THE QUESTION

What does 'Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated' mean (Romans 9:13)?

Asked by a THF member on May 19, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 9 numbered quotations · the 21 early Christian passages and 203 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-does-jacob-i-loved-but-esau-i-hated-mean-romans-9-13

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

Early writers read these words as God's choice of Jacob over Esau, made with full knowledge of what each would become. They saw the twins as pictures of two peoples, with the younger receiving the blessing the elder scorned. Origen insists that God is not unjust here and that Paul does not deny human free will.

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HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
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POINT 1 OF 6

The twins pictured two peoples

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

Irenaeus quotes the word given to Rebecca that two nations were in her womb and the older would serve the younger. He says the twins foreshadowed two nations from the same father, one to be greater and one lesser.

1 “This indicates that not only were there prophecies regarding the patriarchs, but also that the children born to Rebecca foreshadowed the two nations.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 4, page 5 Read it in the library ›

POINT 2 OF 6

God foresaw what each would become

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

Irenaeus ties the words Jacob have I loved to God's knowledge. Because God knows hidden things and foresees all events, He could speak this way before the twins were born.

2 “Our God, who knows hidden things and foresees all events, is also their God; and for this reason, He has said, “Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 4, page 5 Read it in the library ›

POINT 3 OF 6

God is not unjust in this choice

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

Origen notes that Paul himself asks whether there is unrighteousness with God and answers God forbid. He takes this as an invitation to look for the reasons behind God's choice, since these things do not happen without a reason.

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3 “And so that he might give us an opportunity to inquire into these matters, and to see how these things do not happen without a reason, he answers himself and says, "God forbid."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 9 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 10, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 6

The younger people received the blessing

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

Irenaeus compares Jacob taking the birthright Esau scorned to the younger nation accepting Christ while the elder rejected Him. The Epistle of Barnabas reads Jacob's crossed hands over Joseph's sons the same way: the younger people becomes heir of the covenant.

4 “Next, Jacob received the rights of the firstborn when his brother scorned them, just as the younger nation accepted Christ, the firstborn, while the elder nation rejected Him, saying, "We have no king but Caesar."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 5, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

5 “You see on whom he laid his hands, that this people should be first and heir of the covenant.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Barnabas,** *Epistle of Barnabas* (c. 70–132 AD) **Source 1, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 6

Esau's own envy drove him

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

Clement of Rome and Cyprian both name Esau among those moved by envy. Cyprian says Esau burned with hatred because Jacob received their father's blessing. The story shows Esau's own sinful response, not only God's choice.

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6 “Esau also was hostile to his brother Jacob because of jealousy. Because Jacob had received his father's blessing, Esau was set on fire with a hatred of persecution by the burning force of jealousy.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 17, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

7 “You see, brothers, how envy and jealousy led to the murder of a brother. Through envy, our father Jacob fled from Esau his brother.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 21, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 6

Romans 9 does not cancel free will

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

Discussing the same chapter of Romans, Origen asks whether Paul could contradict himself, since Paul blames sinners and praises the faithful. Irenaeus quotes Paul that God shut all up in unbelief so that He might have mercy on all.

8 “Now we must ask him who deals with these passages in this way whether it is possible to think of the apostle as contradicting himself.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 1 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 13, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
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9 “Therefore, Paul states, "For God hath concluded all in unbelief, that He may have mercy upon all," referring to humans who had been disobedient to God and cast away from immortality, but then received mercy, gaining adoption by God through His Son.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book III* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 6, page 5** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not explain in detail what the word hated means.
- They do not say whether Esau himself was finally saved or lost.

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- They do not fully spell out the reasons Origen saw behind God's choice.
- 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 21 early Christian passages and 203 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–21, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 22–166, in Bible order), then 58 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 *21 passages from 9 writers*

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · sources 1–2*

1 *Epistle of Barnabas* **Quote 5, page 3** "and about whom He declared that this people would be greater than the other. In another prophecy, Jacob speaks more clearly to his son Joseph, saying, "Behold, the Lord has… [continues online] **read ›**

2 *Epistle of Barnabas* (on point 4) Lord himself, having suffered on our behalf, has given it to us, that we should be the people of inheritance. But He appeared to perfect them in their wickedness, and… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · source 3*

3 *Address to the Greeks* 7 (on point 6) good, for that is with God alone. But in men it is brought to perfection through their freedom of choice. This is so that the bad man may be justly… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 4–6*

