THE QUESTION

Why did early Christians call Christ's crucifixion the passion?

Asked by a THF member on June 14, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 14 numbered quotations · the 49 early Christian passages and 220 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/why-did-early-christians-call-christs-crucifixion-the-passion

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

In these writings, "the passion" names Christ's real suffering, from His agony before the cross to His death on it. The early writers stressed that He truly suffered, that He chose to suffer, and that His passion defeated death and saves us. The church remembered it at the Lord's table.

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 8

The passion was a real suffering

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

Irenaeus contrasts Christ's passion with a made-up suffering taught by false teachers. He insists Christ's suffering was true and that through it He lifted fallen man back up. Justin points to Christ's prayer in the garden as proof that He truly felt human suffering.

1 "But the Lord, our Christ, underwent a true, not merely accidental, passion; not only was He Himself not at risk of being destroyed, but He also strengthened fallen man by His own power and brought him back to incorruption."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book II* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 12, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

2 "And again He prayed: 'Not as I will, but as You will;' showing that He truly experienced human suffering."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *Dialogue with Trypho* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 9, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

It covers His agony and His death

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

Hippolytus lists what Christ went through as a man: fear, grief, prayer that the cup of suffering pass, sweating in agony, and more. In these writings the passion is the whole path of suffering that ends at the cross.

3 "It is easy to see the human side in Him when He is hungry, shows exhaustion, is tired and thirsty, draws back in fear, prays and grieves, sleeps on a boat's cushion, asks that the cup of suffering be taken away, sweats in agony, is strengthened by an angel, is betrayed by Judas, mocked by Caiaphas, treated with contempt by Herod, whipped by Pilate, mocked by the soldiers, nailed to the tree by the Jews, and with a cry commits His spirit to His Father."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 28, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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POINT 3 OF 8

Scripture said Christ must suffer

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

Irenaeus and Justin both point to Jesus' own words that He must suffer and rise again. For them the passion was not an accident but what the prophets had foretold.

4 “This is what is written: Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name among all nations.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book III* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 14, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

5 “The Son of man must suffer many things, be rejected by the Pharisees and Scribes, be crucified, and rise again on the third day."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *Dialogue with Trypho* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 8, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

He chose to suffer for us

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

Lactantius notes that Jesus spoke ahead of time about His passion and His power to lay down His life. The Liturgy of St. James calls His death on the cross voluntary and life-giving, endured by the sinless One for sinners.

6 “No one should be ignorant of this: He Himself had already said, while speaking beforehand about His passion, that He had the power, whenever He willed, to lay down His life and to take it again.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 26 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 47, page 9** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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7 “And when He was about to endure His voluntary and life-giving death on the cross, He who was without sin for us sinners, on the night in which He was betrayed—or rather, gave Himself up for the life and salvation of the world”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 26, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 8

His passion won victory over death

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

Irenaeus lists what the passion achieved: death destroyed, error ended and life revealed. Cyprian ties it to the hours of the crucifixion and says Christ completed His victory by His passion.

8 “Our Lord also, by His passion, destroyed death, ended error, abolished corruption, and eradicated ignorance, while He revealed life, unveiled truth, and bestowed the gift of incorruption.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book II* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 12, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

9 “And so that He might redeem and give us life, He then completed His victory by His passion.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 38, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

Christ's Passion heals our sinful passions

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

Methodius plays on the word. Christ suffered in the flesh on the cross to bring people back to divine life, and His Passion weakens the sinful passions that rule us.

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10 “For the Word suffered, being fastened in the flesh to the cross, so that He might bring man, who had been deceived by error, to His highest and divine majesty, restoring him to that divine life from which he had become separated.”

later in the same passage

“By this figure, indeed, the passions are dulled, because the Passion has brought about the suffering of the passions, and the death of death by the death of Christ, since He was not subdued by death or overcome by the pains of the Passion.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Methodius,** *Three Fragments on the Cross and Passion* 1 (c. 270–311 AD) **Source 43, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 8

The church remembers the passion at communion

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

Cyprian says the church mentions the Lord's passion at every offering of the Lord's Supper. Ignatius urges believers to stand firm in Christ's passion and resurrection as they break one bread.

11 “And because we mention His passion in all sacrifices—for the Lord’s passion is the sacrifice that we offer—we ought to do nothing except what He did.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 35, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

12 “Stand firm, brothers, in the faith of Jesus Christ, and in His love, in His passion, and in His resurrection.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 3, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 8 OF 8

Believers share His sufferings with patience

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

Polycarp says Christ endured all things for us and set an example of patience. Clement of Alexandria says the righteous who suffer for doing right share in Christ's sufferings.

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13 “Let us then be imitators of His patience; and if we suffer for His name’s sake, let us glorify Him.”

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

14 “That means that if you are righteous, you suffer for righteousness' sake, just as Christ suffered for righteousness.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Fragments* 1 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 19, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- None of these passages explains where the word "passion" comes from or when the church began to use it.
- They do not give a full list of the days and events of Holy Week.
- 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 49 early Christian passages and 220 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–49, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 50–154, in Bible order), then 115 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 *49 passages from 18 writers*

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 1–5*

1 *Epistle to the Romans* (on point 8) “me to be an imitator of the passion of Christ, my God… [continues online] **read ›**
2 *Epistle to the Magnesians* (1885 English) “also died, and rose again, and ascended into the heavens to Him that sent Him, and is sat down at His right hand, and shall come at the end of… [continues online] **read ›**

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3 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (1885 English) **Quote 12, page 5** “fast, brethren, in the faith of Jesus Christ, and in His love, in His passion, and in His resurrection… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (1885 English) “appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, His passion, and the resurrection itself… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (1885 English; on point 1) “any one walks according to a strange opinion, he agrees not with the passion [of Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

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

6 *Epistle to the Philippians* **Quote 13, page 6** bore our sins in His own body on the tree… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Martyrdom of Polycarp* (1885 English; on point 5) it is neither possible for us ever to forsake Christ, who suffered for the salvation of such as shall be saved throughout the whole world (the blameless one for sinners… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 8–11*

8 *Dialogue with Trypho* **Quote 5, page 3** praiseworthy and astonishing, as He is going to rise from the dead on the third day after the crucifixion; and this He has received from the Father. I have already… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** “on the day on which He was to be crucified, having taken three of His disciples to the hill called Olivet, situated opposite to the temple in Jerusalem, He prayed… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 3) “Virgin, as we have learned from the writings. Moreover, it is also predicted that He would die by crucifixion. For the passage, ‘Deliver my soul from the sword, and my… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 3) “I have shown that, after His crucifixion, they who crucified Him parted His garments among them… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 12–16*

12 *Against Heresies: Book II* **Quotes 1, 8, pages 2, 4** “But, in truth, the passion of Christ was neither similar to the passion of the Æon, nor did it… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (on point 3) clear day; and I will turn your feast days into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation,” clearly announced the darkening of the sun that happened from the sixth hour… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** “no Christ who flew away from Jesus before the passion… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English; on point 3) “all indeed prophesied as to the sufferings of Christ, but they themselves were far from enduring sufferings similar to what was predicted… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Against Heresies: Book II* (1885 English; on point 1) “they tell us that it was the Æon herself who suffered, but Judas was the betrayer, [and not the sufferer.] Even they themselves acknowledge that it was the suffering Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 17–21*

17 *Stromata* 4.7 (1885 English; on point 8) “as you are partaken in the sufferings of Christ, rejoice… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Instructor* 2.8 (on point 2) Lord was crowned with thorns, Matthew 27:29, to crown ourselves with flowers, and so insult the Lord's sacred suffering. For the Lord's crown pointed to us prophetically… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Fragments* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 14, page 6** “it is said, that you are partakers in the sufferings of Christ: that is, if you are righteous, you suffer for righteousness' sake, as Christ suffered for righteousness… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Instructor* 1.5 (1885 English; on point 3) only bore the wood of the sacrifice, as the Lord the wood of the cross. And he laughed mystically, prophesying that the Lord should fill us with joy, who have… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Stromata* 5.14 (on point 2) “at last, having suffered all evils, shall be crucified… [continues online] **read ›**

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Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 22–25*

22 *Scorpiace* 12 (1885 English; on point 8) “inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's sufferings, do you rejoice… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *An Answer to the Jews* 10 (on point 3) “added that it was the Passover of the Lord, that… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *On the Flesh of Christ* 5 (on point 1) are, to be sure, other things also just as foolish as the birth of Christ. They have to do with the humiliations and afflictions of God. Or else, let them… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas* 6 (1885 English; on point 8) “they indeed rejoiced that they should have incurred any one of their Lord's passions… [continues online] **read ›**

