THE QUESTION

What order of authority did the early church see from God and Christ down to the church?

Asked by a THF member on October 25, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 11 numbered quotations · the 38 early Christian passages and 250 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-order-of-authority-did-the-early-church-see-from-god-and-christ-down

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

The early writers saw an ordered chain: God sent Christ, Christ sent the apostles, and the apostles appointed bishops and deacons. Christ is head of the Church. Each rank was to keep its own place, and true teaching was to be learned from those who carried on the apostles' teaching and lived blamelessly.

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

God sent Christ, and Christ sent the apostles

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

Clement of Rome lays out the chain plainly. The gospel came from God through Christ to the apostles, all in good order by God's will. The apostles then tested and appointed bishops and deacons for those who would believe later.

1

"Christ was therefore sent forth by God, and the apostles by Christ. Both these appointments were made in an orderly way, according to the will of God."

later in the same passage

"Thus, preaching through countries and cities, they appointed the first-fruits of their labors, having first proved them by the Spirit, to be bishops and deacons of those who would later believe."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 37, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Christ is the head of the Church

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

Irenaeus says the Father is head of Christ, and the Word is head of the Church, while the Spirit lives in all believers. Tertullian, explaining Paul's words that Christ is the head of every man, says that head here means authority.

2

"The Father is truly above all and is the Head of Christ; the Word works through all things and is Himself the Head of the Church, while the Spirit dwells in us all."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book V* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 16, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

3

"Here he has used "head" to mean authority. Now authority belongs to no one except the author."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Against Marcion* 8 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 19, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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POINT 3 OF 7

Bishop, presbyters, deacons, then the people

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

Ignatius gives a simple order for the local church. Presbyters are under the bishop, deacons under the presbyters, and the people under both. He prays the Lord will be with those who keep this good order.

4 “Presbyters, be subject to the bishop; deacons, to the presbyters; and you, the people, to the presbyters and the deacons.”

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

5 “Let the deacons understand the dignity of their position and strive to be blameless so they may follow Christ. Let the people be subject to the presbyters and the deacons.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistles of Ignatius* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 8, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Each one should keep his own rank

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

The Apostolic Constitutions warn against taking an office God has not given. They point to how even the sun, moon and seasons keep their set bounds. Cyprian likewise reminds deacons that the apostles appointed them to serve the bishops and the Church.

6 “Now this is what we all together charge you: let each one remain in the rank appointed to him, and do not go beyond his proper bounds. For these are not ours, but God's.”

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

7 “But deacons ought to remember that the Lord chose apostles, that is, bishops and overseers, while the apostles, after the Lord's ascension into heaven, appointed deacons for themselves as servants of their episcopacy and of the Church.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 27, page 7** Read it in the library ›
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POINT 5 OF 7

Leaders had to be worthy and blameless

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

The Didache tells churches to choose bishops and deacons who are gentle, honest, not greedy, and tested. Polycarp gives the same kind of list for deacons and calls them servants of God and Christ, not of men.

8 “Therefore, appoint for yourselves bishops and deacons who are worthy of the Lord: men who are gentle, not lovers of money, truthful, and proven.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 15 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

9 “Similarly, the deacons should be blameless before His righteousness, as they are the servants of God and Christ, not of men.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Polycarp,** *Epistle to the Philippians* (c. 100–155 AD) **Source 10, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Learn the truth from faithful apostolic successors

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

On the proper way to teach, Irenaeus says to learn from those who carry on the apostles' line in the Church. But he adds that they must also live soundly and speak pure doctrine, and explain Scripture without twisting it.

10 “Therefore, where the gifts of the Lord have been placed, we must learn the truth from those who possess the succession of the Church from the apostles, and among whom is found conduct that is sound and blameless, as well as speech that is unadulterated and incorrupt.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 12, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 7 OF 7

Leaders in harmony fit God's building

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

In Hermas, the well-fitted stones of the tower picture apostles, bishops, teachers and deacons. They fit because they served purely and lived at peace, agreeing with and listening to one another.

11 “They have always agreed with one another, have been at peace among themselves, and have listened to one another. Because of this, they fit exactly into the building of the tower.'”

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

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

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages describe the order of ministry but do not settle every question about how far a bishop's authority reaches.
- They do not spell out what a church should do if its own leaders begin to teach falsely.
- 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 38 early Christian passages and 250 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–38, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 39–150, in Bible order), then 138 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 *38 passages from 12 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 15 (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** "appoint for yourselves bishops and deacons worthy of the Lord, men meek, and not lovers of money, 1 Timothy 3:4 and truthful and proven… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 2–3*

2 *Shepherd* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** "square white stones which fitted exactly into each other, are apostles, bishops, teachers, and deacons, who have lived in godly purity, and have acted as bishops and teachers and deacons… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 1) is the Lord of the people, having received all authority from His Father… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 4–9*

4 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (on point 3) free." Let governors be obedient to Caesar; soldiers to those that command them; deacons to the presbyters, as to high priests; the presbyters, deacons, and the rest of the clergy… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Epistle to the Trallians* (on point 3) blessed apostles. He who is within the altar is pure; therefore, he is obedient to the bishop and presbyters. But he who is outside does anything apart from the bishop… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Epistles of Ignatius* **Quote 4, page 3** "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." Presbyters, be subject to the bishop; deacons, to the presbyters; and you… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Epistle to the Smyrnaeans* (on point 3) "deacons to the presbyters; the presbyters to the bishop… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Epistles of Ignatius* **Quote 5, page 3** presbyters, "feed the flock which is among you," until God reveals who is to lead you. For "I am now ready to be offered," that I "may win Christ." Let… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (1885 English; on point 3) by a unanimous obedience "ye may be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment, and may all speak the same thing concerning the same thing… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · source 10*

10 *Epistle to the Philippians* **Quote 9, page 4** "not of men. They must not be slanderers, double-tongued… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 11–16*

11 *Against Heresies: Book III* (on point 6) blessed apostles, having established and built up the Church, entrusted the role of the episcopate to Linus. Paul mentions Linus in the Epistles to Timothy. Anacletus succeeded him, and after… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English) **Quote 10, page 4** "Such presbyters does the Church nourish, of whom also the prophet says: "I will give thy rulers in peace, and thy bishops in righteousness." Of whom also did the Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English; on point 6) "it is a matter of necessity that every Church should agree with this Church, on account of its pre-eminent authority, that is, the faithful everywhere, inasmuch as the apostolical… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Against Heresies: Book III* (on point 6) defeated by their own arguments. On the other hand, it has been shown that the preaching of the Church remains consistent everywhere, stays steady, and is supported by the prophets… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Against Heresies: Book V* (on point 6) heretics came much later than the bishops to whom the apostles entrusted the Churches, a point I've thoroughly demonstrated in the third book. Therefore, it's only natural that… [continues online] **read ›**

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16 *Against Heresies: Book V* (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** “thus one God the Father is declared, who is above all, and through all, and in all… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 17–18*

17 *Stromata* 6.13 (on point 3) equally from Jews and Greeks. Since, according to my opinion, the grades here in the Church, of bishops, presbyters, and deacons, are imitations of the angelic glory, and of that… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Stromata* 6.15 (on point 6) who understand," Proverbs 8:9. That is, before those who receive and observe, according to the ecclesiastical rule, the explanation of the Scriptures as explained by Him. And the ecclesiastical… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 19–21*

19 *Against Marcion* 8 **Quote 3, page 2** “head of every man is Christ." 1 Corinthians 11:3 What Christ, if He is not the author of man… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *On Exhortation to Chastity* 7 (1885 English; on point 3) “is the authority of the Church, and the honour which has acquired sanctity through the joint session of the Order, which has established the difference between the Order and the… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Against Praxeas* 14 (on point 2) “the head of Christ is God," 1 Corinthians 11:3… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 22–25*

22 *Commentary on Matthew* 14 (on point 5) clearly explain a question that is hard to grasp and examine, concerning the Apostle's rule for church matters. Paul does not want anyone in the church who has risen… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Against Celsus* 79 (on point 2) “since Christ is the Head of the Church, so that Christ and the Church form one body, the… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 6 (on point 2) “it is written, "The head of Christ is God… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Commentary on Matthew* 12 the Holy Spirit," John 20:22, and so on. Many, then, will say to the Savior, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." But not all who… [continues online] **read ›**

Dionysius of Alexandria, *c. 232–265 AD · source 26*

26 *Exegetical Fragments* 2 (on point 2) “Christ is the head of the Church… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 27–28*

27 *Epistles* **Quote 7, page 3** “But deacons ought to remember that the Lord chose apostles, that is, bishops and overseers… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 6) “if, laying aside the errors of human dispute, we return with a sincere and religious faith to the evangelical authority and to the apostolic tradition, we shall perceive that they… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 29–36*

29 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 6, page 3** “among us, you yourselves are not ignorant of them. For you certainly know that those named by us bishops, and presbyters, and deacons, were made so by prayer and by… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 3) fellow workers of Paul, received and left to you. While the Gospel is being read, let all the presbyters and deacons, and all the people, stand up in great silence… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) named and approved, let the people gather on the Lord's Day, together with the presbytery and the bishops who are present, and let them give their consent. And let… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 2) “the head of Christ is God, even His Father… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 4) one consent teach those that are under you to be of the same sentiments and to be of the same opinions about the same matters, that there may be no… [continues online] **read ›**

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34 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 4) does not receive the blessing. He lays on hands, ordains, offers, and receives the blessing from bishops, but never from presbyters. A bishop removes from office any clergyman who deserves… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 4) of the clergy to baptize. For example, not readers, singers, doorkeepers, or ministers, but only bishops and presbyters. Even then, the deacons are to assist them in it. But those… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 5) a one a bishop ought to be, who has been the husband of one wife… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *sources 37–38*

37 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quote 1, page 2** they appointed the first-fruits of their labors, having first proved them by the Spirit, to be bishops and deacons of those who would later believe. Nor was this a… [continues online] **read ›**

38 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (on point 1) Our apostles also knew, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that there would be conflict regarding the office of the episcopate. For this reason, considering that they had obtained perfect foreknowledge… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *112 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

39 **Exodus 18:21** And you yourself select able men from all the people, God-fearing, righteous men who hate arrogance, and set them over the people as captains of thousands, captains of hundreds, captains of fifties, and captains of tens. **read ›**

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

41 **Numbers 1:16** These are those called from the congregation, leaders of the tribes by their families; they are commanders of thousands in Israel. **read ›**

42 **Numbers 27:16** “Let the Lord God of the spirits and of all flesh select a man over this congregation, **read ›**

43 **Numbers 27:17** who shall go out before them and who shall come in before them, who shall lead them out and who shall bring them in, so that the congregation of the Lord may not be like sheep that have no shepherd.” **read ›**

44 **Deuteronomy 1:15** So I took from you wise, knowledgeable, and understanding men, and I appointed them as leaders over you: commanders of thousands, commanders of hundreds, commanders of fifties, commanders of tens, and officers for your judges. **read ›**

45 **Deuteronomy 28:13** May the Lord your God make you the head and not the tail; and you shall then be above, and you shall not be below, if you listen to the voice of the Lord your God, to keep all that I command you today. **read ›**

46 **Deuteronomy 29:10** You are all standing today before the Lord your God: your chiefs of tribes, and your elders, and your judges, and your officers, every man of Israel, **read ›**

47 **1 Chronicles 9:13** and their brothers, heads of the houses of their families, one thousand seven hundred and sixty, mighty men of valor for the work of the service of the house of God. **read ›**

48 **2 Chronicles 19:11** And behold, Amariah the priest is leader over you in every matter of the Lord, and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael is the leader of the house of Judah in every matter of the king; and the scribes and the Levites are before you. Be strong and do it, and the Lord will be with the good.” **read ›**

49 **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 ›**

50 **2 Chronicles 34:13** And they were over the burden-bearers and over all who did the work in every kind of service; and of the Levites there were scribes, judges, and gatekeepers. **read ›**

51 **2 Chronicles 35:10** So the service was set in order, and the priests stood in their place and the Levites in their divisions, according to the commandment of the king. **read ›**

52 **Ezra 1:2** “Thus says Cyrus king of the Persians: The Lord God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he himself has charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judea. **read ›**

53 **Ezra 1:5** Then the heads of families of Judah and Benjamin rose up, and the priests and the Levites, all whose spirit God had stirred up to go up to build the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem. **read ›**

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

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55 **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 ›**

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

57 **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 ›**

58 **Esther 9:4** For the king’s command had gone out that he should be celebrated in all the kingdom. **read ›**

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

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

61 **Ecclesiastes 11:3** If the clouds are filled with rain, they pour it out on the earth; and if a tree falls in the south or in the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will be. **read ›**

62 **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 ›**

63 **Isaiah 2:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

64 **Isaiah 13:8** The elders will be troubled, and pains will seize them like a woman in labor; and they will lament one to another and be astonished, and they will change their faces like a flame. **read ›**

65 **Isaiah 14:3** And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will give you rest from your anguish and your anger, and from your hard slavery, in which you served them. **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 2:2** And he said: Thus says the Lord: I remember the mercy of your youth, and the love of your marriage, in following the Holy One of Israel, says the Lord. **read ›**

68 **Jeremiah 2:7** And I brought you into Carmel, to eat its fruits and its good things; and you went in and defiled my land, and made my inheritance an abomination. **read ›**

69 **Jeremiah 8:7** Even the stork in the heaven knows her season; the turtledove and the swallow of the field and the sparrows keep the times of their coming; but this my people does not know the judgments of the Lord. **read ›**

70 **Jeremiah 23:1** Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of their pasture! **read ›**

71 **Daniel 4:26** And as for what they said, ‘Leave the growth of the roots of the tree,’ your kingdom remains yours from the time that you know the heavenly authority. **read ›**

72 **Amos 6:3** You who are coming to the evil day, who draw near and lay hold of false Sabbaths, **read ›**

73 **Amos 9:2** If they hide themselves in Hades, from there my hand shall drag them up; and if they go up to heaven, from there I will bring them down. **read ›**

74 **1 Esdras 1:2** having set the priests in their robes by their daily courses in the temple of the Lord. **read ›**

75 **1 Esdras 1:5** according to the writing of David king of Israel and according to the magnificence of Solomon his son; and stand in the holy place according to the divisions of your fathers’ houses, you Levites, who are before your brothers the children of Israel, **read ›**

76 **1 Esdras 1:10** And when these things had been done, the priests and the Levites stood in good order, **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 5:60** and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, singing hymns to the Lord and blessing him according to David king of Israel. **read ›**

80 **1 Esdras 7:2** supervised the holy works very carefully, working together with the elders of the Jews and the temple officials. **read ›**

81 **1 Esdras 8:46** commanding them to speak to Loddaeus and his brothers and the treasurers at that place, to send us men to serve as priests in the house of our Lord. **read ›**

82 **1 Esdras 8:94** as has been decided by you and by all who obey the law of the Lord. **read ›**

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83 **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 ›**

84 **Wisdom of Solomon 6:3** For your dominion was given you by the Lord, and your sovereignty by the Most High, who will examine your works and search out your plans. **read ›**

85 **Wisdom of Solomon 9:2** and by your wisdom formed man, to have dominion over the creatures made by you, **read ›**

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

87 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:2** For the Lord has glorified the father over the children, and has established the judgment of the mother over the sons. **read ›**

88 **Wisdom of Sirach 4:7** Make yourself beloved in the congregation, and bow your head to a great man. **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:20** Among brothers their leader is honored, and those who fear the Lord in his eyes. **read ›**

90 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:2** The Lord alone will be justified. **read ›**

91 **Wisdom of Sirach 35:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

92 **Wisdom of Sirach 43:26** Because of him, success is its end, and by his word all things hold together. **read ›**

93 **Baruch 1:16** and to our kings and to our rulers and to our priests and to our prophets and to our fathers, **read ›**

94 **Baruch 5:2** Put on the double cloak of the righteousness that comes from God; set on your head the miter of the glory of the Everlasting. **read ›**

95 **1 Maccabees 3:55** After this Judas appointed leaders of the people, commanders of thousands and of hundreds and of fifties and of tens. **read ›**

96 **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 ›**

97 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

98 **1 Maccabees 14:41** and that the Jews and the priests were well pleased that Simon should be their leader and high priest forever, until a faithful prophet should arise; **read ›**

99 **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 ›**

100 **2 Maccabees 14:36** So now, O holy Lord of all holiness, keep undefiled forever this house that has so recently been purified." **read ›**

101 **3 Maccabees 7:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

102 **4 Maccabees 2:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

103 **4 Maccabees 14:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

104 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

105 **1 Enoch 2:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

106 **1 Enoch 9:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

107 **1 Enoch 82:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

108 **Matthew 7:29** for he taught them with authority, and not like the scribes. **read ›**

109 **Matthew 21:23** When he had come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority do you do these things? Who gave you this authority?" **read ›**

110 **Matthew 28:18** Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. **read ›**

111 **Mark 11:28** and said to him, "By what authority do you do these things? And who gave you this authority to do them?" **read ›**

112 **Luke 20:2** They said to him, "Tell us, by what authority do you do these things, or who gave you this authority?" **read ›**

113 **John 1:6** There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. **read ›**

114 **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 ›**

115 **Acts 6:3** Therefore, brothers, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this work. **read ›**

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

117 **Acts 14:23** They appointed elders for them in every church and, after prayer with fasting, commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. **read ›**

118 **Acts 15:22** Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas: Judas called Barsabbas and Silas, leading men among the brothers. **read ›**

119 **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 ›**

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

121 **1 Corinthians 1:10** Now I urge you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be joined together in the same mind and the same judgment. **read ›**

122 **1 Corinthians 1:16** I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. **read ›**

123 **1 Corinthians 5:2** And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, so that the one who did this deed might be removed from among you. **read ›**

124 **1 Corinthians 7:17** Only, as God has apportioned to each, as the Lord has called each, so let him walk. And so I direct in all the churches. **read ›**

125 **1 Corinthians 11:2** Now I praise you, brothers, that you remember me in all things, and hold firm the traditions, even as I delivered them to you. **read ›**

126 **1 Corinthians 11:3** But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. **read ›**

127 **1 Corinthians 11:10** For this reason the woman ought to have authority on her head, because of the angels. **read ›**

128 **1 Corinthians 11:16** But if anyone wishes to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God. **read ›**

129 **1 Corinthians 11:18** For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and I partly believe it. **read ›**

130 **1 Corinthians 11:34** But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you do not come together for judgment. I will put the rest in order when I come. **read ›**

131 **1 Corinthians 14:26** What then, brothers? When you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. **read ›**

132 **1 Corinthians 14:40** Let all things be done decently and in order. **read ›**

133 **1 Corinthians 15:23** But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then those who are Christ's at his coming. **read ›**

134 **Ephesians 1:22** And he subjected all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things for the church, **read ›**

135 **Ephesians 4:11** He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, shepherds and teachers; **read ›**

136 **Ephesians 5:23** For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, and he is the Savior of the body. **read ›**

137 **Philippians 1:1** Paul and Timothy, slaves of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: **read ›**

138 **Colossians 1:18** He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he might have the preeminence. **read ›**

139 **2 Thessalonians 3:6** Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to withdraw from every brother who walks in a disorderly way and not according to the tradition which they received from us. **read ›**

140 **2 Thessalonians 3:7** For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we did not behave in a disorderly way among you, **read ›**

141 **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 ›**

142 **1 Timothy 3:1** The saying is trustworthy: if anyone aspires to the office of bishop, he desires a good work. **read ›**

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143 **1 Timothy 3:2** The bishop therefore must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, orderly, hospitable, able to teach; **read ›**

144 **1 Timothy 3:4** one who rules his own house well, having children in subjection with all reverence; **read ›**

145 **1 Timothy 3:8** Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for shameful gain, **read ›**

146 **1 Timothy 5:17** Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and in teaching. **read ›**

147 **Titus 1:5** I left you in Crete for this reason, that you would set in order the things that were lacking and appoint elders in every city, as I directed you— **read ›**

148 **Titus 2:15** Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you. **read ›**

149 **Hebrews 13:17** Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they watch on behalf of your souls, as those who will give account, that they may do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be unprofitable for you. **read ›**

150 **1 Peter 5:1** I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings, and a partaker of the glory to be revealed: **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *138 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 29:29

1 Chronicles 16:22

Proverbs 8:9 · 30:19

Isaiah 53:11 · 60:17 · 63:3

Ezekiel 1:5

Matthew 5:6 · 5:14 · 5:17 · 7:24 · 10:5 · 12:36 · 13:34 · 16:18 · 16:19 · 17:3 · 20:5 · 20:28 · 22:1

Mark 7:9 · 9:4 · 10:43

Luke 2:49 · 4:18 · 7:35 · 10:16 · 10:27 · 11:23 · 12:47 · 12:50 · 14:11 · 16:16 · 22:15 · 24:31

John 1:1 · 1:3 · 1:10 · 1:14 · 3:36 · 4:12 · 4:14 · 7:39 · 8:29 · 10:34 · 12:34 · 13:23 · 14:6 · 14:24 · 14:28 · 15:25 · 16:13 · 20:22

Acts 1:8 · 2:17 · 9:5 · 20:28

Romans 1:17 · 2:13 · 13:14

1 Corinthians 1:30 · 4:15 · 6:9 · 6:10 · 7:29 · 9:25 · 10:4 · 11:5 · 11:7 · 11:9 · 11:23 · 12:1 · 12:4 · 12:8 · 12:12 · 12:31 · 13:1 · 13:12 · 14:21 · 14:25 · 14:33 · 14:34 · 15:6 · 15:41 · 16:18

2 Corinthians 3:18

Galatians 3:11 · 3:27 · 4:4 · 4:19 · 5:16 · 6:1 · 6:7

Ephesians 2:20 · 4:2 · 4:4 · 4:5 · 4:6 · 4:8 · 4:13 · 4:16 · 6:4 · 6:9

Philippians 1:18 · 1:27 · 2:2 · 2:6 · 2:7 · 3:16 · 4:8

Colossians 1:15 · 1:16 · 3:25

1 Thessalonians 4:17

2 Thessalonians 2:15

1 Timothy 3:6 · 3:12 · 3:15 · 5:9

2 Timothy 1:16 · 2:12 · 4:6

Titus 1:6 · 2:14

Hebrews 1:3 · 6:6 · 10:38

1 Peter 1:17 · 1:19 · 2:5 · 2:9 · 2:11 · 5:2

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1 John 2:27 · 4:3 · 4:12

Revelation 1:6

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

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What order of authority did the early church see from God and Christ down to the church?” on October 25, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY