THE QUESTION

What Gospel was written first, according to the early church?

Asked by a THF member on May 18, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 8 numbered quotations · the 9 early Christian passages and 181 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-gospel-was-written-first-according-to-the-early-church

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

Early Christian writers say the Gospel of Matthew was written first. Origen received this by tradition and names Mark second, Luke third and John last, and Irenaeus gives the same sequence. Both say Matthew first wrote in the Hebrew language for Jewish believers. The passages do not give exact dates.

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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POINT 1 OF 7

Origen received that Matthew came first

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

Origen does not present this as his own guess. He says he learned it by tradition, and he speaks of the four Gospels as the only ones undisputed in the Church. Matthew, the former tax collector who became an apostle, is named as the first to write.

1

“About the four Gospels, which alone are undisputed in the Church of God under heaven, I learned by tradition that the Gospel according to Matthew was written first.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on Matthew* 1 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 9, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Origen gives the full order of four

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

Origen goes on to list the rest in order. Mark is second and wrote under Peter's guidance. Luke is third and wrote for converts from the Gentiles. John's Gospel comes last of all.

2

“The second Gospel written was the one according to Mark. Mark wrote it according to Peter's instruction.”

later in the same passage

“Third was the Gospel according to Luke, the Gospel commended by Paul, which Luke composed for converts from the Gentiles. Last of all was the Gospel according to John.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on Matthew* 1 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 9, page 6** Read it in the library ›
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POINT 3 OF 7

Irenaeus places Matthew during Peter and Paul's preaching

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

Irenaeus gives the same sequence. He ties Matthew's Gospel to the time when Peter and Paul were preaching in Rome, and says Mark wrote down Peter's preaching after their departure.

3

"Matthew also wrote a Gospel in the Hebrew language while Peter and Paul were preaching in Rome and laying the foundations of the Church."

later in the same passage

"After their departure, Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, wrote down what Peter had preached."

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

Source 2, page 6 **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 4 OF 7

Irenaeus says John wrote later

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

Irenaeus then names Luke as Paul's companion who wrote down Paul's Gospel, and says John published his Gospel later, while living at Ephesus. This matches Origen's statement that John's Gospel came last.

4

"Luke, the companion of Paul, recorded in a book the Gospel preached by him. Later on, John, the disciple of the Lord, who had leaned upon His chest, published a Gospel during his time in Ephesus in Asia."

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

Source 2, page 6 **Read it in the library ›**

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POINT 5 OF 7

Matthew wrote first for Jewish readers

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

Both Origen and a fragment of Irenaeus say Matthew's first readers were Jewish. Irenaeus explains that this is why Matthew begins with Christ's family line from David, a point his readers cared about.

5 “He wrote it in the Hebrew language and published it for converts from Judaism.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on Matthew* 1 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 9, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

6 “The Gospel according to Matthew was written for the Jews, as they placed special importance on the fact that Christ should be of the seed of David.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 3, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Clement ties Mark's Gospel to Peter's preaching

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

Clement of Alexandria also links Mark's Gospel to Peter's preaching at Rome. He says Mark wrote while Peter was still preaching there, so that hearers could remember what was said. This differs slightly from Irenaeus, who places Mark's writing after Peter and Paul departed.

7 “Mark, Peter's follower, wrote what is called the Gospel according to Mark while Peter was publicly preaching the Gospel at Rome before some of Caesar's equites and giving many testimonies about Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Fragments* 1 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 4, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 7 OF 7

Another early list counts Luke third, John fourth

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

An early fragment preserved under the name of Caius also counts Luke's Gospel as the third book and John's as the fourth. This fits the same order the other writers give.

8

"The third book of the Gospel, the one according to Luke, was written by Luke, the well-known physician, in his own name and in order after the ascension of Christ, when Paul had taken him with himself as one devoted to what is right."

later in the same passage

"The fourth Gospel is that of John, one of the disciples."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Caius,** *Fragments* 1 (c. 200–220 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 7, page 6 **Read it in the library ›**

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- These passages do not give a year for any Gospel.
- They do not explain how Matthew's first Hebrew writing relates to the Greek Gospel we read today.
- Clement and Irenaeus differ on whether Mark wrote during Peter's lifetime or after his departure.
- 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 9 early Christian passages and 181 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–9, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 10–118, in Bible order), then 72 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 *9 passages from 6 writers*

Papias, *c. 95–130 AD · source 1*

1 *Fragments* (on point 6) “made, we will add, as a matter of primary importance, a tradition regarding Mark, who wrote the Gospel, which Papias stated in these words: The presbyter said this: Mark, having… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 2–3*

2 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English) **Quotes 3, 4, page 3** “John, the disciple of the Lord, who also had leaned upon His breast, did himself publish a Gospel during his residence at Ephesus in Asia… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 4** “Gospel according to Matthew was written to the Jews… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · source 4*

4 *Fragments* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** “my son, salutes you. Mark, the follower of Peter, while Peter publicly preached the Gospel at Rome before some of Cæsar's equites, and adduced many testimonies to Christ, in… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 5–6*

5 *Against Marcion* 2 “himself desired the authority of his predecessors for both his own faith… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *On the Flesh of Christ* 22 (1885 English) “is, first of all, Matthew, that most faithful chronicler of the Gospel, because the companion of the Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

Caius, *c. 200–220 AD · source 7*

7 *Fragments* 1 **Quote 8, page 5** “fourth Gospel is that of John, one of the disciples… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 8–9*

8 *Commentary on John* 1 (on point 5) bore the sin of this world. For it is about the world of the Church that the word is written in John 1:29, "Behold the Lamb of God, who… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Commentary on Matthew* 1 (1885 English) **Quotes 1, 2, 5, pages 2, 4** “the four Gospels which alone are uncontroverted in the Church of God under heaven, I have learned by tradition that the Gospel according to Matthew, who was at one time… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *109 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

10 **Genesis 2:4** This is the book of the generation of heaven and earth, when they came to be, in the day that the Lord God made the heaven and the earth, **read ›**

11 **Leviticus 23:5** In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, between the evenings, is the Lord’s Passover. **read ›**

12 **Numbers 10:13** They set out first by the voice of the Lord, by the hand of Moses. **read ›**

13 **Deuteronomy 31:24** When Moses had finished writing all the words of this law in a book, to the very end, **read ›**

14 **1 Chronicles 9:31** Mattithiah, of the Levites, the firstborn of Shallum the Korahite, was in a position of trust over the work of the high priest’s griddle sacrifice. **read ›**

15 **1 Chronicles 12:11** Jethi the sixth, Eliab the seventh, (Septuagint 1 Chronicles 12:12 (1 Chronicles 12:11 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

16 **1 Chronicles 25:21** the fourteenth, Mattithiah; his sons and his brothers, twelve; **read ›**

17 **2 Chronicles 26:22** The rest of the acts of Uzziah, first and last, are written by Jessias the prophet. **read ›**

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18 **2 Chronicles 31:16** besides the offspring of the males from three years old and upward, to every one who entered the house of the Lord, by a daily account, for ministry in the daily courses of their arrangement. **read ›**

19 **Ezra 1:10** and four hundred and ten double silver ones, and a thousand other vessels. **read ›**

20 **Ezra 3:10** And they laid the foundation for building the house of the Lord; and the priests stood in their robes with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the Lord by the direction of David king of Israel. **read ›**

21 **Ezra 7:2** the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, **read ›**

22 **Ezra 8:12** of the sons of Azgad, Johanan the son of Hakkatan, and with him one hundred and ten males; **read ›**

23 **Esther 8:9** And the scribes were called in the first month, which is Nisan, on the twenty-third day of the same year; and it was written for the Jews, all that he commanded the stewards and the rulers of the satraps from India to Ethiopia, a hundred and twenty-seven satraps, province by province, according to their own language. **read ›**

24 **Proverbs 2:1** Son, if you receive the saying of my commandment and hide it with you, **read ›**

25 **Proverbs 2:2** your ear will listen to wisdom, and you will apply your heart to understanding, and apply it to the instruction of your son; **read ›**

26 **Proverbs 5:14** I very nearly came into every kind of evil in the midst of the assembly and the congregation.” **read ›**

27 **Proverbs 14:19** The evil will fall before the good, and the ungodly will wait at the doors of the righteous. **read ›**

28 **Proverbs 14:27** The command of the Lord is a spring of life, and it makes men turn aside from the trap of death. **read ›**

29 **Proverbs 15:24** The thoughts of the man of understanding are ways of life, that he may turn aside from Hades and be saved. **read ›**

30 **Proverbs 16:9** God is far from the ungodly, but he listens to the prayers of the righteous. Better is a small income with righteousness than much produce with unrighteousness. Let a man’s heart consider just things, that his steps may be set straight by God. (Septuagint Proverbs 15:29 (Proverbs 16:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

31 **Proverbs 16:21** The wise and understanding they call worthless, but those who are sweet in speech will hear more. **read ›**

32 **Proverbs 16:23** The heart of the wise will understand what comes from his own mouth, and on his lips he will carry good judgment. **read ›**

33 **Proverbs 16:24** Good words are honeycombs, and their sweetness is healing for the soul. **read ›**

34 **Ecclesiastes 1:7** All the brooks go into the sea, yet the sea is not filled; to the place where the brooks go, there they return, to go again. **read ›**

35 **Ecclesiastes 2:25** For who will eat, and who will drink, apart from him? **read ›**

36 **Ecclesiastes 9:17** The words of the wise are heard in quietness more than the cry of those in power in foolishness. **read ›**

37 **Isaiah 12:1** And you will say in that day, “I bless you, O Lord, for you were angry with me, and you have turned away your wrath and have had mercy on me. **read ›**

38 **Jeremiah 44:1** The word that came to Jeremiah for all the Jews dwelling in the land of Egypt, and for those living in Migdol and in Tahpanhes and in the land of Pathros, saying, (Septuagint Jeremiah 51:1 (Jeremiah 44:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

39 **1 Esdras 1:10** And when these things had been done, the priests and the Levites stood in good order, **read ›**

40 **1 Esdras 3:17** And they said to them, “Tell us about what is written.” Then the first, who had spoken of the strength of wine, began, **read ›**

41 **1 Esdras 7:2** supervised the holy works very carefully, working together with the elders of the Jews and the temple officials. **read ›**

42 **1 Esdras 8:12** that they may look into the affairs of Judea and Jerusalem in keeping with what is in the law of the Lord, **read ›**

43 **1 Esdras 8:94** as has been decided by you and by all who obey the law of the Lord. **read ›**

44 **Tobit 12:20** And now give thanks to God, because I am going up to him who sent me; and write all that has been accomplished in a book.” **read ›**

45 **Wisdom of Sirach 32:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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46 **Wisdom of Sirach 39:32** Therefore from the beginning I was resolved, and I thought it through, and I have left it in writing. **read ›**

47 **Wisdom of Sirach 50:27** Jesus the son of Sirach of Jerusalem has engraved in this book instruction in understanding and knowledge, he who poured forth wisdom from his heart. **read ›**

48 **1 Maccabees 2:1** In those days Mattathias son of John, son of Simeon, a priest of the sons of Joarib, arose from Jerusalem and settled in Modein. **read ›**

49 **1 Maccabees 2:2** He had five sons: John, called Kaddis; **read ›**

50 **1 Maccabees 2:39** When Mattathias and his friends learned of it, they mourned for them greatly. **read ›**

51 **1 Maccabees 5:14** While the letters were still being read, behold, other messengers came from Galilee with their garments torn, reporting in these words, **read ›**

52 **1 Maccabees 5:55** Now in the days when Judas and Jonathan were in Gilead, and Simon his brother was in Galilee opposite Ptolemais, **read ›**

53 **1 Maccabees 7:30** And the matter was made known to Judas, that Nicanor had come to him with deceit; and Judas was afraid of him and would not see his face again. **read ›**

54 **1 Maccabees 9:38** And they remembered John their brother, and went up and hid under the cover of the mountain. **read ›**

55 **1 Maccabees 13:42** And the people of Israel began to write in their documents and contracts, “In the first year of Simon, the great high priest and general and leader of the Jews.” **read ›**

56 **1 Maccabees 13:53** Simon saw that John his son was a grown man, and he made him leader of all the forces, and John lived in Gazara. **read ›**

57 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

58 **1 Maccabees 14:27** So they inscribed it on bronze tablets and set them on pillars on Mount Zion. And this is the copy of the writing: “On the eighteenth day of Elul, in the hundred and seventy-second year, that is, the third year of Simon the high priest, **read ›**

59 **1 Maccabees 15:24** And they wrote a copy of these to Simon the high priest. **read ›**

60 **1 Maccabees 16:9** At that time Judas, John’s brother, was wounded; but John pursued them until he came to Kedron, which Cendebeus had built. **read ›**

61 **1 Maccabees 16:21** But someone ran ahead and reported to John at Gazara that his father and his brothers had perished, and that “he has sent to kill you also.” **read ›**

62 **1 Maccabees 16:23** The rest of the acts of John, and his wars, and the brave deeds that he did, and the building of the walls that he built, and his achievements, **read ›**

63 **1 Maccabees 16:24** behold, these are written in the book of the days of his high priesthood, from the time he became high priest after his father. **read ›**

64 **2 Maccabees 1:7** In the reign of Demetrius, in the one hundred and sixty-ninth year, we Jews wrote to you in the trouble and in the extremity that came upon us in those years, after Jason and those with him revolted from the holy land and from the kingdom, **read ›**

65 **2 Maccabees 2:25** we have aimed to give pleasure to those who wish to read, ease to those who are eager to commit things to memory, and profit to all who come upon it. **read ›**

66 **2 Maccabees 9:17** and besides all this, he would become a Jew and would go through every inhabited place proclaiming the power of God. **read ›**

67 **2 Maccabees 11:16** The letters written to the Jews were these. From Lysias, as follows: “Lysias to the people of the Jews, greeting. **read ›**

68 **2 Maccabees 13:20** And Judas sent in what they needed to those inside. **read ›**

69 **2 Maccabees 14:24** He kept Judas always in his presence; he was warmly attached to the man. **read ›**

70 **4 Maccabees 6:33** But now, since reason has conquered the passions, we fittingly assign to it the authority to lead. **read ›**

71 **4 Maccabees 12:1** When this one too, thrown into a caldron, had died a blessed death, the seventh came forward, the youngest of all. **read ›**

72 **1 Enoch 62:7** For from the beginning the Son of Man was hidden, and the Most High preserved him in the presence of his might, and revealed him to the chosen ones. **read ›**

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73 **1 Enoch 72:1** The Book of the courses of the lights of the heaven, the relations of each, according to their classes, their dominion and their seasons, according to their names and places of origin, and according to their months, which Uriel, the holy angel who was with me and who is their guide, showed me; and he showed me all their laws exactly as they are, and how it is with regard to all the years of the world and to eternity, until the new creation is accomplished, which endures to eternity. **read ›**

74 **1 Enoch 82:1** And now, my son Methuselah, all these things I am recounting to you and writing down for you, and I have revealed everything to you, and given you books concerning all these. So preserve, my son Methuselah, the books from your father's hand, and see that you deliver them to the generations of the world. **read ›**

75 **1 Enoch 82:7** And the account of it is accurate and its recorded reckoning exact; for Uriel has shown and revealed to me the lights, and months and festivals, and years and days—Uriel, to whom the Lord of the whole creation of the world has subjected the host of heaven. **read ›**

76 **1 Enoch 89:68** And the shepherds and their associates delivered over those sheep to all the wild beasts, to devour them, and each one of them received in his time a definite number; how many of them each one destroyed was written by the other in a book. **read ›**

77 **1 Enoch 89:77** And he took the actual book and laid it down beside him and departed. **read ›**

78 **1 Enoch 92:1** The book written by Enoch (Enoch indeed wrote this complete teaching of wisdom, which is praised by all men and is a judge of all the earth) for all my children who shall dwell on the earth, and for the future generations who shall observe uprightness and peace. **read ›**

79 **1 Enoch 104:11** And if only they would write all my words in truth under their names, and neither take away nor alter anything of these words, but write all things in truth, which I testify to them! **read ›**

80 **Matthew 1:1** The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. **read ›**

81 **Matthew 1:15** Eliud became the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan. Matthan became the father of Jacob. **read ›**

82 **Matthew 4:12** Now when Jesus heard that John had been handed over, he withdrew into Galilee. **read ›**

83 **Matthew 4:23** Jesus went about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people. **read ›**

84 **Matthew 9:1** He entered into a boat and crossed over, and came into his own city. **read ›**

85 **Matthew 9:9** As Jesus passed by from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax collection office. He said to him, "Follow me." He got up and followed him. **read ›**

86 **Matthew 10:3** Philip; Bartholomew; Thomas; Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus; Lebbaeus, who was also called Thaddaeus; **read ›**

87 **Matthew 10:6** Rather, go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. **read ›**

88 **Mark 1:1** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. **read ›**

89 **Mark 1:2** As it is written in the prophets: Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you. **read ›**

90 **Mark 1:9** In those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **read ›**

91 **Mark 1:14** Now after John was taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, **read ›**

92 **Mark 1:15** and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand! Repent, and believe in the gospel." **read ›**

93 **Mark 1:28** The report of him went out immediately throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. **read ›**

94 **Mark 1:38** He said to them, "Let us go to the neighboring towns, so that I may preach there also, for this is why I came out." **read ›**

95 **Mark 2:2** Immediately many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even around the door; and he spoke the word to them. **read ›**

96 **Mark 3:12** He sternly warned them that they should not make him known. **read ›**

97 **Mark 10:31** But many who are first will be last, and the last first." **read ›**

98 **Mark 13:10** The gospel must first be preached to all the nations. **read ›**

99 **Mark 14:9** Amen, I say to you, wherever this gospel may be preached throughout the whole world, that which this woman has done will also be spoken of for a memorial of her." **read ›**

100 **Mark 16:2** Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. **read ›**

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101 **Mark 16:8** They went out, and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come on them. They said nothing to anyone; for they were afraid. **read ›**

102 **Mark 16:9** Now when he had risen early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. **read ›**

103 **Luke 1:1** Since many have undertaken to set in order a narrative concerning those matters which have been fulfilled among us, **read ›**

104 **Luke 1:2** even as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word delivered them to us, **read ›**

105 **Luke 1:3** it seemed good to me also, having followed all things carefully from the beginning, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, **read ›**

106 **Luke 1:4** so that you may know the certainty of the things you were taught. **read ›**

107 **Luke 1:8** While he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, **read ›**

108 **Luke 8:1** Soon afterward he went through cities and villages, proclaiming and preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, **read ›**

109 **John 13:23** One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining close to Jesus' chest. **read ›**

110 **John 19:26** Therefore when Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing there, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" **read ›**

111 **John 21:7** That disciple therefore whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he wrapped his coat around himself (for he was naked), and threw himself into the sea. **read ›**

112 **John 21:20** Then Peter, turning around, saw a disciple following. This was the disciple whom Jesus loved, the one who had also leaned on Jesus' chest at the supper and asked, "Lord, who is going to betray you?" **read ›**

113 **John 21:23** This saying therefore went out among the brothers that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I desire that he stay until I come, what is that to you?" **read ›**

114 **John 21:24** This is the disciple who testifies about these things, and wrote these things. We know that his witness is true. **read ›**

115 **Acts 1:1** The first account I wrote, Theophilus, concerned all that Jesus began both to do and to teach, **read ›**

116 **Acts 8:1** Saul consented to his killing. That day a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria. **read ›**

117 **Acts 8:23** For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the bond of unrighteousness." **read ›**

118 **3 John 1:1** The elder, to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *72 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 1:5

Psalms 24:7 · 46:10

Proverbs 1:11

Ecclesiastes 5:2

Song of Solomon 3:6

Isaiah 65:5

Jeremiah 23:20 · 23:30

Daniel 1:1 · 3:26 · 7:1 · 10:16 · 10:18 · 12:3

Matthew 1:18 · 3:13 · 3:15 · 3:16 · 5:10 · 5:13 · 5:18 · 5:42 · 6:1 · 10:23 · 10:29 · 13:8 · 16:23 · 17:1 · 22:10

Mark 2:17 · 9:2 · 14:62

Luke 1:35 · 17:19 · 19:12

John 1:1 · 1:14 · 1:29 · 2:1 · 2:4 · 3:6 · 4:16 · 4:24 · 14:2 · 18:28 · 19:13 · 19:31 · 20:30 · 21:22

Acts 10:37

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Romans 1:3 · 2:16
1 Corinthians 2:9 · 2:12 · 5:7 · 11:3 · 15:20
2 Corinthians 5:19 · 8:9
Galatians 2:2 · 3:8
Philippians 3:10
Colossians 1:18
2 Thessalonians 2:1
2 Timothy 2:8
Hebrews 9:27
1 John 1:1 · 5:7
Revelation 1:9 · 11:3 · 22:7

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

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What Gospel was written first, according to the early church?” on May 18, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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 above, 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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THE END OF THIS STUDY