Early Liturgies, *c. 200–400 AD · source 26*

26 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** “being about to endure His voluntary and life-giving death by the cross, He the sinless for us the sinners, in the night in which He was betrayed, nay, rather… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 27–28*

27 *Treatise on Christ and Antichrist* 1 (1885 English; on point 5) “ladder in her leading up to the sailyard is an emblem of the passion of Christ, which brings the faithful to the ascent of heaven… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 2** “it is easy to perceive the man in Him, when He hungers and shows exhaustion, and is weary and thirsty, and withdraws in fear, and is in prayer and in… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 29*

29 *Commentary on John* 2 (1885 English; on point 1) “s fourth testimony of Christ after these points to His human sufferings… [continues online] **read ›**

Dionysius of Alexandria, *c. 232–265 AD · source 30*

30 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (on point 2) will, but Yours be done," Luke 22:42. He did then speak in that way, and He did desire that His passion might abate and reach its end speedily. But… [continues online] **read ›**

Novatian, *c. 240–258 AD · sources 31–32*

31 *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 11 (on point 1) from His powers, is also strong enough to declare Him to be God from His works. For if His sufferings show human frailty in Him, why may not His works… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 19 (on point 3) their father was Christ, and by thus placing his hands, showing the figure and future form of the passion. Let no one, therefore, who does not shrink from speaking of… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 33–38*

33 *Treatises* (on point 8) in the ancient and sacred footsteps of the righteous—let us also go through the same proofs of sufferings, the same testimonies of passions, considering the glory of our own… [continues online] **read ›**

34 *Treatises* (1885 English) “may fear to die who is not enrolled in the cross and passion of Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Epistles* **Quote 11, page 5** “And because we mention His passion in all sacrifices—for the Lord’s passion is the sacrifice that we offer—we ought to do nothing except what He did. For… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 8) “as often as you communicate with the sufferings of Christ, rejoice in all things, that also in the revelation made of His glory you may rejoice with gladness… [continues online] **read ›**

37 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 8) “to have become an associate of Christ's passion in Christ's name… [continues online] **read ›**

38 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** “that He might redeem and quicken us, He then accomplished His victory by His passion… [continues online] **read ›**

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Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 39–40*

39 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 2) “to Caesar. These bulls and dogs in their madness threw these reproaches at Him until very early in the morning. Then they led Him away to Annas, the father-in… [continues online] **read ›**

40 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 8) For you imitate Christ the Lord. And as He bore the sins of us all on the tree at His crucifixion, the innocent One for those who deserved punishment, so… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · sources 41–42*

41 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 1) when you deny that He was born of Mary. But if you acknowledge that He was born of Mary, then His passion will necessarily follow, and His resurrection will follow… [continues online] **read ›**

42 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (1885 English; on point 8) I fill up that which was behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh… [continues online] **read ›**

Methodius, *c. 270–311 AD · sources 43–44*

43 *Three Fragments on the Cross and Passion* 1 **Quote 10, page 5** “beautiful. Because of this, although by this figure He has willed to free the soul from corrupt passions, and greatly to put the demons to shame, we ought to accept… [continues online] **read ›**

44 *Oration on the Psalms* 1 (1885 English; on point 4) “all this was done that the Lamb and Son of God, that takes away the sins of the world, might, of His own will, and for us, come to His… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 45–47*

45 *A Poem on the Passion of the Lord* 1 (1885 English; on point 8) “the footsteps of my life, and while you look upon my torments and cruel death, remembering my innumerable pangs of body and soul, learn to endure hardships, and to watch… [continues online] **read ›**

46 *Divine Institutes* 18 (on point 3) six years in building, and in three days I will raise it up again without hands"—meaning that His passion would soon take place, and that He, after being put… [continues online] **read ›**

47 *Divine Institutes* 26 **Quote 6, page 3** such power in itself that it could save men, but because it was an image of things to come. For Christ was the white lamb without spot; that is, He… [continues online] **read ›**

Alexander of Alexandria, *c. 313–328 AD · source 48*

48 *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 (on point 1) when our Lord suffered, His humanity suffered, that which He had like man. And He dissolves the sufferings of him who is His like, and by dying He has destroyed… [continues online] **read ›**