4 *Against Heresies: Book IV* **Quotes 1, 2, page 2** "our father Isaac," she received a message from the Word, "that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not based on works, but on Him who calls. It… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Against Heresies: Book IV* **Quote 4, page 3** "anyone examines Jacob's actions, they will find them meaningful and rich in significance regarding the divine plans. Firstly, at his birth, he grabbed his brother's heel and was… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** "therefore Paul declares, "For God hath concluded all in unbelief, that He may have mercy upon all;" not saying this in reference to spiritual Æons, but to man, who had… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 7–8*

7 *Against Marcion* 25 (on point 4) "not signs of both an earthly and a heavenly divine arrangement? When Isaac, blessing his son Jacob, says, "God give you of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Against Marcion* 30 (1885 English; on point 4) "however, he condemns them beforehand as about to reject his call, then beforehand he also predicts the election of the Gentiles in their stead… [continues online] **read ›**

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Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · source 9*

9 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (on point 4) “27:41. The devil, who previously exhibited the fratricidal Jews by anticipation… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 10–16*

10 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 9 **Quote 3, page 3** “altogether silent on the nature of this secret. For when the Apostle Paul discusses the case of Jacob and Esau, he says: "For the children being not yet born, neither… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Commentary on John* 2 (on point 2) “As it is written, ‘Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Commentary on John* 10 (on point 4) often preserved, one might say, in a material falsehood. For example, we may judge the story of Jacob and Esau in Genesis 27 in this way. Jacob says to Isaac… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 1 **Quote 8, page 4** that we do not have freedom of will. For, objecting against himself, he says, "Therefore He has mercy on whom He will have mercy, and whom He will He hardens… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Against Celsus* 43 (on point 5) By this he means either the story of Cain plotting against Abel, or also that of Esau against Jacob. And when he speaks of a father's sorrow, he probably… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Against Celsus* 46 (1885 English; on point 5) “moreover, sneers at the hatred of Esau (to which, I suppose, he refers) against Jacob, although he was a man who, according to the Scriptures, is acknowledged to have been… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 1 (1885 English; on point 6) “declarations, too, in other places, that both to will and to do are of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 17–18*

17 *Treatises* **Quote 6, page 4** “in dying, did not resist, was killed in an ungodly way. Esau also was hostile to his brother Jacob because of jealousy. Because Jacob had received his father's blessing… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 5) “in that Esau descended from the rights of the first-born to those of the younger, he lost his priority by impatience for the pottage… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 19–20*

19 *On the Anger of God* 19 (1885 English) “He loves the just, and hates the wicked… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *On the Anger of God* 5 (1885 English) “there are those who ought to be loved, and there are those who ought to be hated… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 21*

21 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** “envy, also, our father Jacob fled from the face of Esau his brother… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *145 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

22 **Genesis 17:19** God said to Abraham, “Yes. Behold, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant, to be God to him and to his seed after him. **read ›**

23 **Genesis 18:19** For I knew that he would command his sons and his house after him, and they would keep the ways of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, so that the Lord might bring upon Abraham all that he has spoken to him.” **read ›**

24 **Genesis 22:17** surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is by the shore of the sea. Your seed shall inherit the cities of the adversaries. **read ›**

25 **Genesis 25:26** After this his brother came out, and his hand had hold of Esau’s heel, and she called his name Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah bore them. **read ›**

26 **Genesis 25:27** The boys grew up. Esau was a man who knew how to hunt, a man of the open country, but Jacob was a simple man, living in a house. **read ›**

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27 **Genesis 25:28** Isaac loved Esau, because his game was food for him, but Rebekah loved Jacob. **read ›**

28 **Genesis 25:29** Jacob cooked stew, and Esau came in from the plain, fainting. **read ›**

29 **Genesis 25:30** Esau said to Jacob, “Let me taste some of this red stew, for I am fainting.” That is why his name was called Edom. **read ›**

30 **Genesis 25:31** Jacob said to Esau, “Sell me your birthright today.” **read ›**

31 **Genesis 25:33** Jacob said to him, “Swear to me today.” So he swore to him, and Esau sold his birthright to Jacob. **read ›**

32 **Genesis 25:34** Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and Esau ate and drank, and rose and went away. So Esau despised his birthright. **read ›**

33 **Genesis 26:27** Isaac said to them, “Why have you come to me, when you hated me and sent me away from you?” **read ›**

34 **Genesis 27:6** Then Rebekah said to Jacob her younger son, “Look, I heard your father speaking to Esau your brother, saying, **read ›**

35 **Genesis 27:11** But Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, “Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. **read ›**

36 **Genesis 27:15** Then Rebekah took the fine robe of Esau her elder son, which she had with her in the house, and put it on Jacob her younger son. **read ›**

37 **Genesis 27:22** So Jacob came near to Isaac his father, and Isaac felt him and said, “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” **read ›**

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

39 **Genesis 27:30** As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob his son, and just as Jacob had gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting. **read ›**

40 **Genesis 27:36** And he said, “He is rightly named Jacob, for behold, he has cheated me this second time. He took my birthright, and now he has taken my blessing.” Then Esau said to his father, “Have you not left a blessing for me, father?” **read ›**

41 **Genesis 27:41** Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him. And Esau said in his mind, “Let the days of mourning for my father draw near, so that I may kill Jacob my brother.” **read ›**

42 **Genesis 27:42** The words of Esau her elder son were reported to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son and said to him, “Behold, Esau your brother is threatening to kill you. **read ›**

43 **Genesis 28:4** May he give you the blessing of Abraham my father, to you and to your seed after you, so that you may inherit the land where you live as a foreigner, which God gave to Abraham.” **read ›**

44 **Genesis 29:31** When the Lord God saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb; but Rachel was barren. **read ›**

45 **Genesis 32:9** Then Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord, you who said to me, ‘Return quickly to the land of your birth, and I will do you good’: (Septuagint Genesis 32:10 (Genesis 32:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

46 **Genesis 33:1** Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau his brother was coming, and four hundred men with him. And Jacob divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two maidservants. **read ›**

47 **Genesis 37:4** When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his sons, they hated him and could not speak a word of peace to him. **read ›**

48 **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 ›**

49 **Genesis 48:18** And Joseph said to his father, “Not so, father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head.” **read ›**

50 **Genesis 49:3** Reuben, you are my firstborn, you are my strength and the beginning of my children, hard to bear, hard and self-willed. **read ›**

51 **Genesis 49:26** the blessing of your father and your mother. It has prevailed above the blessing of the lasting mountains, and beyond the blessings of the everlasting hills; they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the brothers whom he led. **read ›**

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52 **Exodus 7:14** Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart has been hardened, so that he will not send the people away. **read ›**

53 **Exodus 9:12** But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not listen to them, just as the Lord had commanded. **read ›**

54 **Exodus 13:13** Every one that opens the womb of a donkey you shall exchange for a sheep; and if you do not exchange it, you shall redeem it. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. **read ›**

55 **Exodus 20:6** and showing mercy to thousands, to those who love me and to those who keep my statutes. **read ›**

56 **Exodus 32:13** remembering Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, your household slaves, to whom you swore by yourself, and to whom you spoke, saying, ‘I will greatly multiply your seed like the stars of heaven in number’; and all this land that you said you would give them, they shall possess forever.” **read ›**

57 **Exodus 33:19** And the Lord said, “I will pass by before you in my glory, and I will call by my name, ‘The Lord,’ before you; and I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” **read ›**

58 **Deuteronomy 10:15** Yet the Lord preferred your fathers, to love them, and he chose their seed after them—you—above all the nations, as at this day. **read ›**

59 **Deuteronomy 21:15** If a man has two wives, one loved and the other hated, and both the loved and the hated have borne him children, and the firstborn son is the hated wife’s, **read ›**

60 **Deuteronomy 21:16** then on the day when he divides his possessions as an inheritance to his sons, he may not give the rights of the firstborn to the son of the loved wife, passing over the firstborn, the son of the hated wife. **read ›**

61 **Deuteronomy 21:17** But he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the hated wife, by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his children; the birthright belongs to him. **read ›**

62 **Deuteronomy 28:4** Blessed shall be the offspring of your womb, and the produce of your land, the herds of your oxen, and the flocks of your sheep. **read ›**

63 **Joshua 11:20** For it was from the Lord that their hearts were strengthened to come against Israel in battle, so that they might be utterly destroyed, that no mercy might be given them, but that they might be utterly destroyed, as the Lord had said to Moses. **read ›**

64 **Judges 15:2** Her father said, “I said that you utterly hated her, and I gave her to one of your friends. Is not her younger sister better than she? Please let her be yours instead of her.” **read ›**

65 **2 Samuel 13:15** Then Amnon hated her with a very great hatred, for the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her; for the last evil was greater than the first. And Amnon said to her, “Get up and go.” **read ›**

66 **2 Samuel 19:6** by loving those who hate you and hating those who love you. You have declared today that your rulers and servants are nothing to you; for I know today that if Absalom were alive and all of us dead today, then it would be right in your eyes. (Septuagint 2 Kingdoms 19:7 (2 Samuel 19:6 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

67 **2 Samuel 19:7** So now arise, go out, and speak to the heart of your slaves; for I swear by the Lord that if you do not go out today, not one man will stay with you this night; and know for yourself that this will be worse for you than all the evil that has come upon you from your youth until now.” (Septuagint 2 Kingdoms 19:8 (2 Samuel 19:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

68 **1 Chronicles 1:34** Abraham fathered Isaac. And the sons of Isaac: Jacob and Esau. **read ›**

69 **1 Chronicles 5:1** The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel—for he was the firstborn; but when he went up to his father’s bed, his father gave his blessing to his son Joseph, the son of Israel, and he was not enrolled for the birthright; **read ›**

70 **1 Chronicles 16:16** the covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath to Isaac. **read ›**

71 **2 Chronicles 30:19** “May the good Lord be merciful toward every heart that is directed to seek the Lord God of their fathers, though not according to the purity of the sanctuary.” **read ›**

72 **Psalms 13:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

73 **Psalms 119:163** I have hated and detested unrighteousness, but I have loved your law. (Septuagint Psalm 118:163 (Psalm 119:163 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

74 **Psalms 139:22** With a perfect hatred I hated them; they became enemies to me. (Septuagint Psalm 138:22 (Psalm 139:22 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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75 **Proverbs 15:17** Better is hospitality with vegetables, in friendship and kindness, than a serving of calves with hostility. **read ›**

76 **Song of Solomon 3:4** Scarcely had I passed from them when I found him whom my soul has loved. I held him and did not let him go, until I brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her who conceived me. **read ›**

77 **Isaiah 13:15** For whoever is caught will be overcome, and those who are gathered together will fall by the sword. **read ›**

78 **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 ›**

79 **Jeremiah 10:5** they will set them up, and they will not move; it is carved silver, they will not walk; **read ›**

80 **Jeremiah 12:8** My inheritance has become to me like a lion in a forest; she has raised her voice against me; therefore I have hated her. **read ›**

81 **Jeremiah 30:7** For that day has become great, and there is none like it; and it is a time of distress for Jacob, and he shall be saved from it. (Septuagint Jeremiah 37:7 (Jeremiah 30:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

82 **Jeremiah 35:3** So I brought out Jeconiah the son of Jeremin, the son of Chabasin, and his brothers and his sons and all the household of the Rechabites, (Septuagint Jeremiah 42:3 (Jeremiah 35:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

83 **Jeremiah 46:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

84 **Jeremiah 51:5** For Israel and Judah have not been widowed of their God, of the Lord Almighty; for their land was filled with unrighteousness against the holy things of Israel. (Septuagint Jeremiah 28:5 (Jeremiah 51:5 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

85 **Jeremiah 51:6** Flee from the midst of Babylon, and let each one save his life, and do not be cast away in her unrighteousness; for it is the time of her punishment from the Lord; he is paying her back a repayment. (Septuagint Jeremiah 28:6 (Jeremiah 51:6 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

86 **Lamentations 1:6** Waw. And from the daughter of Zion all her majesty has been taken away; her rulers became like rams that find no pasture, and they went on without strength before the pursuer. **read ›**

87 **Lamentations 1:14** Nun. Watch has been kept over my ungodly deeds; they are twined together in my hands; they have come up upon my neck; my strength has failed; for the Lord has put pains in my hands; I shall not be able to stand. **read ›**

88 **Ezekiel 36:12** And I will beget upon you men, my people Israel, and they shall inherit you, and you shall be their possession; and you shall by no means again be bereaved of them. **read ›**

89 **Ezekiel 37:13** and you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves to bring my people up out of the graves. **read ›**

90 **Daniel 5:12** because an excellent spirit was in him, and sound judgment and understanding were in him—interpreting dreams, declaring hidden things, and loosing knots—that is, Daniel; and the king gave him the name Belteshazzar. Now therefore let him be called, and he will declare to you its interpretation." **read ›**

91 **Daniel 11:17** And he shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and he shall make all things straight with him; and he shall give him a daughter of women to ruin her; but she shall by no means remain, and she shall not be his. **read ›**

92 **Hosea 9:15** All their wickedness is in Gilgal, for there I hated them; because of the wickedness of their practices I will drive them out of my house; I will never love them again; all their rulers are disobedient. **read ›**

93 **Amos 1:3** And the Lord said: For three ungodly deeds of Damascus, and for four, I will not turn away from him, because they sawed the women with child of those in Gilead with iron saws. **read ›**

94 **Amos 3:9** Proclaim it to the regions among the Assyrians, and to the regions of Egypt, and say, "Gather yourselves on the mountain of Samaria, and see the many marvels in her midst, and the oppression that is in her." **read ›**

95 **Amos 6:6** who drink strained wine and anoint themselves with the finest ointments, and have suffered nothing over the ruin of Joseph. **read ›**

96 **Jonah 3:1** And the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, **read ›**

97 **Micah 5:10** And it shall be in that day, says the Lord, that I will utterly destroy the horses from your midst, and I will destroy your chariots; (Septuagint Micah 5:9 (Micah 5:10 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

98 **Micah 5:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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99 **Malachi 1:2** I have loved you, says the Lord. And you said, “In what way have you loved us?” Was not Esau Jacob’s brother? says the Lord. Yet I loved Jacob, **read ›**

100 **Malachi 1:3** but Esau I hated, and I made his borders a desolation, and his inheritance into dwellings of the wilderness. **read ›**

101 **Tobit 13:2** For he whips and has mercy; he leads down to Hades and brings up again; and there is no one who will escape his hand. **read ›**

102 **Wisdom of Solomon 1:3** For crooked thoughts separate from God, and his power, when it is tested, convicts the foolish. **read ›**

103 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:9** Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will stay with him in love, for grace and mercy are for his chosen ones. **read ›**

104 **Wisdom of Solomon 6:6** For the lowliest may be pardoned in mercy, but the mighty will be mightily examined. **read ›**

105 **Wisdom of Solomon 12:4** for practicing most hateful works of sorcery and unholy rites, **read ›**

106 **Wisdom of Solomon 14:9** For equally hateful to God are the ungodly man and his ungodliness. **read ›**

107 **Wisdom of Solomon 19:1** But merciless wrath pressed upon the ungodly to the end; for he knew beforehand even what they would do: **read ›**

108 **Wisdom of Sirach 7:15** Do not hate laborious work, or farming, which was created by the Most High. **read ›**

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

110 **Wisdom of Sirach 15:13** The Lord hates every abomination, and it is not loved by those who fear him. **read ›**

111 **Wisdom of Sirach 16:11** Even if there is one stiff-necked man, it will be a marvel if he goes unpunished; for mercy and anger come from him; he is mighty in atonements, and pours out anger. **read ›**

112 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:14** He has mercy on those who accept discipline, and on those who are eager for his judgments. **read ›**

113 **Wisdom of Sirach 19:9** For he has heard you and watched you, and in time he will hate you. **read ›**

114 **Wisdom of Sirach 23:20** Before all things were created they were known to him, and so also after they were completed. **read ›**

115 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:24** I have hated many things, but I have compared none of them to him; and the Lord will hate him. **read ›**

116 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:30** Wrath and anger, these too are abominations, and a sinful man will hold fast to them. **read ›**

117 **Wisdom of Sirach 44:11** With their seed a good inheritance will remain; their descendants are within the covenants. **read ›**

118 **Wisdom of Sirach 44:21** Therefore he established it for him with an oath, that the nations would be blessed in his seed, that he would multiply him as the dust of the earth and exalt his seed as the stars, and cause them to inherit from sea to sea and from the river to the end of the earth. **read ›**

119 **Wisdom of Sirach 44:22** And with Isaac he likewise established, for the sake of Abraham his father, the blessing of all men and the covenant. **read ›**

120 **Wisdom of Sirach 45:25** and a covenant with David, a son from the tribe of Judah: the inheritance of the king is from son to son alone; the inheritance of Aaron is also for his seed. **read ›**

121 **Wisdom of Sirach 47:22** But the Lord will never forsake his mercy, nor will any of his works perish; he will never blot out the descendants of his chosen one, nor will he take away the seed of him who loved him; and he gave a remnant to Jacob, and to David a root from him. **read ›**

122 **1 Maccabees 2:56** Caleb, for bearing witness in the assembly, received an inheritance in the land. **read ›**

123 **3 Maccabees 3:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

124 **4 Maccabees 12:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

125 **4 Maccabees 13:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

126 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

127 **4 Maccabees 18:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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128 **1 Enoch 1:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
129 **1 Enoch 1:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
130 **1 Enoch 1:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
131 **1 Enoch 41:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
132 **1 Enoch 48:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
133 **1 Enoch 58:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
134 **1 Enoch 62:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
135 **1 Enoch 62:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
136 **1 Enoch 93:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
137 **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 ›**
138 **John 1:2** He was in the beginning with God. **read ›**
139 **John 1:3** All things came to be through him, and apart from him not one thing came to be that has come to be. **read ›**
140 **Romans 2:5** But because of your hardness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath and revelation and righteous judgment of God, **read ›**
141 **Romans 3:19** Now we know that whatever things the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be closed, and all the world may be brought under the judgment of God. **read ›**
142 **Romans 8:29** For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **read ›**
143 **Romans 8:30** Whom he predestined, those he also called. Whom he called, those he also justified. Whom he justified, those he also glorified. **read ›**
144 **Romans 9:3** For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brothers' sake, my relatives according to the flesh **read ›**
145 **Romans 9:11** For before the children had been born or had done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to choosing might stand, not from works but from him who calls, **read ›**
146 **Romans 9:12** it was said to her, "The elder shall serve the younger." **read ›**
147 **Romans 9:13** As it is written: I loved Jacob, but Esau I hated. **read ›**
148 **Romans 9:15** For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." **read ›**
149 **Romans 9:16** So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who has mercy. **read ›**
150 **Romans 9:18** So then, he has mercy on whom he desires, and he hardens whom he desires. **read ›**
151 **Romans 9:21** Or has not the potter a right over the clay, from the same lump to make one part a vessel for honor, and another for dishonor? **read ›**
152 **Romans 9:22** What if God, willing to show his wrath and to make his power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, **read ›**
153 **Romans 9:23** and did so to make known the riches of his glory on vessels of mercy, which he prepared beforehand for glory— **read ›**
154 **Romans 9:25** As he also says in Hosea, "I will call those who are not my people, 'My people,' and her who was not loved, 'Loved.' **read ›**
155 **Romans 9:26** And it shall come to pass that in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they shall be called sons of the living God." **read ›**
156 **Romans 11:5** So then, at the present time too, there is a remnant chosen by grace. **read ›**
157 **Romans 11:7** What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks, but the chosen ones obtained it, and the rest were hardened, **read ›**
158 **Romans 11:28** As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake; but as regards God's choosing, they are beloved for the fathers' sake. **read ›**
159 **Romans 11:32** For God has bound all to disobedience, that he might have mercy on all. **read ›**
160 **Romans 12:8** or he who exhorts, to his exhorting; he who gives, let him do it with generosity; he who rules, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. **read ›**

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161 **Romans 12:9** Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil. Cling to that which is good. **read ›**

162 **Ephesians 1:4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before him in love, **read ›**

163 **Ephesians 1:11** in him. In him we were also assigned an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **read ›**

164 **1 Thessalonians 1:4** knowing, brothers loved by God, that you are chosen, **read ›**

165 **Hebrews 11:20** By faithfulness Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, concerning things to come. **read ›**

166 **1 Peter 1:2** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood: Grace to you and peace be multiplied. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *58 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 1:10 · 1:22 · 2:15 · 4:3 · 25:23 · 27:9 · 27:20

Exodus 2:14 · 4:21

Ecclesiastes 7:2

Isaiah 42:6 · 49:6

Jeremiah 7:24

Ezekiel 11:19 · 48:30

Matthew 3:16 · 10:18 · 26:18 · 28:19

Luke 4:18 · 12:31 · 14:12 · 14:16 · 14:18 · 14:21 · 14:23 · 22:16 · 24:4

John 3:6 · 3:13 · 9:31

Acts 2:34 · 3:14 · 17:18 · 23:4

Romans 1:3 · 4:3 · 4:11 · 8:20 · 9:5

1 Corinthians 8:13 · 10:1 · 10:11 · 15:50

2 Corinthians 3:3

Galatians 4:21 · 4:26 · 5:8

Ephesians 2:11 · 4:13

Philippians 3:20

1 Thessalonians 4:17

2 Timothy 1:16

Titus 2:13

Hebrews 3:5

Revelation 21:1 · 21:2 · 21:10

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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 'Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated' mean (Romans 9:13)?” on May 19, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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How it was made. Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY