THE QUESTION

What does God say about self-defense?

Asked by a THF member on May 18, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 8 numbered quotations · the 37 early Christian passages and 278 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-self-defense

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

Jesus told His followers not to repay violence but to turn the other cheek, and He stopped Peter from using a sword. Tertullian explained that the old law of eye for eye was meant to limit violence. Christians were to endure wrongs patiently, leave vengeance to God, and still rescue the weak.

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 7

Eye for eye was meant to limit violence

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

Tertullian defends the old law against its critics. He says the rule of equal payback was never a license to hurt others. It held back violence by fear, for a people not yet ready to wait for God's own justice.

1 “This does not in any way permit people to injure each other in return. Rather, it is mainly a measure to restrain violence.”

later in the same passage

“So the permission of this retaliation was really a prohibition against provoking injury.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Against Marcion* 18 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 16, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Jesus called His people to turn the cheek

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

In Tatian's Gospel harmony, Jesus sets the rule of payback aside for His followers. Tertullian calls this a fuller kind of patience that still fits what the Creator had already taught.

2 “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 7, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

3 “No doubt these are supplementary additions by Christ, but they are fully in keeping with the teaching of the Creator.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Against Marcion* 15 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 14, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 3 OF 7

Jesus told Peter to put away his sword

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

When Peter struck the high priest's servant, Jesus stopped him and warned that those who take the sword die by it. He then healed the man who had been struck.

4 “Put the sword into its sheath, for all who take the sword shall die by the sword.”

later in the same passage

“And He touched the ear of the man who was struck and healed it.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 48 **Source 6, page 5** Read it in the library ›
(c. 150–180 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Let the Lord defend and repay

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

The Apostolic Constitutions joins Jesus' words with Proverbs. A believer who is wronged should not pay it back but endure it, trusting the Lord to defend him and to deal with the wrongdoer.

5 “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** **Source 27, page 7** Read it in the library ›
(c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 7

Christians met persecution with patience

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

Lactantius describes how Christians answered those who attacked them for their faith. They did not fight back in deed or word, because they trusted God to judge.

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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 35, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Faith is defended by dying, not killing

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

Lactantius says true religion cannot be protected by bloodshed. Using force would pollute the very thing it claims to defend, so believers defend their faith by patient endurance.

7 “Religion must be defended not by killing, but by dying; not by cruelty, but by patient endurance; not by guilt, but by good faith.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 20 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 32, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 7

Christians protect one another through mercy

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

Lactantius teaches that God gave animals ways to attack and defend, but gave people pity so that they would guard each other's lives. He tells Christians to refuse revenge and yet to rescue anyone harmed by someone stronger. He does not say here what means of rescue are allowed.

8 “But to us He has given the feeling of pity, so that we might place the whole protection of our life in helping one another.”

later in the same passage

“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 31, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not directly discuss defending your family from an attacker in the home.
- They do not explain how Christians should rescue someone who is being attacked.
- 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 37 early Christian passages and 278 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–37, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 38–163, in Bible order), then 152 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 *37 passages from 15 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 1 (on point 2) “love your neighbor as yourself. And whatever you would not want to happen to you, do not do to another. And the teaching of these words is this: Bless those… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · sources 2–3*

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

3 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 2) rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 4–5*

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

5 *On the Resurrection, Fragments* (1885 English) “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 6–8*

6 *Diatessaron* 48 **Quote 4, page 3** “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 ›**

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

8 *Diatessaron* 9 "5:43 You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, Love your enemies, and pray for… [continues online] **read ›**

Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 9*

9 *To Autolycus* 12 (1885 English; on point 7) "1:16-17 And again the same prophet said: Loose every band of wickedness, dissolve every oppressive contract, let the oppressed go free, and tear up every unrighteous bond… [continues online] **read ›**

Athenagoras, *c. 170–190 AD · source 10*

10 *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 11–12*

11 *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 ›**

12 *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 · source 13*

13 *Instructor* 3.12 (1885 English; on point 2) "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 14–19*

14 *Against Marcion* 15 **Quote 3, page 2** that the same God should seem to require a tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye in return for an injury, and yet forbid not only all… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Against Marcion* 38 (1885 English; on point 2) "one gives the name of sheep to those who fall in battle with arms in hand, and while repelling force with force, but only to those who are slain, yielding… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Against Marcion* 18 **Quote 1, page 2** stripe for stripe. Exodus 21:24 This does not in any way permit people to injure each other in return. Rather, it is mainly a measure to restrain violence. For… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *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 ›**

18 *De Corona* 11 (1885 English; on point 3) "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 ›**

19 *Against Marcion* 14 (1885 English; on point 7) "the psalm he exclaims: Defend the fatherless and the needy… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 20–22*

20 *Against Celsus* 61 (1885 English; on point 2) "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 ›**

21 *Against Celsus* 25 (on point 2) "then quotes from the Gospel the command, "To the one who strikes you once, offer yourself to be struck again," although he does not give any passage from the Old… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Against Celsus* 58 (1885 English; on point 4) "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 ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 23–25*

23 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 2) "you should love your enemies; that you should offer prayer for your adversaries and persecutors… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Treatises* (1885 English) "I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them which persecute you… [continues online] **read ›**

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

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 26–28*

26 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 2) “5:44 Love your enemies; for what thanks is it if you… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** “20:22 For so says He again in the Gospel: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 4) as if just revenge were an unrighteous thing, but because long-suffering… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · sources 29–30*

29 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 2) “to receive nothing new as doctrine. But so that what I have to say does not become too long, I return directly to the matter before us. This man taught… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “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 ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 31–36*

31 *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 65 **Quote 8, page 4** “to resist attack. But to us He has given the feeling of pity, so that we might place the whole protection of our life in helping one another. For if… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Divine Institutes* 20 **Quote 7, page 4** because we have chosen truth over falsehood? But, they say, the public rites of religion must be defended. Oh, with what honorable zeal these miserable men go astray! They know… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *Divine Institutes* 12 (1885 English; on point 7) “God, to whom everlasting mercy belongs, on this account commands that widows and orphans should be defended and cherished, that no one through regard and pity for his pledges should… [continues online] **read ›**

34 *Divine Institutes* 18 (1885 English; on point 4) “12:19; Hebrews 10:30 He must at all times and in all places guard innocence… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 53 **Quote 6, page 4** 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 ›**

36 *On the Workmanship of God* 2 (1885 English; on point 7) “none of them is destitute of a defense for its own protection… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 37*

37 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (on point 7) “out judgment, deliver the oppressed, judge the fatherless, and see that justice is done to the widow… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *126 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

38 **Exodus 21:18** And if two men quarrel and one strikes the other with a stone or with a fist, and he does not die but is confined to his bed, **read ›**

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

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

41 **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 ›**

42 **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 ›**

43 **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 ›**

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44 **Leviticus 26:37** Brother shall disregard brother as in war, though no one is attacking; and you shall not be able to stand against your enemies. **read ›**

45 **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 ›**

46 **Deuteronomy 24:16** Fathers shall not die for children, and sons shall not die for fathers; each one shall die in his own sin. **read ›**

47 **Deuteronomy 32:25** Outside, the sword shall leave them childless, and terror from the inner rooms; the young man with the virgin, the nursing child with the aged man. **read ›**

48 **Joshua 2:13** and keep alive my father's house—my mother, my brothers, all my household, and all that they have—and you shall rescue my life from death." **read ›**

49 **Judges 9:17** for my father fought for you and risked his life, and rescued you from the hand of Midian; **read ›**

50 **1 Samuel 25:29** A man will rise up to pursue you and seek your life, and the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the Lord God; and the lives of your enemies you shall sling out as from the middle of a sling. **read ›**

51 **2 Samuel 14:16** For the king will hear; let him rescue his slave from the hand of the man who seeks to destroy me and my son from the inheritance of God.' **read ›**

52 **1 Kings 3:24** And the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought the sword before the king. **read ›**

53 **2 Kings 14:6** But the sons of those who had struck him down he did not put to death, as it is written in the book of the laws of Moses, as the Lord commanded, saying, "Fathers shall not die for sons, and sons shall not die for fathers; but each one shall die in his own sins." **read ›**

54 **2 Chronicles 23:9** And Jehoiada gave the swords and the shields and the weapons that had belonged to King David, which were in the house of God. **read ›**

55 **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 ›**

56 **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 ›**

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

58 **Job 19:29** then you also beware of deceit, for anger will come upon the lawless; and then they shall know where their substance is." **read ›**

59 **Job 29:12** For I rescued the poor out of the hand of the mighty, and helped the orphan who had no helper. **read ›**

60 **Job 31:21** if I lifted my hand against the orphan, trusting that I had much help in reserve, **read ›**

61 **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 ›**

62 **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 ›**

63 **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 ›**

64 **Psalms 82:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

65 **Proverbs 6:3** Son, do what I command you, and save yourself; for because of your friend you have come into the hands of evil men. Do not grow faint, but stir up also your friend whose debt you guaranteed. **read ›**

66 **Proverbs 13:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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

68 **Proverbs 31:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

69 **Ecclesiastes 12:6** before the silver cord is undone, and the golden flower is crushed, and the water jar is broken at the spring, and the wheel runs down to the cistern, **read ›**

70 **Song of Solomon 2:12** The flowers have appeared in the land; the time of pruning has come; the voice of the turtledove has been heard in our land. **read ›**

71 **Song of Solomon 3:8** They all hold the sword, trained in war; each man has his sword upon his thigh because of terror by night. **read ›**

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72 **Isaiah 1:8** The daughter of Zion shall be left like a tent in a vineyard, and like a hut for guarding fruit in a cucumber field, like a besieged city. **read ›**

73 **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 ›**

74 **Isaiah 2:10** And now enter into the rocks, and hide in the earth from before the fear of the Lord, and from the glory of his might, when he rises to shatter the earth. **read ›**

75 **Isaiah 9:6** For a child has been born to us, a son also has been given to us, whose rule has come upon his shoulder; and his name is called the Messenger of Great Counsel; for I will bring peace upon the rulers, and health to him. (Septuagint Isaiah 9:5 (Isaiah 9:6 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

76 **Isaiah 13:1** The vision which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw against Babylon. **read ›**

77 **Isaiah 14:15** But now you will go down to Hades, and to the foundations of the earth. **read ›**

78 **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 ›**

79 **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 ›**

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

81 **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 ›**

82 **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 ›**

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

84 **Ezekiel 3:14** And the Spirit lifted me and took me up, and I went in the impulse of my spirit; and the hand of the Lord was mighty upon me. **read ›**

85 **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 ›**

86 **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 ›**

87 **Daniel 6:3** And Daniel was over them, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king appointed him over his whole kingdom. (Septuagint Daniel 6:4 (Daniel 6:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

88 **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 ›**

89 **Micah 7:6** For a son dishonors his father, a daughter will rise up against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man’s enemies are all those in his house. **read ›**

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

91 **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 ›**

92 **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 ›**

93 **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 ›**

94 **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 ›**

95 **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 ›**

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

97 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:8** Honor your father in deed and word, that a blessing may come upon you from him. **read ›**

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

99 **Wisdom of Sirach 4:9** Rescue the one who is wronged from the hand of the wrongdoer, and do not be faint-hearted when you judge. **read ›**

100 **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 ›**

101 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:14** any calamity, but not calamity from those who hate; any vengeance, but not the vengeance of enemies. **read ›**

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

103 **Wisdom of Sirach 30:3** He who teaches his son will make his enemy jealous, and before his friends he will rejoice greatly over him. **read ›**

104 **Wisdom of Sirach 35:22** and guard yourself against your own children. **read ›**

105 **Wisdom of Sirach 41:7** Children will blame an ungodly father, for they will be disgraced because of him. **read ›**

106 **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 ›**

107 **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 ›**

108 **1 Maccabees 2:41** So they took counsel on that day, saying, “If any man comes against us in battle on the Sabbath day, let us fight against him, and we shall certainly not all die as our brothers died in the hiding places.” **read ›**

109 **1 Maccabees 2:50** And now, my children, be zealous for the law, and give your lives for the covenant of our fathers. **read ›**

110 **1 Maccabees 2:64** And you, my children, be strong and courageous in the law, for by it you shall be glorified. **read ›**

111 **1 Maccabees 5:67** On that day some priests fell in battle, wishing to do brave deeds, when they went out to battle without counsel. **read ›**

112 **1 Maccabees 13:6** But I will avenge my nation and the sanctuary and our wives and children, for all the nations have gathered to wipe us out because of hostility.” **read ›**

113 **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 ›**

114 **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 ›**

115 **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 ›**

116 **2 Maccabees 12:6** and calling upon God, the righteous Judge, he came against the murderers of his brothers. He set fire to the harbor by night, burned the boats, and put to the sword those who had fled there. **read ›**

117 **2 Maccabees 14:38** For in the former times of separation he had been brought to trial for Judaism, and he had risked body and soul for Judaism with all earnestness. **read ›**

118 **2 Maccabees 15:16** “Take this holy sword, a gift from God, with which you will shatter the adversaries.” **read ›**

119 **3 Maccabees 1:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

120 **3 Maccabees 2:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

121 **3 Maccabees 5:31** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

122 **4 Maccabees 1:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

123 **4 Maccabees 2:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

124 **4 Maccabees 5:31** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

125 **4 Maccabees 5:37** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

126 **4 Maccabees 9:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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127 **4 Maccabees 9:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

128 **4 Maccabees 13:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

129 **4 Maccabees 14:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

130 **4 Maccabees 15:29** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

131 **1 Enoch 14:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

132 **1 Enoch 100:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

133 **Matthew 5:38** “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ **read ›**

134 **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 ›**

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

136 **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 ›**

137 **Matthew 10:21** Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child. Children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. **read ›**

138 **Matthew 10:35** For I came to set a man at odds against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. **read ›**

139 **Matthew 10:36** A man’s enemies will be those of his own household. **read ›**

140 **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 ›**

141 **Mark 13:12** Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child. Children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. **read ›**

142 **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 ›**

143 **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 ›**

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

145 **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 ›**

146 **Luke 12:53** They will be divided, father against son, and son against father; mother against daughter, and daughter against her mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.” **read ›**

147 **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 ›**

148 **John 3:23** John also was baptizing in Enon near Salim because there was much water there. People came and were baptized; **read ›**

149 **Acts 1:17** For he was counted among us and received a share in this ministry.” **read ›**

150 **Acts 14:21** After preaching the gospel in that city and making many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, **read ›**

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

152 **1 Corinthians 9:3** My defense to those who examine me is this: **read ›**

153 **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 ›**

154 **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 ›**

155 **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 ›**

156 **Ephesians 6:17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; **read ›**

157 **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 ›**

158 **2 Timothy 4:16** At my first defense, no one came to help me, but all left me. May it not be held against them. **read ›**

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159 **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 ›**

160 **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 ›**

161 **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 ›**

162 **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 ›**

163 **1 Peter 3:16** having a good conscience, so that, when they speak against you as evildoers, those who malign your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *152 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

Deuteronomy 30:15

Psalms 4:4 · 44:21

Proverbs 2:16

Isaiah 1:12 · 1:16 · 5:26 · 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 · 5:19 · 5:22 · 5:26 · 5:32 · 5:33 · 5:40 · 5:41 · 5:42 · 5:45 · 5:46 · 6:25 · 7:1 · 7:2 · 7:12 · 7:15 · 8:10 · 10:10 · 12:36 · 17:5 · 18:19 · 22:37 · 23:27 · 24:13 · 27:5 · 28:18

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

Luke 2:51 · 6:1 · 6:20 · 6:21 · 6:22 · 6:27 · 6:28 · 6:30 · 6:31 · 6:32 · 6:36 · 6:37 · 6:38 · 11:1 · 12:23 · 14:33 · 15:7 · 16:9 · 16:16 · 21:8 · 21:9 · 21:12 · 21:16 · 21:19 · 21:20 · 21:25

John 2:19 · 3:6 · 4:13 · 8:26 · 10:30 · 11:25 · 12:6 · 13:14 · 13:34 · 17:3 · 18:23 · 20:21

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

Romans 2:28 · 2:29 · 4:1 · 4:2 · 8:11 · 9:28 · 12:3 · 12:19 · 13:14

1 Corinthians 1:10 · 2:8 · 4:5 · 5:11 · 5:13 · 6:14 · 7:18 · 8:6 · 15:46 · 15:53 · 16:13

2 Corinthians 2:10 · 3:6 · 3:7 · 4:14 · 13:3

Galatians 1:1 · 1:8 · 2:18 · 3:13

Ephesians 2:20 · 4:3 · 4:26 · 4:29 · 5:6 · 6:14

Philippians 2:2 · 2:10 · 3:14 · 3:16

Colossians 3:5

1 Timothy 2:2 · 6:8 · 6:10

Hebrews 4:15 · 9:19 · 10:30 · 10:33 · 13:20

1 Peter 1:13 · 1:21 · 2:11 · 3:13 · 3:21 · 3:22 · 5:8

1 John 2:19

Revelation 2:23

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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 self-defense?” 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