THE QUESTION

What is two-kingdom theology, and did the early Christians teach it?

Asked by a THF member on May 19, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 12 numbered quotations · the 26 early Christian passages and 202 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-is-two-kingdom-theology-and-did-the-early-christians-teach-it

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

The early writers here do not use the later label, but they do draw a clear line between two realms. Christians pay taxes and honor rulers, yet they worship God alone and seek a heavenly kingdom. Their obedience to rulers has limits: it stops where it would harm their faithfulness to God.

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 6

Christians seek God's kingdom, not a human one

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

Justin tells the emperor that when Christians speak of a kingdom, they do not mean a political one. Cyprian says the same while explaining the Lord's Prayer: there is an earthly kingdom, but believers pray for and seek the heavenly one.

1 “When you hear that we seek a kingdom, you assume, without asking, that we mean a human kingdom; however, we speak of the one that is with God, as shown by the faith confessed by those accused of being Christians, even though they know death is the punishment for confessing.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 9, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2 “But we do well in seeking the kingdom of God, that is, the heavenly kingdom, because there is also an earthly kingdom.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 22, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 6

Rulers get taxes and service; God gets worship

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

Justin points to Jesus' answer about the coin as the reason Christians pay their taxes so readily. He draws the line plainly: worship belongs to God alone, while in other matters Christians gladly serve the rulers. Clement lists the same saying as Christ's teaching about civil government.

3 “Thus, we worship God alone, but in other matters, we gladly serve you, acknowledging you as kings and rulers of men, and praying that with your kingly power, you may also be found to possess sound judgment.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 8, page 6** Read it in the library ›
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4 “And about civil government: Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar, and to God the things that belong to God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Instructor* 3.12 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 13, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 6

The coin is Caesar's, but people are God's

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

Tertullian reads the coin saying closely. The coin carries Caesar's image, so it goes to Caesar. A human being carries God's image, so the whole person belongs to God. He warns that if everything belonged to Caesar, nothing would be left for God.

5 “That is, give to Caesar the image of Caesar, which is on the coin, and give to God the image of God, which is on man. So give money to Caesar, but give yourself to God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Idolatry* 15 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 16, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

6 “What are the things that are God's? They are things like Caesar's denarius, that is, bearing His image and likeness.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Against Marcion* 38 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 17, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 6

Obedience to rulers has a limit

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

Polycarp says Christians are taught to honor the authorities God has set up, but only in ways that do no harm to their souls. The Apostolic Constitutions say the same thing in another way: be subject to rulers in matters that please God, and pay what is due to them.

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7 “But Polycarp said, "To you I have thought it right to offer an account [of my faith]; for we are taught to give all due honor (which entails no injury upon ourselves) to the powers and authorities which are ordained of God. But as for these, I do not consider them worthy of receiving any account from me."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Polycarp,** *Martyrdom of Polycarp* (c. 100–155 AD) **Source 7, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

8 “Be subject to all royal authority and rule in matters that are pleasing to God, as to ministers of God and punishers of the ungodly.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 25, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 6

Martyrs kept the line under pressure

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

When told to swear by Caesar's fortune, Polycarp refused and simply confessed that he was a Christian. One of the Scillitan martyrs put the balance in one short line: Caesar gets honor, but God gets fear. Neither one rejected the ruler's place, but neither gave him what belongs to God.

9 “And when the proconsul again pressed him and said, "Swear by the fortune of Cæsar," he answered, "Since you are vainly urging that, as you say, I should swear by the fortune of Cæsar, and pretend not to know who and what I am, hear me declare boldly, I am a Christian. And if you wish to learn what the doctrines of Christianity are, appoint me a day, and you shall hear them."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Polycarp,** *Martyrdom of Polycarp* (c. 100–155 AD) **Source 7, page 6** Read it in the library ›
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10 “Honor to Caesar as Caesar, but fear to God."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Anonymous,** *Passion of the Scillitan Martyrs* 1 **Source 26, page 7** Read it in the library ›
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POINT 6 OF 6

Believers live as citizens of another city

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

Hermas compares Christians to people living in a foreign land, whose true city is far away. Tertullian tells believers that their real rank and office belong to Christ, because their names are written in the book of life. Both picture the Christian as a resident here whose home and loyalty are elsewhere.

11 “You know that you who are servants of God live in a foreign land, because your city is far away from this one.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 2, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

12 “But your ranks, your offices, and your very place of meeting, the church, are Christ's. You belong to Him, for you have been enrolled in the books of life”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *De Corona* 13 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 15, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not use the label "two kingdoms" or lay out a full system of church and state.
- They do not settle whether Christians may hold public office or how far the church should take part in politics.
- 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 26 early Christian passages and 202 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–26, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 27–173, in Bible order), then 55 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).

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"… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *26 passages from 13 writers*

Mathetes, *c. 80–200 AD · source 1*

1 *Epistle to Diognetus* (1885 English; on point 6) "are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · source 2*

2 *Shepherd* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** says to me, You know that you who are the servants of God dwell in a strange land; for your city is far away from this one… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 3–5*

3 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (1885 English) "presbyters, and deacons, and the rest of the clergy, together with all the people, and the soldiers, and the governors, and Cæsar [himself], to the bishop… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Epistles of Ignatius* (1885 English; on point 4) "subject to Cæsar in everything in which subjection implies no [spiritual] danger… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Epistle to the Smyrnaeans* (1885 English) "if he that rises up against kings is justly held worthy of punishment, inasmuch as he dissolves public order, of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · sources 6–7*

6 *Epistle to the Philippians* (on point 2) for all the saints. Pray also for kings… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Martyrdom of Polycarp* (1885 English) **Quotes 7, 9, page 4** "we are taught to give all due honour (which entails no injury upon ourselves) to the powers and authorities which are ordained of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 8–9*

8 *First Apology* **Quote 3, page 2** "been taught by Him. For at that time, some approached Him and asked if one ought to pay taxes to Caesar. He replied, "Tell Me, whose image is on the… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *First Apology* (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** "when you hear that we look for a kingdom, you suppose, without making any inquiry, that we speak of a human kingdom… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 10–11*

10 *Diatessaron* 34 (on point 2) "any man. Matthew 22:17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful for us to pay the tribute to Caesar, or not? Shall we give it, or shall… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Diatessaron* 10 (1885 English; on point 1) "6:33 Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 12*

12 *Against Heresies: Book V* (1885 English) "whatsoever they do to the subversion of justice, iniquitously, and impiously, and illegally, and tyrannically, in these things shall they also perish… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · source 13*

13 *Instructor* 3.12 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** "of civil government: Render to Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 14–18*

14 *De Fuga in Persecutione* 12 (on point 3) blood, not the money, of Christians, how can it be pointed out to me that there is the command, "Render to Caesar the things which are Caesar's"? A soldier… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *De Corona* 13 **Quote 12, page 5** "citizenship, the apostle says, is in heaven… [continues online] **read ›**

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16 *On Idolatry* 15 **Quote 5, page 3** "be shown to Him, and asked whose image was on it. When He heard that it was Caesar's, He said, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Against Marcion* 38 **Quote 6, page 3** "will I tell you by what authority I do these things." Luke 20:8 So He returned evil for evil! "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *De Corona* 12 (on point 3) Matthew 6:24, mean that you should devote your energies to mammon, and depart from God? Will "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 19–21*

19 *Against Celsus* 30 (1885 English) "so, too, you must compare the ruler of the Church in each city with the ruler of the people of the city, in order to observe that even among those… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Against Celsus* 11 (on point 1) "we desire not only to understand the nature of that divine kingdom of which we are continually speaking and writing, but also ourselves to… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Commentary on Matthew* 13 (on point 3) a fisher of men, and in that net was what is figuratively called a fish, so that the coin with Caesar's image might also be taken from it, and… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · source 22*

22 *Treatises* **Quote 2, page 2** "we do well in seeking the kingdom of God, that is, the heavenly kingdom, because there is also an earthly kingdom… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 23–25*

23 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 2) us pray for kings and those in authority, that they may be… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 2) "the things of Cæsar belong to Cæsar, and the things of God to God… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 8, page 4** Be subject to all royal authority and rule in matters that are pleasing to God, as to ministers of God and punishers of the ungodly. Give them all the fear… [continues online] **read ›**

Anonymous · *source 26*

26 *Passion of the Scillitan Martyrs* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 10, page 4** "said: Honour to Cæsar as Cæsar: but fear to God. Romans 13:7… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *147 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

27 **Genesis 1:26** Then God said, "Let us make man according to our image and according to likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the earth, and all the creeping things that creep on the earth." **read ›**

28 **Genesis 1:27** So God made man; according to the image of God he made him; male and female he made them. **read ›**

29 **Genesis 23:4** "I am a temporary resident and a stranger among you. So give me possession of a burial place among you, and I will bury my dead out of my presence." **read ›**

30 **Leviticus 10:10** to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean, **read ›**

31 **Leviticus 19:19** You shall keep my law. You shall not breed your cattle with another kind; you shall not sow your vineyard with a different kind of seed; and you shall not put on yourself a mixed garment woven of two kinds. **read ›**

32 **Leviticus 19:34** The resident foreigner who comes to you shall be among you as the native, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were resident foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God. **read ›**

33 **Leviticus 24:12** They put him in custody, to have his case decided by the command of the Lord. **read ›**

34 **Numbers 15:15** There shall be one law for you and for the resident foreigners who are joined to you, a perpetual law throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the resident foreigner be before the Lord. **read ›**

35 **Numbers 24:7** A man shall come out of his seed, and he shall rule over many nations; and the kingdom of Gog shall be exalted, and his kingdom shall be increased. **read ›**

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36 **Deuteronomy 6:13** You shall fear the Lord your God, and him only you shall serve; to him you shall cling, and by his name you shall swear. **read ›**

37 **Deuteronomy 10:19** So you shall love the resident foreigner; for you were resident foreigners in the land of Egypt. **read ›**

38 **Deuteronomy 16:18** You shall appoint for yourself judges and officers in your cities that the Lord your God is giving you, tribe by tribe, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. **read ›**

39 **1 Samuel 15:29** Israel shall be divided in two; and he will not turn back nor relent, for he is not like a man, that he should relent." **read ›**

40 **1 Kings 8:41** And as for the foreigner who is not of your people, he too, **read ›**

41 **1 Kings 11:35** And I will take the kingdom out of the hand of his son and give you the ten tribes. **read ›**

42 **2 Kings 11:7** And two divisions among you, all who go out on the Sabbath, shall keep the watch of the house of the Lord for the king. **read ›**

43 **2 Kings 19:15** and he said, "O Lord God of Israel, who sits upon the cherubim, you are God alone in all the kingdoms of the earth; you made heaven and earth. **read ›**

44 **1 Chronicles 29:15** For we are temporary residents before you, and live as foreigners, as all our fathers did; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. **read ›**

45 **2 Chronicles 6:32** And every foreigner who is not himself of your people Israel, and comes from a distant land because of your great name, your mighty hand, and your high arm, and they come and pray toward this place, **read ›**

46 **Ezra 4:3** But Zerubbabel and Jesus and the rest of the heads of families of Israel said to them, "It is not for us and you to build a house to our God; for we ourselves together will build for the Lord our God, as Cyrus king of the Persians commanded us." **read ›**

47 **Ezra 8:24** Then I set apart twelve of the rulers of the priests, Seraiah and Hashabiah, and ten of their brothers with them. **read ›**

48 **Ezra 9:13** And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great trespass—for there is none like our God, for you have lightened our acts of lawlessness and given us salvation— **read ›**

49 **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 ›**

50 **Nehemiah 10:14** The rulers of the people: Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu; (Septuagint 2 Esdras 20:15 (Nehemiah 10:14 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

51 **Esther 8:11** in which he commanded them to use their own laws in every city, and to come to their own aid, and to deal with their opponents and those who attacked them as they wished, **read ›**

52 **Esther 10:1** And the king wrote to the kingdom of both land and sea. **read ›**

53 **Proverbs 4:22** For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all flesh. **read ›**

54 **Proverbs 10:8** The wise in heart will receive commandments, but he who is unguarded and crooked in his lips will be tripped up. **read ›**

55 **Proverbs 10:32** The lips of righteous men drip graces, but the mouth of the ungodly is turned away. **read ›**

56 **Ecclesiastes 2:18** And I hated all my labor at which I toil under the sun, because I leave it to the man who comes after me. **read ›**

57 **Ecclesiastes 7:16** Do not be very righteous, and do not be overly wise, lest you be astonished. **read ›**

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

59 **Song of Solomon 6:3** I am my kinsman's, and my kinsman is mine; he shepherds among the lilies. **read ›**

60 **Song of Solomon 7:12** Let us rise early to the vineyards; let us see whether the vine has flowered, whether the blossom has opened, whether the pomegranates have flowered. There I will give you my breasts. (Septuagint Song of Solomon 7:13 (Song of Solomon 7:12 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

61 **Isaiah 4:6** And it shall be for a shade from the heat, and for a shelter and a hiding place from harsh weather and from rain. **read ›**

62 **Isaiah 6:4** And the beam above the door was lifted up at the voice with which they cried, and the house was filled with smoke. **read ›**

63 **Isaiah 8:5** And the Lord spoke to me yet again: **read ›**

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64 **Isaiah 8:6** “Because this people does not desire the water of Siloam that flows gently, but desires to have Rezin and the son of Remaliah as king over you, **read ›**

65 **Isaiah 8:21** And a hard famine shall come upon you, and it shall be that when you are hungry you shall be grieved, and you shall speak evil of the ruler and of the ways of your fathers; and they shall look up to heaven above, **read ›**

66 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

67 **Jeremiah 44:7** And now thus said the Lord Almighty: Why are you doing great evils against your own souls, to cut off from you man and woman, infant and nursing child, from the midst of Judah, so that none of you is left, (Septuagint Jeremiah 51:7 (Jeremiah 44:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

68 **Jeremiah 46:9** Mount the horses, make ready the chariots; go out, you warriors of the Ethiopians, and you Libyans armed with weapons; and go up, you Lydians, bend the bow. (Septuagint Jeremiah 26:9 (Jeremiah 46:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

69 **Ezekiel 37:22** and I will make them a nation in my land and on the mountains of Israel; and one ruler shall be theirs, and they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever again be divided into two kingdoms, **read ›**

70 **Daniel 2:41** And since you saw the feet and the toes, partly of clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, and some of the root of iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with the clay. **read ›**

71 **Daniel 2:44** And in the days of those kings the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, and his kingdom shall not be left to another people. It shall crush and winnow all the kingdoms, and it shall stand forever, **read ›**

72 **Daniel 7:14** And to him was given the dominion and the honor and the kingdom, and all the peoples, tribes, and tongues shall serve him; his authority is an everlasting authority, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom shall not be destroyed. **read ›**

73 **Daniel 7:27** And the kingdom and the authority and the majesty of the kings under the whole heaven were given to the saints of the Most High; and his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions will serve and obey him.” **read ›**

74 **Hosea 5:8** Blow the trumpet on the hills, sound aloud on the heights, proclaim in the house of On: Benjamin is amazed. **read ›**

75 **Amos 6:4** who sleep on beds of ivory, and live in luxury on their couches, and eat young goats from the flocks and calves still nursing from the midst of the herds, **read ›**

76 **1 Esdras 3:19** it makes the mind of the king and of the orphan one mind, of the household slave and of the free man, of the poor and of the rich; **read ›**

77 **1 Esdras 4:3** But the king is stronger still; he is lord over them and master over them, and whatever he tells them, they obey. **read ›**

78 **1 Esdras 5:40** And Nehemiah and Attharias told them not to share in the holy things until a high priest should arise clothed with the Manifestation and the Truth. **read ›**

79 **1 Esdras 8:24** And all who transgress the law of your God and the king’s law shall be diligently punished, whether by death or by other punishment, or by a fine of money, or by imprisonment.” **read ›**

80 **1 Esdras 8:94** as has been decided by you and by all who obey the law of the Lord. **read ›**

81 **1 Esdras 9:13** with the elders and the judges of each place, until we turn away the wrath of the Lord from us over this matter.” **read ›**

82 **Wisdom of Solomon 6:4** Because, though you were servants of his kingdom, you did not judge rightly, nor keep the law, nor walk according to the purpose of God, **read ›**

83 **Wisdom of Solomon 10:2** and gave him strength to rule over all things. **read ›**

84 **Wisdom of Solomon 12:7** so that the land most precious to you of all might receive a worthy colony of God’s servants. **read ›**

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

86 **Wisdom of Solomon 14:16** Then, strengthened in time, the ungodly custom was kept as a law, and by the commands of tyrants carved images were worshiped. **read ›**

87 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:2** As the judge of his people is, so are his officials, and as the leader of the city is, so are all who live in it. **read ›**

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88 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:8** Kingship passes from nation to nation because of unrighteousness and arrogance and money. **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:4** He put the fear of man upon all flesh, and gave him dominion over beasts and birds. **read ›**

90 **Wisdom of Sirach 47:21** so that the sovereignty was divided in two, and out of Ephraim a disobedient kingdom ruled. **read ›**

91 **Wisdom of Sirach 50:25** With two nations my soul is disgusted, and the third is no nation: **read ›**

92 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:5** Take care, then, that you also do not become like the foreigners, and that fear of them does not take hold of you when you see the crowd before them and behind them worshiping them. **read ›**

93 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:51** it will be plain to all the nations and the kings that they are not gods, but works of men's hands, and that there is no work of God in them. **read ›**

94 **1 Maccabees 1:38** Because of them the inhabitants of Jerusalem fled, and it became a dwelling of foreigners; she became foreign to her own offspring, and her children forsook her. **read ›**

95 **1 Maccabees 4:22** they all fled into the land of the foreigners. **read ›**

96 **1 Maccabees 10:8** And they feared with a great fear when they heard that the king had given him authority to gather forces. **read ›**

97 **1 Maccabees 10:32** I also give up my authority over the citadel in Jerusalem and give it to the high priest, so that he may station in it men of his own choosing to guard it. **read ›**

98 **1 Maccabees 10:35** And no one shall have authority to exact anything from any of them or to trouble them about any matter. **read ›**

99 **1 Maccabees 14:43** and that he should take charge of the sanctuary, and that he should be obeyed by all, and that all contracts in the country should be written in his name, and that he should be clothed in purple and wear gold. **read ›**

100 **1 Maccabees 14:44** None of the people or the priests shall be permitted to set aside any of these things, or to oppose what he says, or to convene a gathering in the country without him, or to be clothed in purple or wear a gold clasp. **read ›**

101 **1 Maccabees 15:34** Now that we have the opportunity, we are holding firmly to the inheritance of our fathers. **read ›**

102 **2 Maccabees 2:18** as he promised through the Law. For we hope in God that he will soon have mercy on us and gather us from everywhere under heaven into the holy place, for he has rescued us from great evils and has purified the place. **read ›**

103 **2 Maccabees 7:16** But he looked at the king and said, "Because you have authority among men, though you are mortal, you do what you please. But do not think that our race has been forsaken by God. **read ›**

104 **2 Maccabees 11:23** Now that our father has passed on to the gods, we wish the subjects of the kingdom to be free from disturbance and to attend to their own affairs. **read ›**

105 **3 Maccabees 1:27** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

106 **3 Maccabees 3:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

107 **3 Maccabees 6:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

108 **3 Maccabees 7:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

109 **4 Maccabees 4:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

110 **4 Maccabees 4:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

111 **4 Maccabees 6:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

112 **4 Maccabees 8:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

113 **4 Maccabees 8:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

114 **4 Maccabees 8:21** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

115 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

116 **1 Enoch 15:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

117 **1 Enoch 41:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

118 **1 Enoch 41:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

119 **1 Enoch 46:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

120 **1 Enoch 57:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

121 **1 Enoch 84:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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122 **Matthew 3:2** and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” **read ›**

123 **Matthew 6:10** Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. **read ›**

124 **Matthew 18:23** Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his slaves. **read ›**

125 **Matthew 22:2** “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king, who made a wedding feast for his son, **read ›**

126 **Matthew 22:17** Tell us therefore, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” **read ›**

127 **Matthew 22:21** They said to him, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” **read ›**

128 **Matthew 25:14** “For it is like a man going into another country, who called his own slaves and entrusted his goods to them. **read ›**

129 **Mark 3:24** If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. **read ›**

130 **Mark 12:16** They brought it. He said to them, “Whose is this image and inscription?” They said to him, “Caesar’s.” **read ›**

131 **Mark 12:17** Jesus answered them, “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” They marveled greatly at him. **read ›**

132 **Luke 6:13** When it was day, he called his disciples, and from them he chose twelve, whom he also named apostles: **read ›**

133 **Luke 12:58** For when you are going with your adversary before the magistrate, try diligently on the way to be released from him, lest perhaps he drag you to the judge, and the judge deliver you to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. **read ›**

134 **Luke 16:16** The law and the prophets were until John. From that time the gospel of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. **read ›**

135 **Luke 17:20** Being asked by the Pharisees when God’s kingdom would come, he answered them, “God’s kingdom does not come with observation; **read ›**

136 **Luke 17:21** neither will they say, ‘Look, here!’ or, ‘Look, there!’ for behold, God’s kingdom is within you.” **read ›**

137 **Luke 20:22** Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” **read ›**

138 **Luke 20:24** Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription are on it?” They answered, “Caesar’s.” **read ›**

139 **Luke 20:25** He said to them, “Then give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” **read ›**

140 **John 3:15** that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. **read ›**

141 **John 18:36** Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, then my servants would fight, that I would not be delivered to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.” **read ›**

142 **Acts 3:2** A man lame from his mother’s womb was being carried. They laid him daily at the temple gate called Beautiful to ask alms from those entering the temple. **read ›**

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

144 **Acts 19:39** But if you seek anything about other matters, it will be settled in the regular assembly. **read ›**

145 **Acts 24:21** unless it is for this one thing that I cried standing among them, ‘Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you today!’” **read ›**

146 **Romans 13:1** Let every soul be in subjection to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those who exist are ordained by God. **read ›**

147 **Romans 13:2** Therefore he who resists the authority withstands the ordinance of God; and those who withstand will themselves receive judgment. **read ›**

148 **Romans 13:3** For rulers are not a terror to good works but to evil works. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do good, and you will have praise from it, **read ›**

149 **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 ›**

150 **Romans 13:7** Therefore give everyone what you owe: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if customs, then customs; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. **read ›**

151 **Romans 14:17** for God’s kingdom is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

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152 **1 Corinthians 4:20** For the kingdom of God is not in speech, but in power. **read ›**

153 **1 Corinthians 6:4** So if you have cases concerning the matters of this life, appoint those who are of least account in the church. **read ›**

154 **Galatians 1:5** to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. **read ›**

155 **Ephesians 2:19** So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God, **read ›**

156 **Philippians 2:15** so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, **read ›**

157 **Philippians 3:20** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, **read ›**

158 **Philippians 4:3** Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who labored with me in the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. **read ›**

159 **Philippians 4:17** Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your account. **read ›**

160 **Philippians 4:22** All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. **read ›**

161 **1 Timothy 2:2** for kings and all who are in high places, that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and reverence. **read ›**

162 **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 ›**

163 **Titus 3:1** Remind them to be in subjection to rulers and to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, **read ›**

164 **Hebrews 11:9** By faithfulness he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a land not his own, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise. **read ›**

165 **Hebrews 11:13** These all died in faithfulness, not having received the promises, but having seen them and embraced them from afar, and having confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. **read ›**

166 **Hebrews 11:14** For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. **read ›**

167 **Hebrews 11:16** But now they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed of them, to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. **read ›**

168 **Hebrews 13:14** For we do not have here an enduring city, but we seek that which is to come. **read ›**

169 **1 Peter 2:11** Beloved, I beg you as foreigners and pilgrims to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. **read ›**

170 **1 Peter 2:13** Therefore subject yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether to the king, as supreme, **read ›**

171 **1 Peter 2:14** or to governors, as sent by him for vengeance on evildoers and for praise to those who do well. **read ›**

172 **Revelation 1:6** and he made us to be a kingdom, priests to his God and Father—to him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. **read ›**

173 **Revelation 11:15** The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and great voices in heaven followed, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. He will reign forever and ever!" **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *55 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.

Leviticus 25:23

Psalms 4:4

Daniel 3:16

Matthew 4:10 · 5:3 · 5:14 · 5:16 · 5:44 · 6:19 · 6:20 · 17:27 · 19:21 · 21:9

Mark 12:14

Luke 2:14 · 12:48 · 18:38 · 19:15 · 20:4 · 20:5 · 20:6 · 20:8 · 20:20 · 20:27 · 20:33 · 20:34 · 20:35 · 20:39 · 20:41

Acts 4:34 · 8:20 · 24:26

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Romans 8:32 · 13:8
1 Corinthians 11:7
2 Corinthians 4:8 · 4:12 · 6:9 · 6:10 · 7:1 · 10:3
Galatians 1:1 · 3:13
Ephesians 2:4 · 4:3 · 4:26 · 5:3
Philippians 2:7 · 3:14
2 Thessalonians 3:10
1 Timothy 5:6 · 6:1
Titus 2:5
Hebrews 13:20
James 1:27

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

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What is two-kingdom theology, and did the early Christians teach it?” on May 19, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY