THE QUESTION

What does James mean when he says teachers will face a stricter judgment?

Asked by a THF member on June 21, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 8 numbered quotations · the 27 early Christian passages and 245 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-does-james-mean-when-he-says-teachers-will-face-a-stricter-judgment

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

James means that those who teach will answer to God more strictly, because they know more and their words shape others. Early writers warned that teachers who seek honor, fail to live what they teach, or add to what Christ commanded face heavier judgment, and that everyone will give account even for words.

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.
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IN THIS STUDY

1	Teachers who seek honor receive greater judgment	**2**	**6**	Those who instruct others must guard themselves	**4**
2	Knowing more brings a heavier judgment	**2**	**7**	Leaders still judge others with mercy	**5**
3	God judges our words, not only deeds	**3**		What these passages don't tell us	**5**
4	A teacher must live what he teaches	**3**		The Sources: 27 early Christian passages and 245 Bible verses, with links	**5**
5	Adding to Christ's commands is dangerous teaching	**4**			

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POINT 1 OF 7

Teachers who seek honor receive greater judgment

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

In Tatian's harmony of the Gospels, Jesus warns against teachers who love titles and the best seats while they take advantage of widows. He says such men will receive greater judgment, and he tells his followers that the great among them must be servants.

1

“They devour widows' houses while making long prayers. Therefore they will receive greater judgment.”

later in the same passage

“He who is great among you shall be your minister. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”"

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 40 (c. 150–180 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 12, page 6 Read it in the library ›

POINT 2 OF 7

Knowing more brings a heavier judgment

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

Hermas explains why knowledge raises the stakes. A person who knows God and still does evil does a greater evil than one who never knew Him, and he says such people will be punished doubly. This helps explain why teachers, who know and speak the truth, are judged more strictly.

2

“But the person who has known God ought no longer to do evil, but to do good. So if, when he ought to do good, he does evil, does he not seem to do greater evil than the one who does not know God?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 5, page 6 Read it in the library ›

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POINT 3 OF 7

God judges our words, not only deeds

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

Irenaeus says that under the new covenant we will answer to God for our words and thoughts as well as our actions. A teacher's main work is done with words, so this teaching applies to teachers with special force.

3

"All this is declared so that we may know that we shall account to God not only for deeds, as slaves, but also for words and thoughts, as those who have truly received the power of freedom, in which condition a person is more severely tested, whether they will reverence, and fear, and love the Lord."

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

Source 13, page 6 **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 4 OF 7

A teacher must live what he teaches

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

The Didache tells churches to test teachers. A teacher who turns to another doctrine is not to be heard, and a prophet who teaches the truth but does not do it is called false. The test is both what he teaches and how he lives.

4

"But if the teacher himself turns away and teaches another doctrine that destroys this teaching, do not listen to him."

later in the same passage

"And every prophet who teaches the truth, if he does not do what he teaches, is a false prophet."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 11 (c. 50–120 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 1, page 6 **Read it in the library ›**

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POINT 5 OF 7

Adding to Christ's commands is dangerous teaching

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

A letter under Ignatius' name warns that a teacher who goes beyond what is commanded is a wolf, however holy he seems. Irenaeus adds that God will judge false prophets who speak for vanity or gain. Both show that wrong teaching harms others and brings judgment.

5 “Anyone who teaches anything beyond what is commanded, even if he is considered trustworthy, even if he is accustomed to fasting, even if he lives in self-restraint, even if he works miracles, even if he has the gift of prophecy, let him be seen by you as a wolf in sheep's clothing, working for the destruction of the sheep.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistles of Ignatius* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 7, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

6 “He will also judge false prophets, who, without having received the gift of prophecy from God and lacking the fear of God, pretend to utter prophecies for the sake of vanity, personal gain, or under the influence of a wicked spirit, while they lie against God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 14, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Those who instruct others must guard themselves

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

The sermon known as Second Clement reasons from the greater to the lesser: if we are busy turning others from idols and teaching them, how much more must we who know God take care not to perish ourselves.

7 “For if we have commands and are involved in turning others away from idols and instructing them, how much more should a soul that already knows God not perish?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *Second Epistle* 17 (c. 88–99 AD) **Source 2, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 7 OF 7

Leaders still judge others with mercy

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

Polycarp tells church elders to be merciful and not harsh in judging, because they too are sinners who will stand before Christ. The strict judgment teachers face is a reason for humility toward others, not for severity.

8

> "not severe in judgment, as knowing that we are all under a debt of sin. If then we ask the Lord to forgive us, we ought also to forgive"

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Polycarp,** *Epistle to the Philippians* (c. 100–155 AD) **Source 9, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**

THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- None of these passages quotes James 3:1 itself or explains that verse line by line.
- They do not describe exactly what form the stricter judgment of teachers will take.
- 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 27 early Christian passages and 245 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–27, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 28–138, in Bible order), then 134 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

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EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *27 passages from 13 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 11 **Quote 4, page 3** “stay more than one day, or, if necessary, also the next day. But if he stays three days, he is a false prophet. And when the apostle leaves, let him… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome, *c. 88–99 AD · source 2*

2 *Second Epistle* 17 (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** “righteous, having succeeded both in enduring the trials and hating the indulgences of the soul, whenever they witness how those who have swerved and denied Jesus by words or deeds… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 3–5*

3 *Shepherd* (on point 5) I do, sir," I said. "These," he says, "are the faithful, and he who sits on the chair is a false prophet, ruining the minds of the servants of God… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Shepherd* (on point 4) in the building. Those square white stones that fit exactly together are apostles, bishops, teachers, and deacons. They have lived in godly purity, and they have served as bishops, teachers… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Shepherd* (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** this reason, they who have not known God and do evil are condemned to death; but they who have known God, and have seen His mighty works, and still continue… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 6–8*

6 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (1885 English; on point 5) “if any man does not stand aloof from the preacher of falsehood, he shall be condemned to hell… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Epistles of Ignatius* (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 4** “one that teaches anything beyond what is commanded, though he be [deemed] worthy of credit, though he be in the habit of fasting, though he live in continence, though he… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (1885 English; on point 2) “like manner, every one that has received from God the power of distinguishing, and yet follows an unskilful shepherd, and receives a false opinion for the truth, shall be punished… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · sources 9–10*

9 *Epistle to the Philippians* **Quote 8, page 5** “we are before the eyes of our Lord and God, and "we must all appear at the judgment… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 7) what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 11*

11 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 5) “he said, ‘Many shall come in My name, clothed outwardly in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.’ ” And, ‘There shall be schisms and heresies.’ And, ‘Beware of… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · source 12*

12 *Diatessaron* 40 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** “you are brethren. 37 Matthew 23:9 Call not then to yourselves any one father on earth: for your Father is one, who is 38 in heaven… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 13–14*

13 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 3** “therefore the Lord says, “As to every idle word that men have spoken, they shall render an account for it in the day of judgment.” And, “he who has looked… [continues online] **read ›**

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14 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 4** "He shall also judge false prophets, who, without having received the gift of prophecy from God, and not possessed of the fear of God, but either for the sake of… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · source 15*

15 *Stromata* 2.23 (1885 English; on point 2) "in the case of a priestess the punishment is increased, because to whom much is given, from him shall more be required. Luke 12:48… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 16–17*

16 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 5) "souls in the day of judgment shall be required at the hands of those who have stood forth as the authors and leaders of their ruin… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 5) "And, moreover, that it may be better understood what is the divine judgment against audacity of the like kind, we find that in such wickedness, not only the leaders and… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 18–25*

18 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 4) he says: Whosoever shall do and teach, he shall be called great in the kingdom of God… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 7) of what unjust judgment soever you are the instruments, of the same you shall receive the reward from… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) "the ones about whom the Lord declared His mind with bitterness and severity, saying that they are false Christs and false teachers. Matthew 24:24 They have blasphemed the Spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 7) But if the slanderous charge is false, and you who are the pastors, along with the deacons, accept that falsehood as truth, either because you show favoritism or take bribes, … [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 2) "he has One who will call him to an account, the Lord God, who put this administration into his hands, and thought him worthy of the priesthood of so great… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 7) for condemnation, you will be found guilty of that man's destruction, and a partaker with the false accuser before God, the just Judge. For as he that holds the… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) and Moses, war against Christ and Moses, and who, clothed as sheep, hide the wolf. For these are false Christs, and false prophets, and false apostles, deceivers and corrupters, parts… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 4) For you have understanding and are able to know the right hand from the left, and to distinguish false teachers from true teachers. But when a teacher comes to you… [continues online] **read ›**

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 26*

26 *Writings* (on point 5) certain teachers, while looking for your gifts or fearing your persons, relax certain things for you, I not only do not grieve, but I am compelled to speak the truth… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 27*

27 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (on point 1) For Christ belongs to those who are humble-minded, and not to those who elevate themselves over His flock. Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Sceptre of the majesty of God, did… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *111 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

28 **Exodus 18:19** Now then, listen to me, and I will advise you, and God will be with you. Act for the people in the things that concern God, and you shall bring their matters to God. **read ›**

29 **Exodus 18:20** And you shall solemnly charge them with the statutes of God and his law, and show them the ways in which they must walk and the works they must do. **read ›**

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30 **Exodus 21:6** then his master shall bring him to the judgment seat of God, and then he shall bring him to the door, to the doorpost; and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl, and he shall serve him forever. **read ›**

31 **Exodus 21:20** And if anyone strikes his servant or his maidservant with a rod, and that one dies under his hand, he shall surely be punished. **read ›**

32 **Exodus 22:10** And if anyone gives his neighbor a beast of burden, or a calf, or a sheep, or any beast to keep, and it is injured or dies or is carried off, and no one knows, (Septuagint Exodus 22:9 (Exodus 22:10 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

33 **Exodus 23:3** And you shall not show mercy to a poor man in judgment. **read ›**

34 **Deuteronomy 1:17** You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall judge the small and the great alike; you shall never shrink before the face of any man, for the judgment is God's. Any matter that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it." **read ›**

35 **Deuteronomy 4:10** about the day that you stood before the Lord our God in Horeb, on the day of the assembly, when the Lord said to me, "Assemble the people to me, and let them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and they shall teach their sons." **read ›**

36 **Deuteronomy 16:19** They shall not pervert judgment, nor show partiality, nor take a gift; for gifts blind the eyes of the wise and set aside the words of the righteous. **read ›**

37 **Deuteronomy 17:11** You shall do according to the law and according to the judgment that they tell you; you shall not turn aside from the word that they declare to you, to the right or to the left. **read ›**

38 **Deuteronomy 19:18** The judges shall inquire diligently; and behold, if the witness is an unjust witness who has testified unjustly, and has risen up against his brother, **read ›**

39 **Deuteronomy 25:2** then if the ungodly man deserves lashes, you shall lay him down before the judges, and they shall whip him before them according to his ungodliness. **read ›**

40 **1 Samuel 12:7** Now then, stand still, and I will judge you before the Lord, and I will declare to you all the righteousness of the Lord, the things he has done among you and among your fathers. **read ›**

41 **1 Chronicles 28:8** Now therefore, in the sight of all the assembly of the Lord and in the hearing of our God, keep and seek all the commandments of the Lord our God, so that you may inherit the good land and leave it as an inheritance to your sons after you forever. **read ›**

42 **2 Chronicles 19:6** And he said to the judges, "Consider what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the Lord, and the matters of judgment are with you. **read ›**

43 **2 Chronicles 19:7** Now then, let the fear of the Lord be upon you; be careful and do it, for there is no unrighteousness with the Lord our God, nor showing partiality, nor taking of gifts." **read ›**

44 **Nehemiah 7:26** The sons of Bethlehem, one hundred and twenty-three. The sons of Netophah, fifty-six. (Septuagint 2 Esdras 17:26 (Nehemiah 7:26 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

45 **Nehemiah 9:15** You gave them bread from heaven for their food, and brought out water for them from a rock for their thirst; and you told them to go in and possess the land over which you had stretched out your hand to give it to them. (Septuagint 2 Esdras 19:15 (Nehemiah 9:15 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

46 **Job 31:14** what then shall I do if the Lord makes a trial of me? And if he makes any visitation, shall I give an answer? **read ›**

47 **Job 31:28** then let this also be reckoned to me as the greatest lawlessness, for I would have lied before the Lord Most High. **read ›**

48 **Proverbs 30:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

49 **Ecclesiastes 3:22** And I saw that there is no good except that a man should be glad in his works, for that is his portion; for who will bring him to see what will be after him? **read ›**

50 **Ecclesiastes 12:14** For God will bring every work into judgment, with everything overlooked, whether it is good or whether it is evil. **read ›**

51 **Song of Solomon 4:13** Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates, with the fruit of choice trees, henna with nard, **read ›**

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

53 **Jeremiah 24:9** And I will give them up to be scattered into all the kingdoms of the earth, and they will be an object of taunts and a proverb and an object of hatred and a curse in every place where I have driven them out. **read ›**

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54 **Ezekiel 4:17** so that they may lack bread and water; and a man and his brother shall be ruined, and they shall waste away in their unrighteous deeds. **read ›**

55 **Ezekiel 13:9** And I will stretch out my hand against the prophets who see false things and who utter empty things; they shall not be in the instruction of my people, nor shall they be written in the record of the house of Israel, and they shall not enter the land of Israel; and they shall know that I am the Lord. **read ›**

56 **Ezekiel 21:22** At his right hand the omen fell upon Jerusalem: to set up a wall of stakes, to open the mouth with a shout, to lift up the voice with a cry, to set a wall of stakes against her gates, and to cast up a mound, and to build siege machines. (Septuagint Ezekiel 21:27 (Ezekiel 21:22 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

57 **Ezekiel 31:3** Behold, Asshur was a cypress in Lebanon, beautiful in its shoots and lofty in stature; its top was among the clouds. **read ›**

58 **Ezekiel 40:8** and the third side room equal to the reed in length and equal to the reed in breadth. **read ›**

59 **Ezekiel 44:24** And in a case of bloodshed they shall stand to decide it; they shall carry out my ordinances rightly, and judge my judgments, and they shall keep my laws and my statutes in all my feasts, and they shall sanctify my Sabbaths. **read ›**

60 **Daniel 1:3** And the king told Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring in some of the sons of the captivity of Israel, and some of the royal seed, and some of the phorthommin, **read ›**

61 **Hosea 12:14** Ephraim provoked wrath and provoked anger, and his blood shall be poured out upon him, and the Lord will repay him for his taunts. (Septuagint Hosea 12:15 (Hosea 12:14 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

62 **Amos 6:5** who clap to the sound of instruments; they have regarded them as lasting, and not as fleeting; **read ›**

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

64 **Amos 6:10** and the rest shall be left behind; and their relatives shall take them, and shall press hard to carry their bones out of the house; and one shall say to those in charge of the house, “Is there still anyone with you?” And he shall say, “No one else.” And he shall say, “Be silent, so as not to name the name of the Lord.” **read ›**

65 **Judith 7:28** We call to witness against you heaven and earth, and our God and the Lord of our fathers, who punishes us according to our sins and according to the sins of our fathers, that he may not do according to these words this day.” **read ›**

66 **Wisdom of Solomon 2:20** Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, by his own words, there will be a visitation for him.” **read ›**

67 **Wisdom of Solomon 4:20** They will come in dread when their sins are reckoned up, and their lawless deeds will convict them to their face. **read ›**

68 **Wisdom of Solomon 6:5** terribly and swiftly he will come upon you, for stern judgment falls on those in high places. **read ›**

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

70 **Wisdom of Solomon 6:10** For those who keep holy things in holiness will be made holy, and those who have been taught them will find a defense. **read ›**

71 **Wisdom of Solomon 11:13** For when they heard that through their own punishments the others were being benefited, they perceived the Lord. **read ›**

72 **Wisdom of Solomon 12:22** So while disciplining us, you whip our enemies ten thousand times more, so that when we judge, we may ponder your goodness, and when we are judged, we may expect mercy. **read ›**

73 **Wisdom of Solomon 12:26** But those who were not corrected by playful rebukes will experience a judgment worthy of God. **read ›**

74 **Wisdom of Solomon 12:27** For in the things at which they were angry when they suffered, in those they thought to be gods, being punished by them, seeing him whom they had long refused to know, they recognized the true God; therefore the final condemnation came upon them. **read ›**

75 **Wisdom of Solomon 14:10** For what was done will be punished together with the one who did it. **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:11** The slave was punished with the same penalty as the master, and the commoner suffered the same as the king. **read ›**

77 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:7** and he will serve his parents as masters. **read ›**

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78 **Wisdom of Sirach 16:12** As great as his mercy, so great also is his rebuke; he judges a man according to his works. **read ›**

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

80 **Wisdom of Sirach 19:5** He who rejoices in his heart will be condemned, **read ›**

81 **Wisdom of Sirach 41:18** of a trespass before a judge and a ruler, of lawlessness before a congregation and a people, of unrighteousness before a partner and a friend, and of theft before the place where you live; **read ›**

82 **Wisdom of Sirach 42:5** of impartial selling and of merchants, and of much discipline of children, and of making the side of an evil household servant bleed. **read ›**

83 **Baruch 2:6** Righteousness belongs to the Lord our God, but to us and to our fathers shame of face, as it is this day. **read ›**

84 **1 Maccabees 14:45** Whoever acts contrary to these things or sets aside any of them shall be guilty.” **read ›**

85 **2 Maccabees 3:22** So they called upon God Almighty to keep the things entrusted safe and secure for those who had entrusted them. **read ›**

86 **2 Maccabees 7:35** For you have not yet escaped the judgment of the Almighty God, who watches over all. **read ›**

87 **3 Maccabees 4:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

88 **4 Maccabees 6:21** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

89 **4 Maccabees 13:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

90 **1 Enoch 1:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

91 **1 Enoch 13:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

92 **1 Enoch 27:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

93 **1 Enoch 67:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

94 **1 Enoch 68:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

95 **1 Enoch 69:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

96 **1 Enoch 90:25** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

97 **1 Enoch 94:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

98 **1 Enoch 95:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

99 **1 Enoch 95:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

100 **1 Enoch 99:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

101 **1 Enoch 99:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

102 **1 Enoch 100:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

103 **1 Enoch 100:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

104 **1 Enoch 104:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

105 **Matthew 3:4** Now John himself wore clothing made of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. **read ›**

106 **Matthew 5:19** Therefore, whoever shall break one of these least commandments and teach others to do so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever shall do and teach them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **read ›**

107 **Matthew 7:2** For with whatever judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you. **read ›**

108 **Matthew 7:15** Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. **read ›**

109 **Matthew 10:25** It is enough for the disciple that he be like his teacher, and the slave like his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more those of his household! **read ›**

110 **Matthew 18:31** When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved, and they came and told their lord everything that had happened. **read ›**

111 **Matthew 18:34** His lord was angry, and delivered him to the tormentors until he should pay all that was due to him. **read ›**

112 **Matthew 23:10** Neither be called teachers, for one is your teacher, the Christ. **read ›**

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113 **Matthew 24:11** Many false prophets will arise and will lead many astray. **read ›**

114 **Luke 6:40** A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. **read ›**

115 **Luke 12:47** That slave who knew his lord's will and did not prepare or act according to his will shall be beaten with many blows, **read ›**

116 **Luke 16:2** He called him, and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give an accounting of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' **read ›**

117 **Luke 19:22** He said to him, 'Out of your own mouth I will judge you, you wicked slave! You knew that I am an exacting man, taking up that which I did not lay down and reaping that which I did not sow. **read ›**

118 **Acts 9:14** Here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." **read ›**

119 **Acts 20:30** Men will arise from among your own selves, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. **read ›**

120 **Acts 28:6** They expected him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. After waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god. **read ›**

121 **Romans 14:12** So then each one of us will give account of himself to God. **read ›**

122 **1 Corinthians 2:6** Yet we speak wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. **read ›**

123 **1 Corinthians 4:2** Moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found faithful. **read ›**

124 **Ephesians 6:9** And you masters, do the same things toward them, giving up threats, knowing that your own Lord also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with him. **read ›**

125 **Colossians 4:1** Masters, give to your slaves that which is just and equal, knowing that you also have a Lord in heaven. **read ›**

126 **1 Timothy 1:7** wanting to be teachers of the law, though they understand neither what they say nor the things they confidently affirm. **read ›**

127 **1 Timothy 6:1** Let all who are slaves under a yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the doctrine may not be blasphemed. **read ›**

128 **1 Timothy 6:2** Let those who have faithful masters not despise them because they are brothers, but serve them all the more, because those who receive the benefit are faithful and beloved. Teach and urge these things. **read ›**

129 **2 Timothy 4:1** I therefore solemnly charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom: **read ›**

130 **Hebrews 4:13** There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account. **read ›**

131 **Hebrews 10:27** but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which will devour the adversaries. **read ›**

132 **James 2:13** For judgment is without mercy to him who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. **read ›**

133 **James 3:1** Let not many of you be teachers, my brothers, knowing that we will receive heavier judgment. **read ›**

134 **1 Peter 4:5** They will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. **read ›**

135 **2 Peter 2:1** But false prophets also arose among the people, as false teachers will also be among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master who bought them, bringing on themselves swift destruction. **read ›**

136 **2 Peter 2:3** And in covetousness they will exploit you with fabricated words. Their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction will not slumber. **read ›**

137 **Jude 1:8** Yet in the same way these dreamers also defile the flesh, reject authority, and slander dignitaries. **read ›**

138 **Jude 1:15** to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly among them concerning all the works of their ungodliness in which they have acted ungodly, and concerning all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." **read ›**

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Genesis 9:5 · 14:18

Deuteronomy 12:28

Psalms 22:6 · 24:4 · 89:31

Song of Solomon 6:9

Isaiah 53:1 · 53:5

Jeremiah 23:16 · 23:21

Ezekiel 13:3

Matthew 4:10 · 5:3 · 5:20 · 5:31 · 5:32 · 6:12 · 7:1 · 7:12 · 7:16 · 7:21 · 10:29 · 10:40 · 10:41 · 12:31 · 12:32 · 15:4 · 19:3 · 22:40 · 24:12 · 24:24

Mark 3:28 · 3:29 · 12:29 · 13:6

Luke 1:8 · 6:20 · 6:30 · 6:36 · 6:37 · 6:38 · 11:10 · 12:48 · 16:18 · 18:3 · 18:8

John 1:13 · 2:2 · 6:65 · 8:12 · 9:31 · 10:30 · 11:25 · 13:34

Acts 4:32 · 8:9 · 14:4 · 16:4 · 17:31

Romans 1:32 · 3:3 · 3:23 · 8:11 · 8:18 · 12:13 · 12:17 · 14:10 · 16:7 · 16:21 · 16:25

1 Corinthians 1:6 · 1:7 · 1:10 · 2:8 · 2:10 · 2:11 · 4:15 · 4:16 · 5:4 · 5:13 · 6:5 · 6:7 · 6:14 · 7:10 · 8:6 · 9:22 · 10:2 · 10:33 · 11:2 · 11:19 · 12:3 · 12:26 · 13:2 · 14:2 · 15:5 · 15:6

2 Corinthians 2:10 · 4:14 · 5:10 · 8:21 · 12:21

Galatians 1:19 · 3:27 · 4:21 · 6:7

Ephesians 2:20 · 4:5 · 4:11 · 5:5 · 5:27 · 6:14

Philippians 2:2 · 2:10 · 3:16

1 Thessalonians 2:6 · 5:20

1 Timothy 1:3 · 6:3 · 6:10

2 Timothy 2:24

Hebrews 2:5 · 6:6

James 5:14

1 Peter 1:13 · 1:21 · 2:5 · 3:9 · 3:22

1 John 2:2 · 4:1 · 4:2

3 John 1:9

Revelation 3:1

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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 James mean when he says teachers will face a stricter judgment?” on June 21, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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