THE QUESTION

Which of the first three Gospels was written first?

Asked by a THF member on May 19, 2026 · published November 9, 2026, updated November 11, 2026 · 6 numbered quotations · the 15 early Christian passages and 194 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/which-of-the-first-three-gospels-was-written-first

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

Early Christian writers say Matthew was written first. Origen reports a tradition that Matthew came first, then Mark, then Luke, with John last. Irenaeus gives the same order, saying Mark wrote down what Peter preached and Luke recorded what Paul preached. None of these passages gives exact dates in years.

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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

Origen received a tradition that Matthew came first

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

Origen says plainly that he learned by tradition that Matthew's Gospel was written first. He adds that Matthew had been a tax collector before becoming an apostle, and that he wrote in Hebrew for converts from Judaism.

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. Matthew had once been a tax collector and later became an apostle of Jesus Christ. 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 13, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 6

Origen lists Mark second and Luke third

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

Origen goes on to give the full order. Mark wrote second, following Peter's teaching. Luke wrote third, for converts from the Gentiles. John's Gospel came 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 13, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
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POINT 3 OF 6

Irenaeus gives the same order earlier still

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

Irenaeus, an earlier writer than Origen, describes Matthew writing while Peter and Paul preached in Rome. After that he names Mark, who wrote down Peter's preaching, then Luke, who recorded Paul's, and finally John, who wrote later on in Ephesus.

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. After their departure, Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, wrote down what Peter had preached. 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 3, page 5 Read it in the library ›

POINT 4 OF 6

Tertullian puts the apostles' Gospels before their followers'

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

Tertullian says the Gospels were written by apostles and by apostolic men, who came with and after the apostles. He names John and Matthew first and Luke and Mark afterward. His main point is the authority behind each Gospel, so this is an order of rank as much as of time.

4

> "We lay down as our first position that the authors of the evangelical Testament are apostles, to whom the Lord Himself assigned this office of publishing the gospel. However, there are also apostolic men. Yet they are not alone, but appear with apostles and after apostles."
>
> *later in the same passage*
>
> "Of the apostles, therefore, John and Matthew first instill faith into us. Of apostolic men, Luke and Mark renew it afterward."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Against Marcion* 2 (c. 196–220 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 10, page 6 Read it in the library ›

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POINT 5 OF 6

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 says Mark wrote down what Peter preached in Rome. He says Mark did this so the hearers could remember what Peter had said.

5

> "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. He did this so that they might be able to remember what had been spoken."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Fragments* 1 (c. 190–215 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 7, page 5 Read it in the library ›

POINT 6 OF 6

Caius also counts Luke's Gospel as the third

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

Another early writer calls Luke's Gospel the third book of the Gospel. He says Luke the physician wrote it after Christ's ascension, when Paul had taken him along.

6

> "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."

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

Source 12, page 6 Read it in the library ›

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- These passages give an order but no exact years for when each Gospel was written.
- They do not say whether one Gospel writer used another's book.
- Irenaeus places Mark's writing after Peter and Paul's departure, while Clement places it while Peter was still preaching.

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- 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 15 early Christian passages and 194 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–15, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 16–131, in Bible order), then 78 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).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *15 passages from 7 writers*

Papias, *c. 95–130 AD · source 1*

1 *Fragments* (on point 5) "unharmed, due to the grace of the Lord. Papias also notes other things as coming to him from unwritten tradition, including some unusual parables and teachings of the Saviour, and… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 2–6*

2 *Against Heresies: Book III* "faced, and their faces were images of the arrangement of the Son of God. As Scripture says, "The first living creature was like a lion," symbolizing His powerful work, His… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 3** "also issued a written Gospel among the Hebrews in their own dialect, while Peter and Paul were preaching at Rome, and laying the foundations of the Church… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English; on point 3) "Wherefore also Mark, the interpreter and follower of Peter, does thus commence his Gospel narrative: "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Against Heresies: Book III* of the Gospel as being either more numerous or, alternatively, fewer than previously stated. The first group does so to appear as if they have discovered more than the truth… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (1885 English; on point 3) "Gospel according to Matthew was written to the Jews… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 7–8*

7 *Fragments* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 5, 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 ›**

8 *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 5 (on point 5) "These things are written in the Gospel according to Mark… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 9–11*

9 *Against Marcion* 5 (on point 4) "the Romans give, so very near to the apostles, to whom Peter and Paul together bequeathed the gospel, sealed even with their own blood. We also have the foster churches… [continues online] **read ›**

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10 *Against Marcion* 2 **Quote 4, page 3** meantime been adulterated. This will also show the order in which we proceed. We lay down as our first position that the authors of the evangelical Testament are apostles, to… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *On the Flesh of Christ* 22 (1885 English; on point 4) “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 12*

12 *Fragments* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 4** “third book of the Gospel, that according to Luke, the well-known physician Luke wrote in his own name in order after the ascension of Christ, and when Paul had… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 13–14*

13 *Commentary on Matthew* 1 (1885 English) **Quotes 1, 2, page 2** “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 ›**

14 *Commentary on John* 1 however, someone may object. He may appeal to the idea just stated, about the unfolding of the first fruits last, and may say that Acts and the letters of the… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · source 15*

15 *Apostolic Constitutions* “our sacred books, that is, those of the New Covenant, are these: the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *116 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

16 **Genesis 43:33** They sat before him, the firstborn according to his seniority and the youngest according to his youth, and the men were amazed, each looking at his brother. **read ›**

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

18 **Deuteronomy 6:5** And you shall love the Lord your God with all your mind, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. **read ›**

19 **Deuteronomy 19:15** One witness shall not stand to testify against a man for any unrighteousness, or for any offense, or for any sin that he commits. At the mouth of two witnesses or at the mouth of three witnesses every word shall stand. **read ›**

20 **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 ›**

21 **1 Chronicles 12:11** Jethi the sixth, Eliab the seventh, (Septuagint 1 Chronicles 12:12 (1 Chronicles 12:11 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

22 **1 Chronicles 25:21** the fourteenth, Mattithiah; his sons and his brothers, twelve; **read ›**

23 **2 Chronicles 26:22** The rest of the acts of Uzziah, first and last, are written by Jessias the prophet. **read ›**

24 **Ezra 2:1** Now these are the sons of the province who came up from the captivity of the exile, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own city. **read ›**

25 **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 ›**

26 **Ezra 6:12** And may the God whose name dwells there overthrow every king and people who shall stretch out his hand to alter or destroy the house of God in Jerusalem. I Darius have issued the decree; let it be done diligently. **read ›**

27 **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 ›**

28 **Esther 9:9** and Marmasima, and Rhuphaeus, and Arsaeus, and Zabutheus, **read ›**

29 **Proverbs 1:1** The Proverbs of Solomon son of David, who reigned in Israel, **read ›**

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

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

32 **Proverbs 5:21** For the ways of a man are before the eyes of God, and he watches all his tracks. **read ›**

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

34 **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 ›**

35 **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 ›**

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

37 **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 ›**

38 **Ecclesiastes 1:10** Who is he who will speak and say, “See, this is new”? It has already been in the ages that were before us. **read ›**

39 **Ecclesiastes 10:12** The words of a wise man’s mouth are grace, but the lips of a fool will swallow him up. **read ›**

40 **Song of Solomon 1:13** My kinsman is to me a bundle of stacte; he shall lie all night between my breasts. **read ›**

41 **Isaiah 1:12** not even if you come to appear before me; for who has required these things from your hands? You shall no longer tread my court. **read ›**

42 **Isaiah 13:1** The vision which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw against Babylon. **read ›**

43 **1 Esdras 3:10** The first wrote, “Wine is strongest.” **read ›**

44 **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 ›**

45 **1 Esdras 6:12** We questioned them, therefore, in order to inform you and to write down for you the men who were in charge, and we asked them for the list of names of their chief men. **read ›**

46 **1 Esdras 9:38** And the whole multitude gathered together in the open square before the gate of the temple toward the east, **read ›**

47 **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 ›**

48 **Tobit 12:22** And they acknowledged his great and wonderful works, and how the angel of the Lord had appeared to them. **read ›**

49 **Wisdom of Sirach 36:20** A crooked heart will give sorrow, but a man of much experience will repay him. (Septuagint Wisdom of Sirach 36:25 (Wisdom of Sirach 36:20 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

50 **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 ›**

51 **1 Maccabees 1:1** After Alexander son of Philip, the Macedonian, who came out of the land of Kittim, had struck down Darius king of the Persians and Medes, he reigned in his place, first over Greece. **read ›**

52 **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 ›**

53 **1 Maccabees 2:24** And Mattathias saw it and was filled with zeal, and his inward parts trembled; and he let his anger rise up in accordance with the judgment, and ran and slaughtered him on the pagan altar. **read ›**

54 **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 ›**

55 **1 Maccabees 5:21** So Simon went into Galilee and fought many battles with the nations, and the nations were crushed before him. **read ›**

56 **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 ›**

57 **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 ›**

58 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

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

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60 **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 ›**

61 **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 ›**

62 **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 ›**

63 **2 Maccabees 1:10** In the one hundred and eighty-eighth year, those in Jerusalem and those in Judea, and the council of elders, and Judas, to Aristobulus, teacher of King Ptolemy, who is of the family of the anointed priests, and to the Jews in Egypt: greeting and good health. **read ›**

64 **2 Maccabees 3:36** And he bore witness to everyone about the works of the greatest God, which he had seen with his own eyes. **read ›**

65 **2 Maccabees 4:42** As a result they wounded many of them and struck down some, and they put all the rest to flight; and they killed the temple robber himself beside the treasury. **read ›**

66 **2 Maccabees 5:23** and at Gerizim, Andronicus; and besides these, Menelaus, who lorded it over the citizens worse than the others, having a hostile attitude toward his fellow citizens the Jews. **read ›**

67 **2 Maccabees 10:12** For Ptolemy, who was called Macron, had taken the lead in showing justice to the Jews because of the wrong that had been done to them, and had tried to deal with them peacefully. **read ›**

68 **2 Maccabees 10:35** As the fifth day began to dawn, twenty young men of Maccabeus' company, burning with anger because of the blasphemies, attacked the wall courageously, and with savage anger cut down everyone they met. **read ›**

69 **2 Maccabees 13:12** When they had all done this together and had pleaded with the merciful Lord with weeping and fasting and lying facedown for three days without ceasing, Judas encouraged them and ordered them to stand ready. **read ›**

70 **2 Maccabees 14:38** For in the former times of separation he had been brought to trial for Judaism, and he had risked body and soul for Judaism with all earnestness. **read ›**

71 **3 Maccabees 1:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

72 **4 Maccabees 1:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

73 **4 Maccabees 12:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

74 **4 Maccabees 13:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

75 **4 Maccabees 13:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

76 **1 Enoch 40:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

77 **1 Enoch 41:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

78 **1 Enoch 62:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

79 **1 Enoch 62:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

80 **1 Enoch 89:68** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

81 **1 Enoch 89:77** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

82 **1 Enoch 92:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

83 **1 Enoch 104:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

84 **Matthew 6:33** But seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well. **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 10:18** And you will be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony to them and to the nations. **read ›**

87 **Matthew 13:2** Great multitudes gathered to him, so that he entered into a boat and sat; and all the multitude stood on the beach. **read ›**

88 **Matthew 14:1** At that time, Herod the tetrarch heard the report concerning Jesus, **read ›**

89 **Matthew 14:2** and said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist. He has risen from the dead, and that is why these powers are at work in him." **read ›**

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90 **Matthew 18:16** But if he does not listen, take one or two more with you, so that at the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may stand. **read ›**

91 **Matthew 19:30** But many will be last who are first, and first who are last. **read ›**

92 **Matthew 26:13** Amen, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done shall also be told in memory of her." **read ›**

93 **Matthew 26:59** Now the chief priests, the elders, and the whole council sought false testimony against Jesus, that they might put him to death, **read ›**

94 **Matthew 26:60** but they found none. Though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. **read ›**

95 **Matthew 28:11** Now while they were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and told the chief priests all the things that had happened. **read ›**

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

97 **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 ›**

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

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

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

101 **Mark 1:29** Immediately, when they had come out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. **read ›**

102 **Mark 1:35** Early in the morning, while it was still dark, he rose up and went out, and departed into a deserted place, and prayed there. **read ›**

103 **Mark 1:36** Simon and those who were with him searched for him. **read ›**

104 **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 ›**

105 **Mark 2:8** Immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you reason these things in your hearts? **read ›**

106 **Mark 6:33** People saw them leaving, and many recognized him. They ran there on foot from all the cities, arrived before them, and came together to him. **read ›**

107 **Mark 7:1** Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered together to him, having come from Jerusalem. **read ›**

108 **Mark 9:14** Coming to the disciples, he saw a great multitude around them, and scribes questioning them. **read ›**

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

110 **Mark 12:39** and to get the best seats in the synagogues and the best places at feasts, **read ›**

111 **Mark 13:3** As he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, **read ›**

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

113 **Mark 14:33** He took with him Peter, James, and John, and began to be greatly troubled and distressed. **read ›**

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

115 **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 ›**

116 **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 ›**

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

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

119 **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 ›**

120 **John 20:4** They both ran together. The other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. **read ›**

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

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

123 **Acts 1:13** When they came in, they went up to the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. **read ›**

124 **Acts 4:33** With great power, the apostles gave their testimony of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Great grace was on them all. **read ›**

125 **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 ›**

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

127 **Acts 13:31** and he was seen for many days by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses to the people. **read ›**

128 **Acts 15:23** They wrote this letter to be delivered by them: "The apostles, the elders, and the brothers, to the brothers among the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. **read ›**

129 **Acts 15:37** Barnabas planned to take John, who was called Mark, with them also. **read ›**

130 **Acts 15:39** Then the contention grew so sharp that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, **read ›**

131 **2 Thessalonians 2:15** So then, brothers, stand firm and hold the traditions which you were taught by us, whether by word or by letter. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *78 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

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 1:1 · 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 · 23:8

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 · 9:1 · 11:39 · 14:2 · 18:28 · 19:13 · 19:31 · 20:30 · 21:22

Acts 10:37 · 13:24

Romans 1:3 · 2:16

1 Corinthians 2:9 · 5:7 · 7:12 · 11:3 · 15:20

2 Corinthians 6:18 · 8:9

Galatians 2:2 · 3:8

Philippians 3:10 · 4:3

Colossians 1:18

2 Thessalonians 2:1

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2 Timothy 2:8 · 3:16
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 “Which of the first three Gospels was written first?” on May 19, 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