Anonymous · *source 49*

49 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (1885 English) thus, saying of Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and in word before God and all the people; how the chief priests and our rulers delivered… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *105 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

50 **Genesis 49:18** waiting for the salvation of the Lord. **read ›**

51 **Job 11:11** For he knows the works of the lawless; and when he sees what is unfitting, he will not overlook it. **read ›**

52 **Ecclesiastes 3:21** And who has seen the spirit of the sons of man, whether it goes upward, and the spirit of the beast, whether it goes down to the earth? **read ›**

53 **Song of Solomon 4:2** Your teeth are like flocks of shorn sheep that have come up from the washing, all of them bearing twins, and there is not a barren one among them. **read ›**

54 **Song of Solomon 6:10** Who is this who looks out like the dawn, beautiful as the moon, choice as the sun, awe-inspiring as troops in ranks? **read ›**

55 **Isaiah 1:9** And if the Lord of Sabaoth had not left us a seed, we would have become like Sodom, and been made like Gomorrah. **read ›**

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56 **Isaiah 1:20** But if you are not willing and do not listen to me, a sword shall devour you; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken these things. **read ›**

57 **Isaiah 6:6** And one of the seraphim was sent to me, and he had in his hand a coal, which he had taken from the altar with the tongs; **read ›**

58 **Isaiah 6:9** And he said, “Go, and say to this people: ‘Hearing you shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing you shall see, and shall not perceive.’ **read ›**

59 **Isaiah 7:16** For before the child knows good or evil, he refuses evil, to choose the good; and the land which you fear shall be forsaken because of the two kings. **read ›**

60 **Isaiah 7:22** and it shall be that, from drinking a great deal of milk, everyone who is left upon the land shall eat butter and honey. **read ›**

61 **Isaiah 9:8** The Lord has sent death upon Jacob, and it has come upon Israel. (Septuagint Isaiah 9:7 (Isaiah 9:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

62 **Isaiah 9:12** Syria from the rising of the sun, and the Greeks from the setting of the sun, who devour Israel with their whole mouth. For all this his wrath has not turned away, but his hand is still raised high. (Septuagint Isaiah 9:11 (Isaiah 9:12 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

63 **Isaiah 13:3** I am giving command, and I bring them; giants are coming to fulfill my wrath, rejoicing and insulting together. **read ›**

64 **Isaiah 13:5** to come from a land far away, from the farthest foundation of heaven, the Lord and his armed fighters, to destroy the whole world. **read ›**

65 **Isaiah 14:5** The Lord has broken the yoke of sinners, the yoke of rulers. **read ›**

66 **Isaiah 15:7** Will it be saved even so? For I will bring Arabians upon the ravine, and they will take it. **read ›**

67 **Isaiah 16:1** I will send, as it were, creeping things upon the land. Is not the mountain of the daughter of Zion a desolate rock? **read ›**

68 **Isaiah 16:4** the fugitives of Moab will live as foreigners with you; they will be a shelter for you from the face of the pursuer; for your alliance has been taken away, and the ruler who trampled has perished from the land. **read ›**

69 **Isaiah 18:2** which sends hostages by sea, and paper letters on the water; for swift messengers will go to a nation high in the air, and to a foreign and harsh people. Who is beyond it? A nation without hope and trodden down. Now the rivers of the land, **read ›**

70 **Isaiah 18:3** all of them, will be inhabited like an inhabited country; their land will be as when a signal is raised from a mountain; it will be heard like the sound of a trumpet. **read ›**

71 **Isaiah 53:4** He bears our sins and is in anguish for us; and we considered him to be in pain and under a blow and in misery. **read ›**

72 **Isaiah 53:10** And the Lord wills to cleanse him from his blow. If you give a sin offering, your soul shall see a long-lived seed. **read ›**

73 **Jeremiah 30:6** Ask, and see: has a male given birth? And what of the fear in which they shall hold their hips and salvation? For I have seen every man, and his hands are on his hips; faces have turned to paleness. (Septuagint Jeremiah 37:6 (Jeremiah 30:6 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

74 **Jeremiah 33:20** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

75 **Judith 11:11** And now, so that my lord may not be thwarted and his work be fruitless, death shall fall upon them, and a sin has overtaken them by which they will provoke their God to anger, whenever they do what is improper. **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:1** But for your holy ones there was very great light; and the others, hearing their voice but not seeing their form, counted them blessed because they too had suffered, **read ›**

77 **Wisdom of Sirach 11:14** Good things and bad, life and death, poverty and wealth, are from the Lord. **read ›**

78 **Baruch 4:25** My children, endure with patience the anger that has come upon you from God. Your enemy has pursued you, but you will soon see his destruction, and you will tread upon their necks. **read ›**

79 **2 Maccabees 3:21** It was pitiful to see the multitude of every sort falling facedown, and the dread of the high priest in his great anguish. **read ›**

80 **2 Maccabees 4:35** For this reason not only the Jews but also many of the other nations were outraged and distressed over the unjust murder of the man. **read ›**

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81 **2 Maccabees 6:30** When he was about to die under the blows, he groaned aloud and said, “It is plain to the Lord, who has the holy knowledge, that though I could have been released from death, I am enduring harsh pains in my body from being whipped; but in my soul I suffer these things gladly, because of my fear of him.” **read ›**

82 **2 Maccabees 7:5** When the man was utterly helpless, the king ordered them to take him to the fire, still breathing, and to fry him on the griddle. As the vapor from the griddle spread widely, the brothers and their mother encouraged one another to die nobly, saying this: **read ›**

83 **2 Maccabees 7:32** For we are suffering because of our own sins. **read ›**

84 **2 Maccabees 7:40** So he too died undefiled, trusting completely in the Lord. **read ›**

85 **2 Maccabees 9:28** So the murderer and blasphemer, having suffered the worst things, just as he had made others suffer, ended his life by a most pitiable fate in the mountains of a foreign land. **read ›**

86 **2 Maccabees 13:8** For since he had committed many sins against the altar, whose fire and ashes were holy, in ashes he met his death. **read ›**

87 **2 Maccabees 14:46** with his blood now completely drained, he tore out his intestines, took them in both hands, and hurled them at the crowds. And calling upon him who rules over life and spirit to give them back to him again, in this manner he died. **read ›**

88 **3 Maccabees 4:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

89 **3 Maccabees 5:51** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

90 **3 Maccabees 6:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

91 **4 Maccabees 1:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

92 **4 Maccabees 1:20** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

93 **4 Maccabees 4:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

94 **4 Maccabees 6:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

95 **4 Maccabees 6:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

96 **4 Maccabees 6:31** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

97 **4 Maccabees 7:16** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

98 **4 Maccabees 7:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

99 **4 Maccabees 9:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

100 **4 Maccabees 9:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

101 **4 Maccabees 9:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

102 **4 Maccabees 13:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

103 **4 Maccabees 13:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

104 **4 Maccabees 14:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

105 **4 Maccabees 15:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

106 **4 Maccabees 15:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

107 **4 Maccabees 16:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

108 **4 Maccabees 16:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

109 **4 Maccabees 16:19** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

110 **4 Maccabees 18:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

111 **4 Maccabees 18:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

112 **4 Maccabees 18:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

113 **4 Maccabees 18:20** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

114 **1 Enoch 63:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

115 **1 Enoch 96:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

116 **1 Enoch 108:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

117 **Matthew 16:21** From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up. **read ›**

118 **Matthew 20:18** “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death, **read ›**

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119 **Matthew 20:19** and they will hand him over to the Gentiles to mock and whip and crucify him; and on the third day he shall rise." **read ›**

120 **Matthew 26:2** "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified." **read ›**

121 **Matthew 26:38** Then Jesus said to them, "My soul is deeply sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with me." **read ›**

122 **Matthew 26:39** He went forward a little, fell on his face, and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me; nevertheless, not what I desire, but what you desire." **read ›**

123 **Matthew 27:26** Then he released Barabbas to them, but he flogged Jesus and handed him over to be crucified. **read ›**

124 **Matthew 27:33** When they came to a place called "Golgotha", that is to say, "The place of a skull," **read ›**

125 **Mark 10:34** They will mock him, whip him, spit on him, and kill him. On the third day he shall rise again." **read ›**

126 **Mark 14:1** It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might seize him by deception and kill him. **read ›**

127 **Mark 15:22** They brought him to the place called Golgotha, which means "The place of a skull." **read ›**

128 **Mark 15:25** It was the third hour when they crucified him. **read ›**

129 **Luke 18:33** After whipping him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again." **read ›**

130 **Luke 22:1** Now the feast of unleavened bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. **read ›**

131 **Luke 23:23** But they were urgent with loud voices, asking that he might be crucified. Their voices and the voices of the chief priests prevailed. **read ›**

132 **Luke 23:33** When they came to the place that is called "The Skull", they crucified him there with the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. **read ›**

133 **Luke 24:7** saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and the third day rise again." **read ›**

134 **Luke 24:20** and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. **read ›**

135 **Luke 24:26** Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and enter into his glory?" **read ›**

136 **John 2:13** The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **read ›**

137 **John 13:1** Now before the Feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. **read ›**

138 **John 19:1** Then Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped. **read ›**

139 **John 19:17** He went out, bearing his cross, to the place called "The Place of a Skull", which is called in Hebrew, "Golgotha", **read ›**

140 **John 19:18** where they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus in the middle. **read ›**

141 **John 19:20** Therefore many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. **read ›**

142 **Acts 26:8** Why is it considered unbelievable among you that God raises the dead? **read ›**

143 **Acts 26:17** delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles, to whom I send you, **read ›**

144 **Acts 26:21** For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. **read ›**

145 **Romans 3:25** whom God set forth as a mercy seat, through faith, in his blood, to demonstrate his righteousness because of the passing over of sins previously committed, **read ›**

146 **2 Corinthians 1:5** For as the sufferings of Christ abound to us, even so our comfort also abounds through Christ. **read ›**

147 **Galatians 5:24** Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts. **read ›**

148 **Colossians 1:24** Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and in my flesh I fill up what is lacking in the troubles of Christ for the sake of his body, which is the church. **read ›**

149 **2 Timothy 2:3** You therefore, endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. **read ›**

150 **1 Peter 2:21** For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving you an example, that you should follow his steps, **read ›**

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151 **1 Peter 2:24** who himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that, having died to sins, we might live to righteousness; by his bruise you were healed. **read ›**

152 **1 Peter 3:18** Because Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit, **read ›**

153 **1 Peter 4:1** Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind; for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **read ›**

154 **1 Peter 4:13** But because you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, rejoice, that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *115 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 22:6

Exodus 3:2

1 Samuel 28:14

Psalms 4:3 · 12:6

Isaiah 1:18 · 18:1

Matthew 3:17 · 5:20 · 10:22 · 11:27 · 12:38 · 12:40 · 16:22 · 17:5 · 20:20 · 21:14 · 22:43 · 24:4 · 24:31 · 26:15 · 26:17 · 26:21 · 26:30 · 26:31 · 26:47 · 26:70 · 27:9 · 27:29 · 27:46

Mark 8:38 · 9:30 · 14:12 · 16:9

Luke 1:35 · 1:38 · 7:28 · 9:5 · 9:26 · 10:22 · 22:7 · 22:34 · 22:47 · 23:2 · 23:14 · 23:21 · 23:34 · 23:39 · 23:46 · 24:18 · 24:39

John 1:19 · 2:19 · 3:5 · 3:16 · 4:9 · 4:18 · 4:54 · 6:62 · 10:18 · 10:33 · 11:51 · 12:6 · 12:34 · 13:21 · 13:25 · 14:28 · 15:23 · 16:32 · 18:1 · 18:28 · 18:38 · 19:2 · 19:36 · 20:11

Acts 5:41

Romans 1:8 · 8:24 · 8:36 · 13:11

1 Corinthians 2:2 · 5:7 · 6:14 · 9:9 · 11:26 · 15:32 · 15:55

2 Corinthians 9:14 · 11:23

Galatians 1:6 · 3:1 · 4:4

Ephesians 6:12

Philippians 2:10

Colossians 1:15 · 1:23 · 2:6

1 Timothy 4:1

2 Timothy 4:7

Hebrews 11:17

1 Peter 2:20 · 2:22 · 4:12 · 4:16

2 Peter 1:4

1 John 3:16 · 4:9 · 4:18

Revelation 2:10 · 2:13 · 3:10 · 6:9 · 7:14 · 17:6 · 21:8

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

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Why did early Christians call Christ's crucifixion the passion?” on June 14, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY