THE QUESTION

What does the Bible say about self-defense?

Asked by a THF member on May 18, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 10 numbered quotations · the 36 early Christian passages and 235 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-does-the-bible-say-about-self-defense

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

Jesus taught his followers not to strike back when someone hurts them, but to turn the other cheek and leave vengeance to God. Early Christians repeated this and endured persecution without fighting. One church order adds that revenge is not evil in itself, but patience is better. Defending other people is not directly addressed here.

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

Jesus said not to strike back

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

In this Gospel harmony, Jesus sets aside the old rule of eye for eye. When someone hits you, you are not to answer blow for blow but to turn the other cheek. This is about how a disciple answers a personal attack.

1 “But I say to you, do not stand in opposition to evil. But whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

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

POINT 2 OF 7

The earliest teachers repeated the turned cheek

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

The Didache, the Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, gives the turned cheek as part of the way of life. Polycarp likewise tells believers not to return evil for evil or blow for blow, but to remember the Lord's teaching on mercy.

2 “If someone strikes your right cheek, turn the other cheek to him also, and you will be perfect. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two.”

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

3 “not returning evil for evil, or reviling for reviling," or blow for blow, or cursing for cursing, but remembering what the Lord said in His teaching: "Judge not, that you be not judged; forgive, and it shall be forgiven to you; be merciful, that you may obtain mercy; with the same measure you use, it will be measured to you again;" and once more, "Blessed are the poor, and those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of God.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Polycarp,** *Epistle to the Philippians* (c. 100–155 AD) **Source 4, 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 drew a sword to defend Jesus at his arrest, Jesus stopped him, warned that those who take the sword die by it, and healed the wounded servant. He chose to drink the cup the Father gave him rather than be defended by force.

4 “Jesus said to Cephas, "The cup that my Father has given Me, shall I not drink it? Put the sword into its sheath, for all who take the sword shall die by the sword.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 48 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 8, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Christians endured persecution without fighting back

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

Lactantius says that when Christians were persecuted they did not resist by deed or word, but bore it gently. Justin Martyr says Christians chose to die rather than deny Christ, trusting God to reward them. Both treat patient suffering as the Christian answer to attack.

5 “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 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

6 “While neither they nor you are persuaded by us, but strive earnestly to cause us to deny the name of Christ, we choose instead to submit to death, fully assured that God will reward us with all the good He has promised through Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *Dialogue with Trypho* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 7, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 5 OF 7

Leave vengeance to the Lord

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

This church order tells the injured person not to take revenge but to bear it, using Proverbs. The reason given is that the Lord himself will defend the one who was wronged and deal with the one who did harm.

7 “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 31, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Patience is called better than just revenge

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

The Apostolic Constitutions add a careful note. They do not say that just repayment is wicked in itself. They say that patience and long-suffering are the more honorable and better way, and that this is what Christ now asks of his people.

8 “If anyone strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. Not that revenge is evil, but that patience is more honorable.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** **Source 29, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

9 “He who forbade revenge now commands long-suffering, Matthew 5:43; not as if just revenge were an unrighteous thing, but because long-suffering is better.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** **Source 30, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

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POINT 7 OF 7

Turning the cheek takes real patience

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

Cyprian lists the turned cheek alongside forgiving and loving enemies. He asks how anyone could do these things without patience and endurance, showing that he saw this as a hard but necessary Christian virtue.

10

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

later in the same passage

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

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 26, page 7 **Read it in the library ›**

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages speak about a Christian answering an attack on himself; they do not directly say whether to protect a family member or neighbor from harm.
- They do not explain the saying about buying a sword, or the role of rulers who bear the sword.
- 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 36 early Christian passages and 235 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–36, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 37–161, in Bible order), then 110 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 *36 passages from 15 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 1 **Quote 2, page 2** “have an enemy. Keep away from fleshly and worldly desires. If someone strikes your right cheek, turn the other cheek to him also, and you will be perfect. If someone… [continues online] **read ›**

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

2 *Second Epistle* 13 fable and a delusion. For whenever they hear from us that God says, "You receive no thanks if you love those who love you, but you receive thanks if you… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · sources 3–4*

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

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

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

5 *First Apology* (1885 English; on point 7) “concerning our being patient of injuries, and ready to serve all, and free from anger, this is what He said: “To him that smiteth thee on the one cheek, offer… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *On the Resurrection, Fragments* (1885 English; on point 2) “the Saviour also taught us to love our enemies, since, says He, what thank have ye… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Dialogue with Trypho* **Quote 6, page 3** “He taught us to pray for our enemies also, saying, "Love your enemies… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 8–9*

8 *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 ›**

9 *Diatessaron* 9 **Quote 1, page 2** “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. Matthew 5:40 And if… [continues online] **read ›**

Athenagoras, *c. 170–190 AD · sources 10–11*

10 *A Plea for the Christians* 11 (1885 English; on point 2) “say unto you, Love your enemies; bless them that curse you… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *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 12–14*

12 *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 ›**

13 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English; on point 2) “not to love our neighbours only, but even our enemies… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English) “he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, the avenger for wrath upon him that doeth evil… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 15–17*

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

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16 *Stromata* 4.6 (1885 English; on point 4) “6:22 if we do not detest our persecutors, and undergo punishments at their hands, not hating them under the idea that we have been put to trial more tardily… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Instructor* 3.12 (1885 English; on point 1) “He says: If any one strike you on the one cheek, turn to him the other also… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 18–21*

18 *Against Marcion* 15 (on point 1) “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 ›**

19 *On Patience* 8 (1885 English; on point 7) “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 ›**

20 *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 ›**

21 *De Spectaculis (On the Shows)* 16 “He commands us to love our enemies… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 22–24*

22 *Against Celsus* 61 (1885 English; on point 1) “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 ›**

23 *Against Celsus* 58 (1885 English; on point 5) “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 ›**

24 *Against Celsus* 25 (on point 1) “for a tooth." On the other hand, we have read, "I say to you, whoever strikes you on one cheek, turn the other also to him." But there is good… [continues online] **read ›**

Gregory Thaumaturgus, *c. 240–270 AD · source 25*

25 *On All the Saints* 1 (on point 4) the martyrs have shown their power. They leap for joy in the presence of death. They laugh at the sword. They make sport of the anger of princes. They seize… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 26–28*

26 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 10, page 5** “you should love your enemies; that you should offer prayer for your adversaries and persecutors… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 7) “I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them which persecute you… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *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 29–31*

29 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 8, page 4** “opinions. Abstain from fleshly and worldly lusts. If anyone strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. Not that revenge is evil, but that patience is… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** that forbade revenge, now commands long-suffering… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** “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 ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 32*

32 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 1) “as to His injunction, that a man, when struck on the one cheek, should offer the other also, that is the expression of goodness… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 33–36*

33 *Divine Institutes* 20 (on point 4) “is good must have a place in religion, not what is evil. For if you want to defend religion by bloodshed, tortures, and guilt, it will no longer be defended… [continues online] **read ›**

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34 *Divine Institutes* 20 (1885 English) “it will be neither lawful for a just man to engage in warfare, since his warfare is justice itself, nor to accuse any one of a capital charge, because it… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 53 **Quote 5, page 3** they say they do these things to defend their gods. First, if they are gods and have any power and influence, they do not need the defense and protection of… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *Divine Institutes* 20 (1885 English) “then, it is in no way permitted to commit homicide, it is not allowed us to be present at all, lest any bloodshed should overspread the conscience, since that blood… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *125 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

37 **Genesis 9:5** For I will require your blood, the blood of your lives, from the hand of all the wild beasts; and from the hand of his fellow man I will require the life of man. **read ›**

38 **Genesis 9:6** Whoever sheds man’s blood, in return for that blood his own shall be shed, for in the image of God I made man. **read ›**

39 **Exodus 20:15** You shall not steal. (Septuagint Exodus 20:14 (Exodus 20:15 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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

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

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

43 **Exodus 23:4** And if you meet your enemy’s ox or his beast of burden going astray, you shall turn them back and return them to him. **read ›**

44 **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 ›**

45 **Leviticus 19:16** You shall not go about with deceit among your nation; you shall not rise up against the blood of your neighbor. I am the Lord your God. **read ›**

46 **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 ›**

47 **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 ›**

48 **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 ›**

49 **Numbers 35:19** The avenger of blood himself shall put the killer to death; whenever he meets him, he shall kill him. **read ›**

50 **Numbers 35:21** or strikes him with his hand out of anger, and he dies, let the one who struck him surely be put to death; he is a murderer; let the murderer surely be put to death. The avenger of blood shall put the killer to death when he meets him. **read ›**

51 **Numbers 35:24** then the congregation shall judge between the one who struck him and the avenger of blood according to these judgments. **read ›**

52 **Numbers 35:27** and the avenger of blood finds him outside the borders of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood puts the killer to death, he is not guilty. **read ›**

53 **Numbers 35:33** You shall by no means pollute the land in which you dwell with murder; for this blood pollutes the land with murder, and the land shall not be atoned for from the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of the one who shed it. **read ›**

54 **Deuteronomy 4:42** so that the killer who kills his neighbor unknowingly, not having hated him before, might flee there; he shall flee to one of these cities and live: **read ›**

55 **Deuteronomy 12:23** Take great care not to eat blood, for its blood is its life; the life shall not be eaten with the meat. **read ›**

56 **Deuteronomy 19:4** And this shall be the statute for the killer who flees there and lives: whoever strikes his neighbor unknowingly, when he had not hated him before, **read ›**

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57 **Deuteronomy 19:5** as when a man goes into the forest with his neighbor to gather wood, and his hand is jolted with the axe as he cuts the wood, and the iron head flies off the handle and strikes his neighbor, and the neighbor dies, that man shall flee to one of these cities and live, **read ›**

58 **Deuteronomy 19:6** so that the avenger of blood, because his heart is hot, may not pursue the slayer and overtake him if the way is long, and strike him mortally; yet for this man there is no sentence of death, because the slayer had not hated him before. **read ›**

59 **Deuteronomy 19:10** And innocent blood shall not be shed in the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and there shall not be among you one guilty of blood. **read ›**

60 **Deuteronomy 19:13** Your eye shall not spare him, and you shall purge the innocent blood from Israel, and it shall be well with you. **read ›**

61 **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 ›**

62 **Deuteronomy 30:7** And the Lord your God shall put these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. **read ›**

63 **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 ›**

64 **Deuteronomy 32:41** For I will sharpen my sword like lightning, and my hand shall take hold of judgment; I will render justice to the enemies, and repay those who hate me. **read ›**

65 **Deuteronomy 32:42** I will make my arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh, from the blood of the wounded and of the captives, from the head of the rulers of the enemies. **read ›**

66 **Joshua 20:3** a refuge for the killer who has struck down a person unintentionally. The cities shall be a refuge for you, and the killer shall not die at the hand of the avenger of blood until he stands before the congregation for judgment.'" **read ›**

67 **Joshua 20:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

68 **Judges 3:16** Ehud made himself a two-edged dagger a span in length, and he strapped it on under his cloak on his right thigh. **read ›**

69 **1 Samuel 21:9** The priest said, "Behold, the sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the Valley of Elah; it is wrapped in a cloak. If you will take it, take it for yourself, for there is no other here except this one." And David said, "See, there is none like it; give it to me." (Septuagint 1 Kingdoms 21:10 (1 Samuel 21:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

70 **1 Kings 3:24** And the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought the sword before the king. **read ›**

71 **2 Kings 11:10** And the priest gave the commanders of hundreds the lances and the triple arms of King David that were in the house of the Lord. **read ›**

72 **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 ›**

73 **Ezra 4:23** Then the tribute collector of King Artaxerxes read it before Rehum the baltam and Shimshai the scribe and his fellow slaves; and they went in haste to Jerusalem and into Judah and stopped them with horses and force. **read ›**

74 **Nehemiah 4:18** As for the builders, each had his sword strapped at his waist, and so they built; and the one who blew the horn was beside him. (Septuagint 2 Esdras 14:12 (Nehemiah 4:18 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

75 **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 ›**

76 **Job 41:26** If spears meet him, they will accomplish nothing at all, neither spear nor breastplate. (Septuagint Job 41:18 (Job 41:26 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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

78 **Psalms 119:157** Many are those who persecute me and oppress me, but I have not turned aside from your testimonies. (Septuagint Psalm 118:157 (Psalm 119:157 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

79 **Proverbs 3:3** Do not let acts of mercy and faithfulness leave you, but bind them around your neck, **read ›**

80 **Proverbs 3:21** Son, do not drift away, but keep my counsel and insight, **read ›**

81 **Proverbs 15:19** The ways of the idle are strewn with thorns, but those of the courageous are well trodden. **read ›**

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82 **Ecclesiastes 7:29** Only, see, this I have found: that God made man upright, but they have sought out many reasonings. Who knows the wise? And who knows the interpretation of a saying? **read ›**

83 **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 ›**

84 **Isaiah 2:16** and upon every ship of the sea, and upon every sight of beautiful ships. **read ›**

85 **Isaiah 6:10** For the heart of this people has grown fat, and with their ears they have been dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I should heal them." **read ›**

86 **Isaiah 21:15** meet the fugitives with bread, because of the multitude of the slain, and because of the multitude of those who wander, and because of the multitude of the sword, and because of the multitude of the bent bows, and because of the multitude of those who have fallen in war. **read ›**

87 **Isaiah 50:6** I gave my back to whips, and my cheeks to blows; and I did not turn my face away from the shame of spitting. **read ›**

88 **Jeremiah 7:5** For if you truly set right your ways and your practices, and truly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor, **read ›**

89 **Jeremiah 16:13** And I will cast you out of this land into the land that neither you nor your fathers knew; and there you will serve other gods, who will show you no mercy. **read ›**

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

91 **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 ›**

92 **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 ›**

93 **Jeremiah 44:4** And I sent to you my servants the prophets early in the morning, and I sent, saying, Do not do this defiling thing, which I have hated. (Septuagint Jeremiah 51:4 (Jeremiah 44:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

94 **Jeremiah 47:6** How long will you cut, O sword of the Lord? How long will you not be quiet? Go back into your sheath; rest, and be lifted up. (Septuagint Jeremiah 29:6 (Jeremiah 47:6 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

95 **Jeremiah 50:36** a sword upon her warriors, and they will grow weak; a sword upon their horses and upon their chariots; (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:36 (Jeremiah 50:36 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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

97 **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 ›**

98 **Ezekiel 11:8** You fear the sword, and I will bring a sword upon you, says the Lord. **read ›**

99 **Ezekiel 21:16** And go through; be sharpened on the right and on the left, wherever your face is roused. (Septuagint Ezekiel 21:21 (Ezekiel 21:16 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

100 **Ezekiel 27:7** Fine linen with embroidery from Egypt became your couch, to put glory on you and to clothe you with blue and purple from the islands of Elishah; and they became your coverings. **read ›**

101 **Ezekiel 39:23** And all the nations shall know that the house of Israel were taken captive because of their sins, because they broke faith with me; and I turned my face away from them, and I handed them over into the hands of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. **read ›**

102 **Hosea 10:4** and the king, what will he do for us, speaking words, false pretexts?" He will make a covenant; judgment shall spring up like a weed on the dry ground of the field. **read ›**

103 **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 ›**

104 **Amos 5:20** Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light? And is it not thick darkness, with no brightness? **read ›**

105 **1 Esdras 4:23** And a man takes his sword and goes out to travel and to rob and to steal, and to sail on the sea and on rivers; **read ›**

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

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107 **Wisdom of Solomon 5:20** and sharpen stern anger into a sword, and the world will join him in the fight against the senseless. **read ›**

108 **Wisdom of Solomon 11:3** They stood against enemies, and fought off foes. **read ›**

109 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:11** Do not rise up from the presence of an arrogant man, lest he sit like an ambush for your mouth. **read ›**

110 **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 ›**

111 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:5** Do good to the lowly, and do not give to the ungodly; hold back his bread, and do not give it to him, lest by it he overpower you; for you will find twice as much evil for all the good you do him. **read ›**

112 **Wisdom of Sirach 22:21** If you have drawn a sword against a friend, do not despair, for there is a way back. **read ›**

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

114 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:3** A man holds on to anger against a man, and seeks healing from the Lord! **read ›**

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

116 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:13** It will fight for you against the enemy, better than a mighty shield and better than a strong spear. **read ›**

117 **Wisdom of Sirach 31:21** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

118 **Wisdom of Sirach 31:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

119 **Wisdom of Sirach 32:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

120 **Wisdom of Sirach 40:9** Death and bloodshed and conflict and sword, calamities, famine and ruin and the lash, **read ›**

121 **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 ›**

122 **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 ›**

123 **1 Maccabees 3:3** He extended the glory of his people. He put on a breastplate like a giant and strapped on his weapons of war; he waged battles, sheltering the camp with the sword. **read ›**

124 **1 Maccabees 3:21** But we are fighting for our lives and our laws. **read ›**

125 **1 Maccabees 15:19** So it has pleased us to write to the kings and the countries that they should not seek the harm of the Jews, nor make war on them or their cities or their country, nor make an alliance with those who make war on them. **read ›**

126 **2 Maccabees 6:20** as those ought to come forward who have the courage to refuse what it is not lawful to taste, even for the love of life. **read ›**

127 **2 Maccabees 7:29** Do not fear this executioner, but prove worthy of your brothers and accept death, so that in mercy I may receive you back again with your brothers." **read ›**

128 **2 Maccabees 15:16** "Take this holy sword, a gift from God, with which you will shatter the adversaries." **read ›**

129 **3 Maccabees 3:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

130 **3 Maccabees 3:19** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

131 **4 Maccabees 2:16** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

132 **4 Maccabees 6:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

133 **4 Maccabees 8:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

134 **4 Maccabees 13:27** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

135 **1 Enoch 13:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

136 **1 Enoch 14:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

137 **1 Enoch 17:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

138 **1 Enoch 91:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

139 **1 Enoch 95:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

140 **1 Enoch 98:16** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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141 **Matthew 5:11** “Blessed are you when people revile you, persecute you, and falsely say every evil word against you for my sake. **read ›**

142 **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 ›**

143 **Matthew 5:40** If anyone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak also. **read ›**

144 **Matthew 5:41** Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. **read ›**

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

146 **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 ›**

147 **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 ›**

148 **Mark 1:11** A voice came from the heavens, “You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” **read ›**

149 **Luke 6:27** But I tell you who hear: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **read ›**

150 **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 ›**

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

152 **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 ›**

153 **Luke 22:38** They said, “Lord, behold, here are two swords.” He said to them, “That is enough.” **read ›**

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

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

156 **Romans 12:20** Therefore, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for in doing this you will heap coals of fire on his head. **read ›**

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

158 **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 ›**

159 **Ephesians 5:1** Be therefore imitators of God, as beloved children. **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 ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *110 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Deuteronomy 30:15

Psalms 4:4 · 8:2 · 27:3

Proverbs 1:7 · 2:16

Isaiah 10:23 · 45:1

Jeremiah 21:8

Lamentations 3:27

Zechariah 7:10

Matthew 4:3 · 4:10 · 5:3 · 5:7 · 5:8 · 5:22 · 5:26 · 5:28 · 5:32 · 5:33 · 5:38 · 5:42 · 5:45 · 5:46 · 6:20 · 6:25 · 7:1 · 7:2 · 7:12 · 7:15 · 8:10 · 10:10 · 11:12 · 12:36 · 22:37 · 22:39 · 23:27 · 25:33 · 27:5

Mark 2:19 · 7:15 · 12:30 · 12:32 · 12:41

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Luke 2:51 · 6:20 · 6:22 · 6:28 · 6:30 · 6:31 · 6:32 · 6:35 · 6:36 · 6:37 · 6:38 · 11:1 · 12:23 · 14:33 · 16:9

John 8:26 · 11:25 · 12:6 · 13:34 · 17:3

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

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

1 Corinthians 1:10 · 1:24 · 2:8 · 5:13 · 6:14 · 7:18 · 8:6 · 10:26 · 15:53 · 15:55

2 Corinthians 4:14 · 13:3

Galatians 1:1 · 3:13 · 3:24

Ephesians 4:3 · 4:26 · 6:14

Philippians 2:2 · 2:10 · 3:14 · 3:16

1 Timothy 2:2 · 6:10

Hebrews 4:15 · 10:30 · 10:33 · 13:20

1 Peter 1:13 · 1:21 · 2:11 · 2:17 · 3:13 · 3:22

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

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What does the Bible 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