

Apostolic Fathers



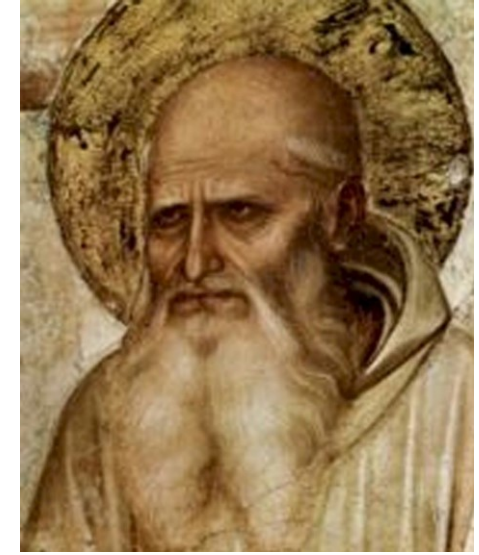
Clement of Rome
(Philippians 4:3)
c.35 – 99 AD



Ignatius of Antioch
Early 2nd Century AD



Polycarp of Smyrna
c.69 – c.155 AD



Papias of Hierapolis
c.80 – c.155 AD

Early Patristic References to New Testament Scriptures

Writer	Century AD	Gospels	Acts	Letters of Paul	General Epistles	Revelation	Totals
Justin Martyr	2 nd	268	10	43	6	3	330
Irenaeus	2 nd	1038	194	499	23	65	1819
Clement of Alexandria	2 nd -3 rd	1017	44	1127	207	11	2406
Origen	2 nd -3 rd	9231	349	7778	399	165	17922
Tertullian	2 nd -3 rd	3822	502	2609	120	205	7258
Hippolytus	2 nd -3 rd	734	42	387	27	188	1378
Eusebius	3 rd -4 th	3258	211	1592	88	27	5176
Grand Totals		19,368	1,352	14,035	870	664	36,289

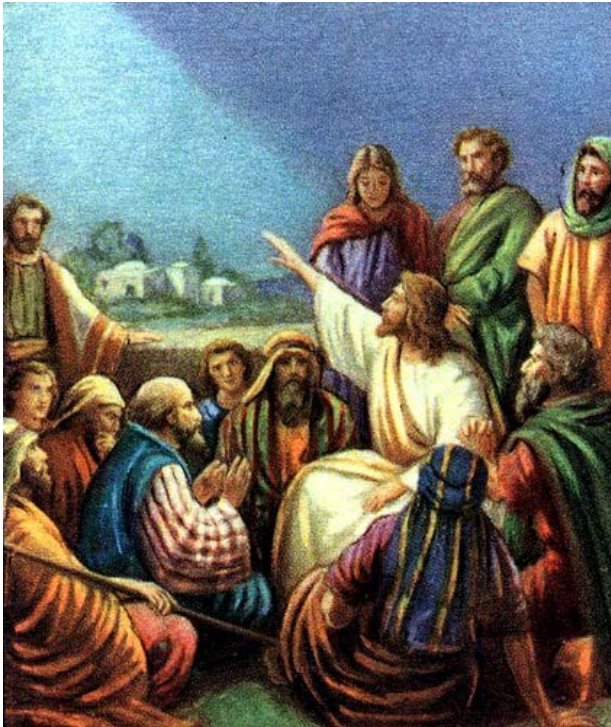
Some Radical Words of Jesus

- Need to be more righteous than the Pharisees (**Matthew 5:20**)
- Gentile converts made children of Hell (**Matthew 23:15**)
- The Son of Man coming on the clouds of Heaven (**Matthew 26:64**)
- The cost of being a disciple (**Luke 14:25-27**)
- “I am” (**John 8:58-59**, compare to **Exodus 3:14**)
- Where Jesus came from (**John 8:14**)
- Jesus as one with the Father (**John 10:30**)

Jesus' Sayings, Claims, and Authority

- Jesus' sayings
 - “I have come ...”
- Jesus' claims
 - “I am ...”
- Jesus' assertion of authority
 - “But I tell you, ...”

Jesus' Sayings - "I have come ..."



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- To fulfill the law (**Matthew 5:17**)
- To call sinners to repentance (**Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:15, 2:17**)
- To bring division (**Matthew 10:34-40, Luke 12:49-51**)
- To eat and drink with the lowly (**Matthew 11:19**)
- To seek and save the lost (**Luke 19:10**)
- To give my life as a ransom for many (**Mark 10:45**)

Jesus' Claims - "I am ..."

1 of 3

John 6:35

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 10:7

Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep."

Jesus' Claims - "I am ..."

2 of 3

John 10:11

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:36

... Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'?

Jesus' Claims - "I am ..."

3 of 3

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 14:6-7

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through me.** If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

John 15:1-2

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

Jesus' Assertion of Authority

- In typical rabbinical teaching, the rabbis quoted extensively from learned teachers
- The teachings of the learned teachers provided the basis for the authority of the rabbi's teaching
- Jesus' style of teaching was quite different, as seen in the **Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)**
- The Old Testament prophets said 'Thus says the Lord... ', but Jesus spoke in His own name and authority: 'But I tell you...'
- Jesus quoted some known interpretation of the Law of Moses, and then proceeded to give His own teaching
- Thus, Jesus spoke and acted with divine authority

Jesus' Authority – “But I tell you, ...”

1 of 3

Matthew 5:21-22

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Matthew 5:27-28

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:31-32

“It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Jesus' Authority – “But I tell you, ...”

2 of 3

Matthew 5:33-37

“Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Matthew 5:38-39

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

Jesus' Authority – “But I tell you, ...”

3 of 3

Matthew 5:43-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 7:28-29

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because **he taught as one who had authority**, and not as their teachers of the law.

Jesus' Authority

Jesus welcomed questions about Himself. He only rebuked questioners who were insincere, asked “gotcha” questions, or were trying to set him up to say something that would get Him in trouble with the Law of Moses or with the governing authorities.

- Examples of insincere (**Luke 20:19-20, John 8:1-6**)
- Example of sincere (**Mark 12:28-34**)

Jesus' Actions

Eating with Sinners



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- Jesus ate with the socially undesirable, and was insulted for it (**Matthew 11:19**)
- Jesus' eating with sinners implied social integration for them. They would no longer be outcasts.
- Jesus' eating with sinners was a sign of extending God's forgiveness and fellowship to them
- In Jewish culture, eating with people had significant religious aspects. Meals were accompanied by prayers and blessings.
 - The New Covenant Meal (i.e. the Lord's supper) is an extension of this into the church age
- The uniting of all believers with Jesus at the end of time is compared to a feast (**Matthew 8:11, 22:1-3**)

Jesus' Actions

Cleansing the Temple



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- Jesus cleansed the temple (**Matthew 21:12-13, Mark 11:15-17, Luke 19:45-46, John 2:13-16**)
- An action of purification of what had become a corrupt system
- Maybe a hint of the coming future destruction of the temple?
- His actions at the temple were a Messianic demonstration, as no ordinary man had the authority to do what Jesus did