those who withstand will themselves receive judgment. **read ›**

139 **Romans 13:3** For rulers are not a terror to good works but to evil works. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do good, and you will have praise from it, **read ›**

140 **Romans 13:4** for he is a servant of God to you for good. But if you do that which is evil, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is a servant of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who does evil. **read ›**

141 **Romans 13:5** Therefore you need to be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for conscience' sake. **read ›**

142 **Romans 13:6** For this reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's ministers, attending continually to this very thing. **read ›**

143 **Romans 13:7** Therefore give everyone what you owe: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if customs, then customs; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. **read ›**

144 **Romans 15:21** but as it is written: Those to whom nothing was announced about him shall see, and those who have not heard shall understand. **read ›**

145 **1 Corinthians 9:3** My defense to those who examine me is this: **read ›**

146 **Galatians 1:14** I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, being far more zealous for the traditions of my fathers. **read ›**

147 **Galatians 1:15** But when it was the good pleasure of God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through his grace, **read ›**

148 **Ephesians 6:13** Therefore put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. **read ›**

149 **Ephesians 6:16** above all, taking up the shield of faithfulness, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **read ›**

150 **1 Timothy 6:12** Fight the good fight of faithfulness; take hold of eternal life, to which you were called, and you made the good confession before many witnesses. **read ›**

151 **2 Timothy 3:11** persecutions, and sufferings—the things that happened to me at Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! And the Lord delivered me out of them all. **read ›**

152 **Titus 3:1** Remind them to be in subjection to rulers and to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, **read ›**

153 **Hebrews 11:34** quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, grew mighty in war, and caused foreign armies to flee. **read ›**

154 **1 Peter 2:23** who, when reviled, did not revile in return; when suffering, he did not threaten, but entrusted himself to him who judges righteously; **read ›**

155 **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 ›**

156 **1 Peter 3:13** Now who will harm you if you become imitators of that which is good? **read ›**

157 **1 Peter 3:15** but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, always ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope in you, with meekness and fear, **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *109 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.

Deuteronomy 30:15

Psalms 8:2 · 27:3 · 44:21

Proverbs 1:7 · 2:16

Isaiah 1:16 · 10:23 · 45:1

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Jeremiah 21:8

Lamentations 3:27

Zechariah 7:10

Matthew 4:3 · 5:3 · 5:8 · 5:11 · 5:17 · 5:19 · 5:26 · 5:28 · 5:32 · 5:40 · 5:41 · 5:42 · 5:44 · 5:45 · 5:46 · 6:20 · 6:25 · 7:12 · 7:15 · 8:10 · 10:10 · 11:12 · 12:36 · 17:5 · 18:19 · 22:37 · 23:27 · 25:33 · 27:5 · 28:18

Mark 2:11 · 2:19 · 7:15 · 12:30 · 12:32 · 12:41 · 14:8

Luke 6:1 · 6:22 · 6:27 · 6:30 · 6:31 · 6:32 · 11:1 · 12:23 · 14:33 · 15:7 · 16:9 · 16:16

John 2:19 · 4:13 · 8:26 · 10:30 · 12:6 · 13:14 · 18:23 · 20:21

Acts 1:18 · 7:60 · 10:14

Romans 2:28 · 2:29 · 4:1 · 4:2 · 9:28 · 12:3 · 12:19 · 13:14

1 Corinthians 1:24 · 5:11 · 5:13 · 7:18 · 10:26 · 15:46 · 15:53 · 16:13

2 Corinthians 2:10 · 3:6 · 3:7 · 13:3

Galatians 1:8 · 2:18 · 3:13 · 3:24

Ephesians 4:29 · 5:6

Colossians 3:5

1 Timothy 6:8

Hebrews 4:15 · 10:30 · 10:33

1 Peter 2:11 · 2:17 · 3:21 · 5:8

1 John 2:19

Revelation 2:23

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

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What does God say about defending yourself?” on May 18, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY