

~OLDER MAN (2074)

[Hebrew, *za-qen'*, Greek, *pre-sby'te-ros*]

- Older Men, Elders Of Israel
- Elders In Christian Congregation
- The Twenty-Four Elders On Heavenly Thrones

- The Hebrew word *za-qen'* and the Greek word *pre-sby'te-ros*, both meaning, older man, or elder, are used not only to refer to persons of advanced age.
- And Abraham and Sarah were old, being **advanced in years**. Sarah had stopped having menstruation. (**Genesis 18:11**)
- A nation fierce in countenance, who will not be partial to an **old man** or show favor to a young man. (**Deuteronomy 28:50**)
- And Eli was **very old**, and he had heard of all that his sons kept doing to all Israel and how they would lie down with the women that were serving at the entrance of the tent of meeting. (**1 Samuel 2:22**)
- Do not severely criticize an **older man**. To the contrary, entreat him as a father, younger men as brothers. (**1 Timothy 5:1**)
- **Older women** as mothers, younger women as sisters with all chasteness. (**1 Timothy 5:2**)
- Or to the **older** of two persons,
- Now his **older son** was in the field, and as he came and got near the house he heard a music concert and dancing. (**Luke 15:25**)
- But also to apply in a special way to those holding a position of authority and responsibility in a community or nation. The latter sense is the predominant one in both the Hebrew and the Christian Greek Scriptures.
- The **elderly man** customarily was held in esteem from ancient times forward, respected for his experience and knowledge and for the wisdom and sound judgment that such may bring.

- In many nations people submitted themselves to the direction of their **older** men, either those who were the **elder members** of family lines or those who were notable for their qualities of knowledge and wisdom.
- As a result the expression, **older man**, had a double sense, applying either in a physical sense or as a designation **of position or office**. The references to the **older men, dignitaries, JB** of the land of Egypt and to the **older men** of Moab and the **older men** of Midian, do not embrace every aged male of those nations but apply to those serving as a **council for directing and guiding national affairs**, they were the **princes Hebrew, sa-rim', chieftains, AT** of those nations.
- So Joseph went up to bury his father, and there went up with him all of Pharaoh's servants, the **older men** of his household and all the older men of the land of Egypt. (**Genesis 50:7**)
- And Moab proceeded to say to the **older men** of Midian; Now this congregation will lick up all our surroundings like the bull licking up the green growth of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of Moab at that particular time. (**Numbers 22:4**)
- So the **older men** of Moab and the older men of Midian traveled with the payments for divination in their hands and went to Balaam and spoke to him Balak's words. (**Numbers 22:7**)
- At that he said to them; Lodge here tonight, and I shall certainly return you word just as Yehowah may speak to me. Accordingly the **princes** of Moab stayed with Balaam. (**Numbers 22:8**)
- After that Balaam got up in the morning and said to the princes of Balak; Go to your country, because Yehowah has refused to let me go with you. (**Numbers 22:13**)
- So the princes of Moab got up and came to Balak and said; Balaam has refused to come with us. (**Numbers 22:14**)
- However, Balak sent again other **princes** in greater number and more honorable than the former. (**Numbers 22:15**)
- He sent ahead of them a man who was sold to be a slave, Joseph. (**Psalms 105:17**)
- He set him as master to his household and as ruler over all his

property.(**Psalms 105:21**)

- To bind his **princes** agreeably to his soul and that he might teach wisdom to even his elderly men. (**Psalms 105:22**)
- In the same way the expressions, **older men of Israel, older men of the assembly, older men of my people, older men of the land**, are used in this official sense, **not applying to every aged man of the nation of Israel.**
- After that Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the **older men** of Israel went with him. (**Numbers 16:25**)
- And the **older men** of the assembly must lay their hands upon the bulls head before Yehowah, and the bull must be slaughtered before Yehowah. (**Leviticus 4:15**)
- At this he said; I have sinned. Now honor me, please, in front of the **older men** of my people and in front of Israel and return with me, and I shall certainly prostrate myself to Yehowah your God. (**1 Samuel 15:30**)
- At that the king of Israel called all the **older men** of the land and said; Take note, please, and see that it is calamity that this one is seeking, for he sent to me for my wives and my sons and my silver and my gold, and I did not hold them back from him. (**1 Kings 20:7**)
- Then all the **older men** and all the people said to him; Do not obey, and you should not consent. (**1 Kings 20:8**)
- In the relatively few cases where *zeqe-nim'*, **older men**, appears without some qualifying words, the context must be relied on to determine whether the application is merely to aged males or to those in the official capacity of headmen.

· Older Men, Elders Of Israel

- Already prior to the Exodus, the Israelites had their **older men**, who presented matters to the people, acted as their spokesmen, and reached decisions.

- **When returning to Egypt, Moses was instructed to present his commission to these older men, and these, or at least the principal ones among them, accompanied him when he went in before Pharaoh.**
- **You go, and you must gather the **older** men of Israel, and you must say to them, Yehowah the God of your forefathers has appeared to me, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying; I will without fail to you and to what is being done to you in Egypt. (Exodus 3:16)**
- **And they will certainly listen to your voice, and you must come, you and the **older men** of Israel, to the king of Egypt, and you men must say to him, Yehowah the God of the Hebrews has come in touch with us, and now we want to go, please, a journey of three days into the wilderness, and we want to sacrifice to Yehowah our God. (Exodus 3:18)**
- **When Moses, as God's representative, presented the Law covenant to the nation, it was the official **older men** who represented the people in entering that covenant relationship with Yehowah.**
- **And Moses went up to the true God, and Yehowah began to call to him out of the mountain, saying; This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and to tell the sons of Israel. (Exodus 19:3)**
- **You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, that I might carry you on wings of eagles and bring you to myself. (Exodus 19:4)**
- **And now if you will strictly obey my voice and will indeed keep my covenant, then you will certainly become my special property out of all other peoples, because the whole earth belongs to me. (Exodus 19:5)**
- **And you yourselves will become to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you are to say to the sons of Israel. (Exodus 19:6)**
- **So Moses came and called the **older men** of the people and set before them all these words that Yehowah had commanded him. (Exodus 19:7)**
- **After that all the people answered unanimously and said; All that Yehowah has spoken we are willing to do. Immediately Moses**

took back the words of the people to Yehowah. (**Exodus 19:8**)

- **Some time later, when the Israelites complained about the conditions in the wilderness, Moses, feeling that the administrative burden of the nation was now too great for him, confessed the problem to Yehowah.**
- **Then God commanded Moses; Gather for me seventy men of the **older men** of Israel, whom you do know that they are **older men** of the people and officers of theirs, and I shall have to take away some of the spirit that is upon you and place it upon them, and they will have to help you in carrying the load.**
- **In turn Yehowah said to Moses; Gather for me seventy men of the **older men** of Israel, whom you do know that they are older men of the people and officers of theirs, and you must take them to the tent of meeting, and they must station themselves there with you. (**Numbers 11:16**)**
- **And I shall have to come down and speak with you there, and I shall have to take away some of the spirit that is upon you and place it upon them, and they will have to help you in carrying the load of the people that you may not carry it, just you alone. (**Numbers 11:17**)**
- **These **older men** were appointed theocratically to this service.**
- **After that Moses went out and spoke to the people the words of Yehowah. And he went gathering seventy men from the **older men** of the people and proceeded to have them stand round about the tent. (**Numbers 11:24**)**
- **Then Yehowah came down in a cloud and spoke to him and took away some of the spirit that was upon him and put it upon each of the **seventy older men**. And it came about that as soon as the spirit settled down upon them, then they proceeded to act as prophets, but they did not do it again. (**Numbers 11:25**)**
- **Yehowah now used them to share the responsibility of leadership and administration with Moses.**
- **In time, the nomadic Israelites conquered the Promised Land and went back to fixed dwellings in towns and cities, as had been their way of life in Egypt.**

- The **older men** now became responsible for the people on a community level. They acted as a body of overseers for their respective communities, providing judges and officers for the administration of justice and the maintenance of peace, good order, and spiritual health.
- You should set judges and officers for yourself inside all your gates that Yehowah your God is giving you by your tribes, and they must judge the people with righteous judgment. (Deuteronomy 16:18)
- You must not pervert judgment. You must not be partial or accept a bribe, for the bribe blinds the eyes of wise ones and distorts the words of righteous ones. (Deuteronomy 16:19)
- Justice, justice you should pursue, in order, that you may keep alive and may indeed take possession of the land that Yehowah your God is giving you. (Deuteronomy 16:20)
- Now if the man finds no delight in taking his brothers widow, his brothers widow must then go up to the gate to the **older men** and say; My husbands brother has refused to preserve his brothers name in Israel. He has not consented to perform brother-in-law marriage with me. (Deuteronomy 25:7)
- And the **older men** of his city must call him and speak to him, and he must stand and say; I have found no delight in taking her. (Deuteronomy 25:8)
- At that his brothers widow must approach him before the eyes of the **older men** and draw his sandal off his foot and spit in his face and answer and say; That is the way it should be done to the man who will not build up his brothers household. (Deuteronomy 25:9)
- And he must flee to one of these cities and stand at the entrance of the gate of the city and speak his words in the hearing of the **older men** of that city, and they must receive him into the city to themselves and give him a place and he must dwell with them. (Joshua 20:4)
- As for Boaz, he went up to the gate and began to sit there. And, look! The repurchaser was passing by, whom Boaz had

mentioned. Then he said; Do turn aside, do sit down here, so-and-so. Hence he turned aside and sat down. (**Ruth 4:1**)

- After that he took ten men of the **older men** of the city and said; Sit down here. So they sat down. (**Ruth 4:2**)
- He now said to the repurchaser; The tract of the field that belonged to our brother Elimelech, Naomi, who has returned from the field of Moab, must sell. (**Ruth 4:3**)
- As for me, I thought that I should disclose it to you, saying; Buy it in front of the inhabitants and the **older men** of my people. If you will repurchase it, repurchase it, but if you will not repurchase it, do tell me, that I may know, for there is no one else but you to do the repurchasing, and I am next to you. At that he said; I shall be the one to repurchase it. (**Ruth 4:4**)
- Then Boaz said; On the day that you buy the field from Naomi's hand, it is also from Ruth the Moabite, the wife of the dead man, that you must buy it so as to cause the name of the dead man to rise upon his inheritance. (**Ruth 4:5**)
- To this the repurchaser said; I am unable to repurchase it for myself, for fear I may ruin my own inheritance. You repurchase it for yourself with my right of repurchase, because I am not able to do the repurchasing. (**Ruth 4:6**)
- Now this was the custom of former times in Israel concerning the right of repurchase and concerning the exchange, to establish every sort of thing. A man had to draw his sandal off and give it to his fellow, and this was the attestation in Israel. (**Ruth 4:7**)
- So when the repurchaser said to Boaz; Buy it for yourself, he proceeded to draw his sandal off. (**Ruth 4:8**)
- Then Boaz said to the **older** men and all the people; You are witnesses today that I do buy all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon from the hand of Naomi. (**Ruth 4:9**)
- And also Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, I do buy for myself as a wife to cause the name of the dead man to rise upon his inheritance and that the name of the dead man may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place.

You are witnesses today. (**Ruth 4:10**)

- At this all the people that were in the gate and the **older men** said; Witnesses! May Yehowah grant the wife who is coming into your house to be like Rachel and like Leah, both of whom built the house of Israel, and you prove your worth in Ephrathah and make a notable name in Bethlehem. (**Ruth 4:11**)
- And may your house become like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, from the offspring that Yehowah will give you out of this young woman. (**Ruth 4:12**)
- References to all Israel, its **older men** and its heads and its judges and its officers.
- That Joshua proceeded to call all Israel, its **older men** and its heads and its judges and its officers, and to say to them; As for me, I have grown old, I have advanced in days. (**Joshua 23:2**)
- And Joshua proceeded to assemble all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem and to call the **older men** of Israel and its heads and its judges and its officers, and they went taking their stand before the true God. (**Joshua 24:1**)
- The **older men** of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chieftains of the paternal houses.
- It was then that Solomon proceeded to congregate the **older men** of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chieftains of the paternal houses of the sons of Israel, to Jerusalem, to bring the ark of the covenant of Yehowah up from the City of David, that is to say, Zion. (**2 Chronicles 5:2**)
- Do not mean that the **heads, judges, officers, and chieftains** were distinct from the **older men** but, rather, indicate that those named in such a specific way held singular offices within the body of **older men**.
- Further, he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary and the **older men** of the priests covered with sackcloth to Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz. (**2 Kings 19:2**)
- And immediately at dawn the chief priests with the **older men** and the scribes, even the whole Sanhedrin, conducted a

consultation, and they bound Jesus and led him off and handed him over to Pilate. (Mark 15:1)

- Those serving as **older men** on a national level are designated by the expressions, **older men of Israel**.
- When the people came to the camp the **older men** of Israel began to say; Why did Yehowah defeat us today before the Philistines? Let us take to ourselves from Shiloh the ark of Yehowah's covenant, that it may come into our midst and may save us from the palm of our enemies. (1 Samuel 4:3)
- In time all the **older men** of Israel collected themselves together and came to Samuel at Ramah (1 Samuel 8:4)
- **Older men of the land**
- At that the king of Israel called all the **older men of the land** and said; Take note, please, and see that it is calamity that this one is seeking, for he sent to me for my wives and my sons and my silver and my gold, and I did not hold them back from him. (1 Kings 20:7)
- **Older men of the assembly**
- Consequently the **older men of the assembly said**; What shall we do to the men that are left over as to wives, for womankind has been annihilated out of Benjamin? (Judges 21:16)
- Or, after the division of the kingdom, **older men** of Judah and Jerusalem, for the southern kingdom.
- Then the king sent and they gathered together to him all the **older men of Judah and Jerusalem**. (2 Kings 23:1)
- Like many of Israel's kings and priests, the **older men** on the whole proved unfaithful in their responsibility to God and the people.
- Accordingly she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the **older men** and the nobles that were in his city dwelling with Naboth. (1 Kings 21:8)
- But she wrote in the letters, saying; Proclaim a fast, and have Naboth sit at the head of the people. (1 Kings 21:9)

- **And make two men, good-for-nothing fellows, sit in front of him, and let them bear witness against him, saying; You have cursed God and the king! And bring him out and stone him that he may die. (1 Kings 21:10)**
- **So the men of his city, the **older men** and the nobles that were dwelling in his city, did just as Jezebel had sent to them, just as it was written in the letters that she had sent to them. (1 Kings 21:11)**
- **They proclaimed a fast and had Naboth sit at the head of the people. (1 Kings 21:12)**
- **Then two of the men, good-for-nothing fellows, came in and sat down in front of him, and the good-for-nothing men began to bear witness against him, that is, Naboth, in front of the people, saying; Naboth has cursed God and the king! After that they brought him out to the outskirts of the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died. (1 Kings 21:13)**
- **They now sent to Jezebel, saying; Naboth has been stoned so that he is dead. (1 Kings 21:14)**
- **There will come adversity upon adversity, and there will occur report upon report, and people will actually seek a vision from a prophet, and the Law itself will perish from a priest and counsel from elderly men. (Ezekiel 7:26)**
- **And men from the **elderly** ones of Israel proceeded to come to me and sit down before me. (Ezekiel 14:1)**
- **Then the word of Yehowah occurred to me, saying; (Ezekiel 14:2)**
- **Son of man, as regards these men, they have brought up their dungy idols upon their heart, and the stumbling block causing their error they have put in front of their faces. Shall I be inquired of at all by them? (Ezekiel 14:3)**
- **Because of losing God's support, boys would become their **princes**, and the lightly esteemed one would storm against the one to be honored.**
- **For, look! The true Lord, Yehowah of armies, is removing from**

- Jerusalem and from Judah support and stay, the whole support of bread and the whole support of water. (**Isaiah 3:1**)
- **Mighty man and warrior, judge and prophet, and practitioner of divination and elderly man. (**Isaiah 3:2**)**
 - **Chief of fifty and highly respected man and counselor and expert in magical arts, and the skilled charmer. (**Isaiah 3:3**)**
 - **And I shall certainly make boys their princes, and mere arbitrary power will rule over them. (**Isaiah 3:4**)**
 - **And the people will actually tyrannize one over the other, even each one over his fellowman. They will storm, the boy against the old man, and the lightly esteemed one against the one to be honored. (**Isaiah 3:5**)**
 - **Thus, the Hebrew Scriptures emphasize that age alone is not sufficient, that gray-headedness is a crown of beauty only when found in the way of righteousness.**
 - **Gray-headedness is a crown of beauty when it is found in the way of righteousness. (**Proverbs 16:31**)**
 - **It is not those merely abundant in days that prove wise, nor those just old that understand judgment, but those who, along with their experience, are guided by God's spirit and who have gained understanding of his Word.**
 - **Surely it is the spirit in mortal men and the breath of the Almighty that gives them understanding. (**Job 32:8**)**
 - **It is not those merely abundant in days that prove wise, nor those just old that understand judgment. (**Job 32:9**)**
 - **With more understanding than **older men** I behave, because I have observed your own orders. (**Psalms 119:100**)**
 - **Trust in Yehowah with all your heart and do not lean upon your own understanding. (**Proverbs 3:5**)**
 - **In all your ways take notice of him, and he himself will make your paths straight. (**Proverbs 3:6**)**

- Do not become wise in your own eyes. Fear Yehowah and turn away from bad. (**Proverbs 3:7**)
- Better is a needy but wise child than an old but stupid king, who has not come to know enough to be warned any longer. (**Ecclesiastes 4:13**)
- Direction by the body of **older men** continued throughout the history of the nation, even during the Babylonian exile and after the restoration to Judah.
- And these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the remainder of the **older men** of the exiled people and to the priests and to the prophets and to all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. (**Jeremiah 29:1**)
- Let the work on that house of God alone. The governor of the Jews and the **older** men of the Jews will rebuild that house of God upon its place. (**Ezra 6:7**)
- Then they caused a call to pass throughout Judah and Jerusalem for all the former exiles to collect themselves together at Jerusalem. (**Ezra 10:7**)
- And anyone that did not come in three days time according to the counsel of the princes and the **older men**, all his goods would be put under a ban and he himself be separated from the congregation of the exiled people. (**Ezra 10:8**)
- So, please, let our princes act representatively for all the congregation, and, as for all in our cities who have given a dwelling to foreign wives, let them come at the times appointed and along with them the **older men** of each individual city and its judges, until we have turned back the burning anger of our God from us, on account of this matter. (**Ezra 10:14**)
- When Jesus was on earth, **older men**, Greek, *pre-sby'te-roj* were active in public affairs, both on a community level.
- When he heard about Jesus, he sent forth **older men** of the Jews to him to ask him to come and bring his slave safely through. (**Luke 7:3**)

- Then those that came up to Jesus began to entreat him earnestly, saying; He is worthy of your conferring this upon him. (**Luke 7:4**)
- For he loves our nation and he himself built the synagogue for us. (**Luke 7:5**)
- And on a national level. The assembly of **older men**, Greek, *pre-sby-te'ri-on* at Jerusalem constituted a major source of opposition to Jesus and his disciples.
- At length when it became day, the assembly of **older men** of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they haled him into their Sanhedrin hall, saying; (**Luke 22:66**)
- As both the High Priest and all the assembly of **older men** can bear me witness. From them I also procured letters to the brothers in Damascus, and I was on my way to bring also those who were there bound to Jerusalem to be punished. (**Acts of Apostles 22:5**)

•• Elders In Christian Congregation

- Viewed against this background, it is not difficult to understand the references to **older men**, *pre-sby'te-roi* of the Christian congregation. As in fleshly Israel, so in Spiritual Israel, the **older men**, or **elders**, were those responsible for the direction of the congregation.
- On the day of Pentecost, the apostles acted as a body, with Peter serving as spokesman by the operation of God's outpoured spirit.
- But Peter stood up with the eleven and raised his voice and made this utterance to them; Men of Judea and all you inhabitants of Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give ear to my sayings. (**Acts of Apostles 2:14**)
- Now when they heard this they were stabbed to the heart, and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles; Men, brothers, what shall we do? (**Acts of Apostles 2:37**)
- Peter said to them; Repent, and let each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit. (**Acts of Apostles 2:38**)
- For the promise is to you and to your children and to all those

- afar off, just as many as Yehowah our God may call to him. (**Acts of Apostles 2:39**)
- **And with many other words he bore thorough witness and kept exhorting them, saying; Get saved from this crooked generation. (**Acts of Apostles 2:40**)**
 - **Therefore those who embraced his word heartily were baptized, and on that day about three thousand souls were added. (**Acts of Apostles 2:41**)**
 - **And they continued devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to sharing with one another, to taking of meals and to prayers. (**Acts of Apostles 2:42**)**
 - **They were clearly **older men** in the spiritual sense by virtue of their early and intimate association with Jesus and their having been personally commissioned by him to teach.**
 - **And Jesus approached and spoke to them, saying; All authority has been given me in heaven and on the earth. (**Matthew 28:18**)**
 - **Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (**Matthew 28:19**)**
 - **Teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And, look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things. (**Matthew 28:20**)**
 - **And he gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelizers, some as shepherds and teachers. (**Ephesians 4:11**)**
 - **With a view to the readjustment of the holy ones, for ministerial work, for the building up of the body of the Christ. (**Ephesians 4:12**)**
 - **And they continued devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to sharing with one another, to taking of meals and to prayers. (**Acts of Apostles 2:42**)**
 - **The attitude of those becoming believers shows that they acknowledged that the apostles had governing authority in the new nation under Christ.**

- **And they continued devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to sharing with one another, to taking of meals and to prayers. (Acts of Apostles 2:42)**
- **Moreover, the multitude of those who had believed had one heart and soul, and not even one would say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. (Acts of Apostles 4:32)**
- **Also, with great power the apostles continued giving forth the witness concerning the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and undeserved kindness in large measure was upon them all. (Acts of Apostles 4:33)**
- **In fact, there was not one in need among them, for all those who were possessors of fields or houses would sell them and bring the values of the things sold. (Acts of Apostles 4:34)**
- **And they would deposit them at the feet of the apostles. In turn distribution would be made to each one, just as he would have the need. (Acts of Apostles 4:35)**
- **So Joseph, who was surnamed Barnabas by the apostles, which means, when translated, Son of Comfort, a Levite, a native of Cyprus. (Acts of Apostles 4:36)**
- **Possessing a piece of land, sold it and brought the money and deposited it at the feet of the apostles. (Acts of Apostles 4:37)**
- **However, a certain man, Ananias by name, together with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. (Acts of Apostles 5:1)**
- **And secretly held back some of the price, his wife also knowing about it, and he brought just a part and deposited it at the feet of the apostles. (Acts of Apostles 5:2)**
- **But Peter said; Ananias, why has Satan emboldened you to play false to the Holy Spirit and to hold back secretly some of the price of the field? (Acts of Apostles 5:3)**
- **As long as it remained with you did it not remain yours, and after it was sold did it not continue in your control? Why was it that you purposed such a deed as this in your heart? You have played**

- false, not to men, but to God. (**Acts of Apostles 5:4**)
- On hearing these words Ananias fell down and expired. And great fear came over all those hearing of it. (**Acts of Apostles 5:5**)
 - But the younger men rose, wrapped him in cloths, and carried him out and buried him. (**Acts of Apostles 5:6**)
 - Now after an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. (**Acts of Apostles 5:7**)
 - Peter said to her; Tell me, did you two sell the field for so much? She said; Yes, for so much. (**Acts of Apostles 5:8**)
 - So Peter said to her; Why was it agreed upon between you two to make a test of the spirit of Yehowah? Look! The feet of those who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out. (**Acts of Apostles 5:9**)
 - Instantly she fell down at his feet and expired. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her alongside her husband. (**Acts of Apostles 5:10**)
 - Consequently great fear came over the whole congregation and over all those hearing about these things. (**Acts of Apostles 5:11**)
 - **And had authority to make appointments to service, either directly as a body or through representatives, the apostle Paul being a notable example.**
 - Now in these days, when the disciples were increasing, a murmuring arose on the part of the Greek-speaking Jews against the Hebrew-speaking Jews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution. (**Acts of Apostles 6:1**)
 - So the twelve called the multitude of the disciples to them and said; It is not pleasing for us to leave the word of God to distribute food to tables. (**Acts of Apostles 6:2**)
 - So, brothers, search out for yourselves seven certified men from among you, full of spirit and wisdom, that we may appoint them over this necessary business. (**Acts of Apostles 6:3**)
 - But we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the

word. (**Acts of Apostles 6:4**)

- **And the thing spoken was pleasing to the whole multitude, and they selected Stephen, a man full of faith and Holy Spirit, and Philip and Prochorus and Nicanor and Timon and Parmenas and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. (**Acts of Apostles 6:5**)**
- **And they placed them before the apostles, and, after having prayed, these laid their hands upon them. (**Acts of Apostles 6:6**)**
- **But Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and persuaded the crowds, and they stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, imagining he was dead. (**Acts of Apostles 14:19**)**
- **However, when the disciples surrounded him, he rose up and entered into the city. And on the next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe. (**Acts of Apostles 14:20**)**
- **And after declaring the Good News to that city and making quite a few disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch. (**Acts of Apostles 14:21**)**
- **Strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to remain in the faith and saying; We must enter into the kingdom of God through many tribulations. (**Acts of Apostles 14:22**)**
- **Moreover, they appointed **older men** for them in each congregation and, offering prayer with fastings, they committed them to Yehowah in whom they had become believers. (**Acts of Apostles 14:23**)**
- **When the issue of circumcision came to the fore, **older men** along with the apostles met in assembly to consider the matter. Their decision was made known to congregations in all places and was accepted as authoritative.**
- **And certain men came down from Judea and began to teach the brothers; Unless you get circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved. (**Acts of Apostles 15:1**)**
- **But when there had occurred no little dissension and disputing by Paul and Barnabas with them, they arranged for Paul and Barnabas and some others of them to go up to the apostles and **older men** in Jerusalem regarding this dispute. (**Acts of Apostles****

15:2)

- **Accordingly, after being conducted partway by the congregation, these men continued on their way through both Phoenicia and Samaria, relating in detail the conversion of people of the nations, and they were causing great joy to all the brothers. (Acts of Apostles 15:3)**
- **On arriving in Jerusalem they were kindly received by the congregation and the apostles and the **older men**, and they recounted the many things God had done by means of them. (Acts of Apostles 15:4)**
- **Yet, some of those of the sect of the Pharisees that had believed rose up from their seats and said; It is necessary to circumcise them and charge them to observe the Law of Moses. (Acts of Apostles 15:5)**
- **And the apostles and the **older men** gathered together to see about this affair. (Acts of Apostles 15:6)**
- **Now when much disputing had taken place, Peter rose and said to them; Men, brothers, you well know that from early days God made the choice among you that through my mouth people of the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. (Acts of Apostles 15:7)**
- **And God, who knows the heart, bore witness by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us also. (Acts of Apostles 15:8)**
- **And he made no distinction at all between us and them, but purified their hearts by faith. (Acts of Apostles 15:9)**
- **Now, therefore, why are you making a test of God by imposing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our forefathers nor we were capable of bearing? (Acts of Apostles 15:10)**
- **On the contrary, we trust to get saved through the undeserved kindness of the Lord Jesus in the same way as those people also. (Acts of Apostles 15:11)**
- **At that the entire multitude became silent, and they began to listen to Barnabas and Paul relate the many signs and portents that God did through them among the nations. (Acts of Apostles**

15:12)

- **After they quit speaking, James answered, saying; Men, brothers, hear me. (Acts of Apostles 15:13)**
- **Symeon has related thoroughly how God for the first time turned his attention to the nations to take out of them a people for his name. (Acts of Apostles 15:14)**
- **And with this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written. (Acts of Apostles 15:15)**
- **After these things I shall return and rebuild the booth of David that is fallen down, and I shall rebuild its ruins and erect it again. (Acts of Apostles 15:16)**
- **In order, that those who remain of the men may earnestly seek Yehowah, together with people of all the nations, people who are called by my name, says Yehowah, who is doing these things. (Acts of Apostles 15:17)**
- **Known from of old. (Acts of Apostles 15:18)**
- **Hence my decision is not to trouble those from the nations who are turning to God. (Acts of Apostles 15:19)**
- **But to write them to abstain from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. (Acts of Apostles 15:20)**
- **For from ancient times Moses has had in city after city those who preach him, because he is read aloud in the synagogues on every Sabbath. (Acts of Apostles 15:21)**
- **Then the apostles and the **older men** together with the whole congregation favored sending chosen men from among them to Antioch along with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was called Barsabbas and Silas, leading men among the brothers. (Acts of Apostles 15:22)**
- **And by their hand they wrote. The apostles and the **older men**, brothers, to those brothers in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the nations, Greetings! (Acts of Apostles 15:23)**

- **Since we have heard that some from among us have caused you trouble with speeches, trying to subvert your souls, although we did not give them any instructions. (Acts of Apostles 15:24)**
- **We have come to a unanimous accord and have favored choosing men to send to you together with our loved ones, Barnabas and Paul. (Acts of Apostles 15:25)**
- **Men that have delivered up their souls for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts of Apostles 15:26)**
- **We are therefore dispatching Judas and Silas, that they also may report the same things by word. (Acts of Apostles 15:27)**
- **For the Holy Spirit and we ourselves have favored adding no further burden to you, except these necessary things. (Acts of Apostles 15:28)**
- **To keep abstaining from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication. If you carefully keep yourselves from these things, you will prosper. Good health to you! (Acts of Apostles 15:29)**
- **Accordingly, when these men were let go, they went down to Antioch, and they gathered the multitude together and handed them the letter. (Acts of Apostles 15:30)**
- **After reading it, they rejoiced over the encouragement. (Acts of Apostles 15:31)**
- **So he arrived at Derbe and also at Lystra. And, look! A certain disciple was there by the name of Timothy, the son of a believing Jewish woman but of a Greek father. (Acts of Apostles 16:1)**
- **And he was well reported on by the brothers in Lystra and Iconium. (Acts of Apostles 16:2)**
- **Paul expressed the desire for this man to go out with him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews that were in those places, for one and all knew that his father was a Greek. (Acts of Apostles 16:3)**
- **Now as they traveled on through the cities they would deliver to those there for observance the decrees that had been decided**

upon by the apostles and **older men** who were in Jerusalem.
(Acts of Apostles 16:4)

- Therefore, indeed, the congregations continued to be made firm in the faith and to increase in number from day to day. (Acts of Apostles 16:5)
- Thus, even as some **older men** served Israel on a national basis, so it is evident that these **older men** with the apostles formed a **older men** for the entire Christian congregation in all lands.
- At a later date, Paul went to Jerusalem and met with James and **all the older men**, relating to them the results of his work and receiving their counsel on certain matters.
- Now after these days we prepared for the journey and began going up to Jerusalem. (Acts of Apostles 21:15)
- But some of the disciples from Caesarea also went with us, to bring us to the man at whose home we were to be entertained, a certain Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple. (Acts of Apostles 21:16)
- When we got into Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly. (Acts of Apostles 21:17)
- But on the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the **older men** were present. (Acts of Apostles 21:18)
- And he greeted them and began giving in detail an account of the things God did among the nations through his ministry. (Acts of Apostles 21:19)
- After hearing this they began to glorify God, and they said to him; You behold, brother, how many thousands of believers there are among the Jews, and they are all zealous for the Law. (Acts of Apostles 21:20)
- But they have heard it rumored about you that you have been teaching all the Jews among the nations an apostasy from Moses, telling them neither to circumcise their children nor to walk in the solemn customs. (Acts of Apostles 21:21)
- What, then, is to be done about it? In any case they are going to

hear you have arrived. (**Acts of Apostles 21:22**)

- Therefore do this which we tell you; We have four men with a vow upon themselves. (**Acts of Apostles 21:23**)
- Take these men along and cleanse yourself ceremonially with them and take care of their expenses, that they may have their heads shaved. And so everybody will know that there is nothing to the rumors they were told about you, but that you are walking orderly, you yourself also keeping the Law. (**Acts of Apostles 21:24**)
- As for the believers from among the nations, we have sent out, rendering our decision that they should keep themselves from what is sacrificed to idols as well as from blood and what is strangled and from fornication. (**Acts of Apostles 21:25**)
- Then Paul took the men along the next day and cleansed himself ceremonially with them and went into the temple, to give notice of the days to be fulfilled for the ceremonial cleansing, until the offering should be presented for each one of them. (**Acts of Apostles 21:26**)
- In a few cases the term, **older men** is used in contrast with younger men or in parallel with older women with no indication of congregational responsibility being involved. In such cases, the term refers simply to men of mature age.
- And in the last days, God says; I shall pour out some of my spirit upon every sort of flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy and your young men will see visions and your **old men** will dream dreams. (**Acts of Apostles 2:17**)
- And even upon my men slaves and upon my women slaves I will pour out some of my spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. (**Acts of Apostles 2:18**)
- Do not severely criticize an **older man**. To the contrary, entreat him as a father, younger men as brothers. (**1 Timothy 5:1**)
- **Older women** as mothers, younger women as sisters with all chasteness. (**1 Timothy 5:2**)
- It is also used to refer to **men of old times**.

- For by means of this the **men of old times** had witness borne to them. (**Hebrews 11:2**)
- However, in most cases in the **Christian Greek Scriptures**, the **older men** were those responsible for the direction of the congregation. In a few texts the **older men** are called, **overseers**, Greek, *e-pi'sko-poi*, **bishops**, **KJ**.
- Paul used this term in speaking to the **older men** from the one congregation of Ephesus, and he applied it to such ones in his letter to Titus.
- However, from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the **older men** of the congregation. (**Acts of Apostles 20:17**)
- Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, to shepherd the congregation of God, which he purchased with the blood of his own Son. (**Acts of Apostles 20:28**)
- For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might correct the things that were defective and might make appointments of **older men** in city after city, as I gave you orders. (**Titus 1:5**)
- For an overseer must be free from accusation as God's steward, not self-willed, not prone to wrath, not a drunken brawler, not a smiter, not greedy of dishonest gain. (**Titus 1:7**)
- Both terms, therefore, refer to the same position, *pre-sby'te-ros* indicating the mature qualities of the one so appointed, and *e-pi'sko-pos* the duties inherent with the appointment.
- Regarding the Greek word *pre-sby'te-ros*, Manuel Guerra y Gomez noted: The precise translation of the term, *pre-sby'te-ros*, in almost the majority of the Hellenistic texts, that have survived until now, is that of **older man** synonym of **mature man**.
- Maturity of judgment and guiding criterion is its distinctive note. Whether or not it has a technical sense the term, *pre-sby'te-ros*, both in the Hellenistic and the Israelite world's designates, not the ailing elderly, but rather the mature man, suitable by his experience and prudence for the ruling of his family or of his people. [**Episcopos y Presbyteros**, Burgos, Spain, 1962, pp. 117,257]

- **That age, in the physical sense of years lived, was a factor for qualifying to serve as an **older man** in ancient Israel is evident.**
- **And King Rehoboam began to take counsel with the **older men** who had continued attending upon Solomon his father while he continued alive, saying; How are you advising to reply to this people? (1 Kings 12:6)**
- **Accordingly they spoke to him, saying; If today you would prove yourself a servant to this people and actually serve them, you must also answer them and speak to them with good words, and they will be bound to become your servants always. (1 Kings 12:7)**
- **However, he left the counsel of the **older men** with which they had advised him, and he began to take counsel with the young men that had grown up with him, who were the ones attending upon him. (1 Kings 12:8)**
- **And he went on to say to them; What is it that you are offering in counsel that we may reply to this people who have spoken to me, saying; Make the yoke that your father put upon us lighter? (1 Kings 12:9)**
- **In turn the young men that had grown up with him spoke to him, saying; This is what you should say to this people who have spoken to you, saying; Your father, for his part, made our yoke heavy, but, as for you, make it lighter upon us, this is what you should speak to them, My little finger itself will certainly be thicker than my fathers hips. (1 Kings 12:10)**
- **And now my father, for his part, loaded upon you a heavy yoke, but I, for my part, shall add to your yoke. My father, for his part, chastised you with whips, but I, for my part, shall chastise you with scourges. (1 Kings 12:11)**
- **And Jeroboam and all the people proceeded to come to Rehoboam on the third day, just as the king had spoken, saying; Return to me on the third day. (1 Kings 12:12)**
- **And the king began to answer the people harshly, and to leave the counsel of the **older men** who had counseled him. (1 Kings 12:13)**

- **So, too, the **older men**, or overseers, in the Christian congregation were not young men, as is evidenced by the apostles reference to their having wives and children.**
- **For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might correct the things that were defective and might make appointments of **older men** in city after city, as I gave you orders. (**Titus 1:5**)**
- **If there is any man free from accusation, a husband of one wife, having believing children that were not under a charge of debauchery nor unruly. (**Titus 1:6**)**
- **The overseer should therefore be irreprehensible, a husband of one wife, moderate in habits, sound in mind, orderly, hospitable, qualified to teach. (**1 Timothy 3:2**)**
- **A man presiding over his own household in a fine manner, having children in subjection with all seriousness. (**1 Timothy 3:4**)**
- **If indeed any man does not know how to preside over his own household, how will he take care of God's congregation? (**1 Timothy 3:5**)**
- **Nevertheless, physical age was not the sole or primary factor, as is seen by the other qualifications set forth.**
- **The overseer should therefore be irreprehensible, a husband of one wife, moderate in habits, sound in mind, orderly, hospitable, qualified to teach. (**1 Timothy 3:2**)**
- **Not a drunken brawler, not a smiter, but reasonable, not belligerent, not a lover of money. (**1 Timothy 3:3**)**
- **A man presiding over his own household in a fine manner, having children in subjection with all seriousness. (**1 Timothy 3:4**)**
- **If indeed any man does not know how to preside over his own household, how will he take care of God's congregation? (**1 Timothy 3:5**)**
- **Not a newly converted man, for fear that he might get puffed up with pride and fall into the judgment passed upon the Devil. (**1 Timothy 3:6**)**

- **Moreover, he should also have a fine testimony from people on the outside, in order, that he might not fall into reproach and a snare of the Devil. (1 Timothy 3:7)**
- **If there is any man free from accusation, a husband of one wife, having believing children that were not under a charge of debauchery nor unruly. (Titus 1:6)**
- **For an overseer must be free from accusation as God's steward, not self-willed, not prone to wrath, not a drunken brawler, not a smiter, not greedy of dishonest gain. (Titus 1:7)**
- **But hospitable, a lover of goodness, sound in mind, righteous, loyal, self-controlled. (Titus 1:8)**
- **Holding firmly to the faithful word as respects his art of teaching, that he may be able both to exhort by the teaching that is healthful and to reprove those who contradict. (Titus 1:9)**
- **Nor is any specific age level stipulated. Timothy, who had to do with appointing **older men**, was obviously also recognized as one himself, though relatively young.**
- **Let no man ever look down on your youth. On the contrary, become an example to the faithful ones in speaking, in conduct, in love, in faith, in chasteness. (1 Timothy 4:12)**
- **The requirements for the position as an **older man** in the Christian congregation included a high standard of conduct and spirituality. The ability to teach, to exhort, and to reprove played a major part in ones being accredited as an **older man**.**
- **The overseer should therefore be irreprehensible, a husband of one wife, moderate in habits, sound in mind, orderly, hospitable, qualified to teach. (1 Timothy 3:2)**
- **Holding firmly to the faithful word as respects his art of teaching, that he may be able both to exhort by the teaching that is healthful and to reprove those who contradict. (Titus 1:9)**
- **Paul solemnly charged Timothy to preach the word, be at it urgently in favorable season, in troublesome season, reprove, reprimand, exhort, with all long-suffering and **art of teaching**.**

- Preach the word, be at it urgently in favorable season, in troublesome season, reprove, reprimand, exhort, with all long-suffering and **art of teaching**. (**2 Timothy 4:2**)
- As **shepherds**, the **older men** are responsible for the spiritual feeding of the flock, as well as for caring for those spiritually ill and for protecting the flock against wolfish elements.
- Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, to shepherd the congregation of God, which he purchased with the blood of his own Son. (**Acts of Apostles 20:28**)
- I know that after my going away oppressive wolves will enter in among you and will not treat the flock with tenderness. (**Acts of Apostles 20:29**)
- And from among you yourselves men will rise and speak twisted things to draw away the disciples after themselves. (**Acts of Apostles 20:30**)
- Therefore keep awake, and bear in mind that for three years, night and day, I did not quit admonishing each one with tears. (**Acts of Apostles 20:31**)
- And now I commit you to God and to the word of his undeserved kindness, which word can build you up and give you the inheritance among all the sanctified ones. (**Acts of Apostles 20:32**)
- I have coveted no man's silver or gold or apparel. (**Acts of Apostles 20:33**)
- You yourselves know that these hands have attended to the needs of me and of those with me. (**Acts of Apostles 20:34**)
- I have exhibited to you in all things that by thus laboring you must assist those who are weak, and must bear in mind the words of the Lord Jesus, when he himself said; There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving. (**Acts of Apostles 20:35**)
- Is there anyone sick among you? Let him call the **older** men of

- the congregation to him, and let them pray over him, greasing him with oil in the name of Yehowah. (**James 5:14**)
- **And the prayer of faith will make the indisposed one well, and Yehowah will raise him up. Also, if he has committed sins, it will be forgiven him. (James 5:15)**
 - **Shepherd the flock of God in your care, not under compulsion, but willingly. Neither for love of dishonest gain, but eagerly. (1 Peter 5:2)**
 - **Neither as lording it over those who are God's inheritance, but becoming examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:3)**
 - **And when the chief shepherd has been made manifest, you will receive the unfadable crown of glory. (1 Peter 5:4)**
 - **Additionally, Paul, who had himself been zealous in teaching publicly and from house to house, reminded Timothy of his responsibility to do the work of an evangelizer, fully accomplish your ministry.**
 - **While I did not hold back from telling you any of the things that were profitable nor from teaching you publicly and from house to house. (Acts of Apostles 20:20)**
 - **You, though, keep your senses in all things, suffer evil, do the work of an evangelizer, fully accomplish your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:5)**
 - **Each Christian congregation had its body of **older men**, or **overseers**, these regularly being mentioned in the plural, as at Jerusalem.**
 - **And this they did, dispatching it to the **older men** by the hand of Barnabas and Saul. (Acts of Apostles 11:30)**
 - **On arriving in Jerusalem they were kindly received by the congregation and the apostles and the **older men**, and they recounted the many things God had done by means of them. (Acts of Apostles 15:4)**
 - **And the apostles and the **older men** gathered together to see about this affair. (Acts of Apostles 15:6)**

- But on the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the **older men** were present. (**Acts of Apostles 21:18**)
- **At Ephesus**
- However, from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the **older men** of the congregation. (**Acts of Apostles 20:17**)
- Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, to shepherd the congregation of God, which he purchased with the blood of his own Son. (**Acts of Apostles 20:28**)
- **At Philippi**
- Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus, to all the holy ones in union with Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, along with overseers and ministerial servants: (**Philippians 1:1**)
- The body of **older men**, Greek, *pre-sby-te'ri-on*, is mentioned with regard to the laying of hands on Timothy.
- Do not be neglecting the gift in you that was given you through a prediction and when the body of **older men** laid their hands upon you. (**1 Timothy 4:14**)
- The **older men**, as the overseers of the congregation, presided over their brothers.
- Or he that exhorts, let him be at his exhortation. He that distributes, let him do it with liberality. He that presides, let him do it in real earnest. He that shows mercy, let him do it with cheerfulness. (**Romans 12:8**)
- Now we request you, brothers, to have regard for those who are working hard among you and presiding over you in the Lord and admonishing you. (**1 Thessalonians 5:12**)
- And to give them more than extraordinary consideration in love because of their work. Be peaceable with one another. (**1 Thessalonians 5:13**)
- On the other hand, we exhort you, brothers, admonish the

disorderly, speak consolingly to the depressed souls, support the weak, be long-suffering toward all. (**1 Thessalonians 5:14**)

- See that no one renders injury for injury to anyone else, but always pursue what is good toward one another and to all others. (**1 Thessalonians 5:15**)
- A man presiding over his own household in a fine manner, having children in subjection with all seriousness. (**1 Timothy 3:4**)
- If indeed any man does not know how to preside over his own household, how will he take care of God's congregation? (**1 Timothy 3:5**)
- Let the **older men** who preside in a fine way be reckoned worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in speaking and teaching. (**1 Timothy 5:17**)
- Paul and Peter, as **older men** with apostolic authority, at times exercised oversight over other **older men** in certain congregations
- Some are puffed up as though I were in fact not coming to you. (**1 Corinthians 4:18**)
- But I will come to you shortly, if Yehowah wills, and I shall get to know, not the speech of those who are puffed up, but their power. (**1 Corinthians 4:19**)
- For the kingdom of God lies not in speech, but in power. (**1 Corinthians 4:20**)
- What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and mildness of spirit? (**1 Corinthians 4:21**)
- Actually fornication is reported among you, and such fornication as is not even among the nations, that a wife a certain man has of his father. (**1 Corinthians 5:1**)
- And are you puffed up, and did you not rather mourn, in order, that the man that committed this deed should be taken away from your midst? (**1 Corinthians 5:2**)
- I for one, although absent in body but present in spirit, have certainly judged already, as if I were present, the man who has

worked in such a way as this. (1 Corinthians 5:3)

- that in the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are gathered together, also my spirit with the power of our Lord Jesus. (1 Corinthians 5:4)
- You hand such a man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, in order, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 5:5)
- In my letter I wrote you to quit mixing in company with fornicators. (1 Corinthians 5:9)
- Not meaning entirely with the fornicators of this world or the greedy persons and extortioners or idolaters. Otherwise, you would actually have to get out of the world. (1 Corinthians 5:10)
- But now I am writing you to quit mixing in company with anyone called a brother that is a fornicator or a greedy person or an idolater or a reviler or a drunkard or an extortioner, not even eating with such a man. (1 Corinthians 5:11)
- For what do I have to do with judging those outside? Do you not judge those inside. (1 Corinthians 5:12)
- While God judges those outside? Remove the wicked man from among yourselves. (1 Corinthians 5:13)
- Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus, to all the holy ones in union with Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, along with overseers and ministerial servants. (Philippians 1:1)
- Consequently, my beloved ones, in the way that you have always obeyed, not during my presence only, but now much more readily during my absence, keep working out your own salvation with fear and trembling. (Philippians 2:12)
- Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the temporary residents scattered about in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, to the ones chosen. (1 Peter 1:1)
- Therefore, to the **older men** among you I give this exhortation, for I too am an older man with them and a witness of the sufferings of the Christ, a sharer even of the glory that is to be

revealed. (1 Peter 5:1)

- Shepherd the flock of God in your care, not under compulsion, but willingly. Neither for love of dishonest gain, but eagerly. (1 Peter 5:2)
- Neither as lording it over those who are God's inheritance, but becoming examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:3)
- And when the chief shepherd has been made manifest, you will receive the unfadable crown of glory. (1 Peter 5:4)
- In like manner, you younger men, be in subjection to the **older** men. But all of you gird yourselves with lowliness of mind toward one another, because God opposes the haughty ones, but he gives undeserved kindness to the humble ones. (1 Peter 5:5)
- As did the apostle John and the disciples James and Jude all writers of letters to congregations. Paul assigned Timothy and Titus to represent him in certain places.
- That is why I am sending Timothy to you, as he is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will put you in mind of my methods in connection with Christ Jesus, just as I am teaching everywhere in every congregation. (1 Corinthians 4:17)
- For my part I am hoping in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I may be a cheerful soul when I get to know about the things pertaining to you. (Philippians 2:19)
- For I have no one else of a disposition like his who will genuinely care for the things pertaining to you. (Philippians 2:20)
- Just as I encouraged you to stay in Ephesus when I was about to go my way into Macedonia, so I do now, that you might command certain ones not to teach different doctrine. (1 Timothy 1:3)
- Nor to pay attention to false stories and to genealogies, which end up in nothing, but which furnish questions for research rather than a dispensing of anything by God in connection with faith. (1 Timothy 1:4)
- Do not severely criticize an **older man**. To the contrary, entreat

- him as a father, younger men as brothers. (1 Timothy 5:1)
- **Older women** as mothers, younger women as sisters with all chasteness. (1 Timothy 5:2)
 - Honor widows that are actually widows. (1 Timothy 5:3)
 - But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let these learn first to practice godly devotion in their own household and to keep paying a due compensation to their parents and grandparents, for this is acceptable in God's sight. (1 Timothy 5:4)
 - Now the woman who is actually a widow and left destitute has put her hope in God and persists in supplications and prayers night and day. (1 Timothy 5:5)
 - But the one that goes in for sensual gratification is dead though she is living. (1 Timothy 5:6)
 - So keep on giving these commands, that they may be irreprehensible. (1 Timothy 5:7)
 - Certainly if anyone does not provide for those who are his own, and especially for those who are members of his household, he has disowned the faith and is worse than a person without faith. (1 Timothy 5:8)
 - Let a widow be put on the list who has become not less than sixty years old, a wife of one husband. (1 Timothy 5:9)
 - Having a witness borne to her for fine works, if she reared children, if she entertained strangers, if she washed the feet of holy ones, if she relieved those in tribulation, if she diligently followed every good work. (1 Timothy 5:10)
 - On the other hand, turn down younger widows, for when their sexual impulses have come between them and the Christ, they want to marry. (1 Timothy 5:11)
 - Having a judgment because they have disregarded their first expression of faith. (1 Timothy 5:12)
 - At the same time they also learn to be unoccupied, gadding

- about to the houses, yes, not only unoccupied, but also gossipers and meddlers in other peoples affairs, talking of things they ought not. (**1 Timothy 5:13**)
- Therefore I desire the younger widows to marry, to bear children, to manage a household, to give no inducement to the opposer to revile. (**1 Timothy 5:14**)
 - Already, in fact, some have been turned aside to follow Satan. (**1 Timothy 5:15**)
 - If any believing woman has widows, let her relieve them, and let the congregation not be under the burden. Then it can relieve those who are actually widows. (**1 Timothy 5:16**)
 - Let the **older** men who preside in a fine way be reckoned worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in speaking and teaching. (**1 Timothy 5:17**)
 - For the scripture says: You must not muzzle a bull when it threshes out the grain. Also: The workman is worthy of his wages. (**1 Timothy 5:18**)
 - Do not admit an accusation against an **older man**, except only on the evidence of two or three witnesses. (**1 Timothy 5:19**)
 - Reprove before all onlookers persons who practice sin, that the rest also may have fear. (**1 Timothy 5:20**)
 - I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus and the chosen angels to keep these things without prejudgment, doing nothing according to a biased leaning. (**1 Timothy 5:21**)
 - For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might correct the things that were defective and might make appointments of **older** men in city after city, as I gave you orders. (**Titus 1:5**)
 - In many cases, these men were dealing with newly established congregations of believers, Titus' commission was to correct the things that were defective, or wanting, lacking, in the congregations in Crete.
 - Paul, Barnabas, Titus, and evidently Timothy are recorded as taking part in appointing persons as **older men** in the congregations.

- And after declaring the Good News to that city and making quite a few disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch. (**Acts of Apostles 14:21**)
- Strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to remain in the faith and saying; We must enter into the kingdom of God through many tribulations. (**Acts of Apostles 14:22**)
- Moreover, they appointed **older men** for them in each congregation and, offering prayer with fastings, they committed them to Yehowah in whom they had become believers. (**Acts of Apostles 14:23**)
- Never lay your hands hastily upon any man, neither be a sharer in the sins of others, preserve yourself chaste. (**1 Timothy 5:22**)
- For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might correct the things that were defective and might make appointments of **older men** in city after city, as I gave you orders. (**Titus 1:5**)
- There is no record of such appointments by the congregations independently. In relating Paul and Barnabas revisiting of Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch,
- Moreover, they **appointed older men** for them in each congregation and, offering prayer with fastings, they committed them to Yehowah in whom they had become believers. (**Acts of Apostles 14:23**)
- States that they **appointed older men**, Greek, *khei-ro-to-ne'san-tes* for them in each congregation, in each of these churches they **appointed elders**, JB, they had **appointed elders** for them in every church, RS.
- Regarding the meaning of the Greek verb *khei-ro-to-ne'o*, the following remark is found in *The Acts of the Apostles*, by F. F. Bruce (1970, p. 286): Although the etymological sense of *khei-ro-to-ne'o* is to elect by show of hands, it came to be used in the sense designate, appoint: cf. the same word with prefix, *pro*, before] in x. 41)
- Liddell and Scott's Greek-English Lexicon, after first giving common definitions to *khei-ro-to-ne'o*, says: later, generally, appoint, appoint to an office in the Church. [Revised by H. Jones, Oxford, 1968, p. 1986]

- **Likewise, Parkhursts Greek and English Lexicon to the New Testament [London, 1845, p. 673] says: With an accusative following, to appoint or constitute to an office, though without suffrages or votes.**
- **The office to which these Christian men were appointed was that of older man, or elder, without any supporting votes by others stretching forth their hands.**
- **When writing to Timothy, Paul said; Let the older men who preside in a fine way be reckoned worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in speaking and teaching.**
- **Let the older men who preside in a fine way be reckoned worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in speaking and teaching. (1 Timothy 5:17)**
- **In view of the following,**
- **For the scripture says: You must not muzzle a bull when it threshes out the grain. Also: The workman is worthy of his wages. (1 Timothy 5:18)**
- **And also the preceding discussion of honoring widows in a material way.**
- **Honor widows that are actually widows. (1 Timothy 5:3)**
- **But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let these learn first to practice godly devotion in their own household and to keep paying a due compensation to their parents and grandparents, for this is acceptable in God's sight. (1 Timothy 5:4)**
- **Now the woman who is actually a widow and left destitute has put her hope in God and persists in supplications and prayers night and day. (1 Timothy 5:5)**
- **But the one that goes in for sensual gratification is dead though she is living. (1 Timothy 5:6)**
- **So keep on giving these commands, that they may be irreprehensible. (1 Timothy 5:7)**
- **Certainly if anyone does not provide for those who are his own,**

and especially for those who are members of his household, he has disowned the faith and is worse than a person without faith. **(1 Timothy 5:8)**

- Let a widow be put on the list who has become not less than sixty years old, a wife of one husband. **(1 Timothy 5:9)**
- Having a witness borne to her for fine works, if she reared children, if she entertained strangers, if she washed the feet of holy ones, if she relieved those in tribulation, if she diligently followed every good work. **(1 Timothy 5:10)**
- On the other hand, turn down younger widows, for when their sexual impulses have come between them and the Christ, they want to marry. **(1 Timothy 5:11)**
- Having a judgment because they have disregarded their first expression of faith. **(1 Timothy 5:12)**
- At the same time they also learn to be unoccupied, gadding about to the houses, yes, not only unoccupied, but also gossipers and meddlers in other peoples affairs, talking of things they ought not. **(1 Timothy 5:13)**
- Therefore I desire the younger widows to marry, to bear children, to manage a household, to give no inducement to the opposer to revile. **(1 Timothy 5:14)**
- Already, in fact, some have been turned aside to follow Satan. **(1 Timothy 5:15)**
- If any believing woman has widows, let her relieve them, and let the congregation not be under the burden. Then it can relieve those who are actually widows. **(1 Timothy 5:16)**
- This double honor evidently included material aid.

· The Twenty-Four Elders On Heavenly Thrones

- In the book of Revelation, the Greek term *pre-sby'te-roi* occurs 12 times and is applied to spirit creatures. Their surroundings, dress, and actions give a clue as to their identity.

- The apostle John had a vision of Yehowah's throne in heaven, surrounded by 24 lesser thrones upon which were seated **24 elders** dressed in white outer garments and having golden crowns upon their heads.
- After these things I saw, and, look! An opened door in heaven, and the first voice that I heard was as of a trumpet, speaking with me, saying; Come on up here, and I shall show you the things that must take place. (**Revelation 4:1**)
- After these things I immediately came to be in the power of the spirit: and, look! A throne was in its position in heaven, and there is one seated upon the throne. (**Revelation 4:2**)
- And the one seated is, in appearance, like a jasper stone and a precious red-colored stone, and round about the throne there is a rainbow like an emerald in appearance. (**Revelation 4:3**)
- And round about the throne there are twenty-four thrones, and upon these thrones I saw **seated twenty-four elders** dressed in white outer garments, and upon their heads golden crowns. (**Revelation 4:4**)
- As the vision continued, John saw the **24 elders** not only repeatedly falling down in worship before Yehowah's throne but also taking part in the various features of the vision as it progressed.
- And whenever the living creatures offer glory and honor and thanksgiving to the one seated upon the throne, the one that lives forever and ever. (**Revelation 4:9**)
- The **twenty-four elders** fall down before the One seated upon the throne and worship the One that lives forever and ever, and they cast their crowns before the throne, saying; (**Revelation 4:10**)
- You are worthy, Yehowah, even our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things, and because of your will they existed and were created. (**Revelation 4:11**)
- And I gave way to a great deal of weeping because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. (**Revelation 5:4**)
- But one of the elders says to me; Stop weeping. Look! The Lion

- that is of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has conquered so as to open the scroll and its seven seals. (**Revelation 5:5**)
- **And I saw standing in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a lamb as though it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which eyes mean the seven spirits of God that have been sent forth into the whole earth. (**Revelation 5:6**)**
 - **And he went and at once took it out of the right hand of the One seated on the throne. (**Revelation 5:7**)**
 - **And when he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp and golden bowls that were full of incense, and the incense means the prayers of the holy ones. (**Revelation 5:8**)**
 - **And they sing a new song, saying; You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because you were slaughtered and with your blood you bought persons for God out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (**Revelation 5:9**)**
 - **And you made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they are to rule as kings over the earth. (**Revelation 5:10**)**
 - **And I saw, and I heard a voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders, and the number of them was myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands. (**Revelation 5:11**)**
 - **Saying with a loud voice; The Lamb that was slaughtered is worthy to receive the power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing. (**Revelation 5:12**)**
 - **And every creature that is in heaven and on earth and underneath the earth and on the sea, and all the things in them, I heard saying; To the One sitting on the throne and to the Lamb be the blessing and the honor and the glory and the might forever and ever. (**Revelation 5:13**)**
 - **And the four living creatures went saying; Amen! And the elders fell down and worshiped. (**Revelation 5:14**)**
 - **After these things I saw, and, look! A great crowd, which no man**

- was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, and there were palm branches in their hands. (**Revelation 7:9**)
- And they keep on crying with a loud voice, saying; Salvation we owe to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb. (**Revelation 7:10**)
 - And all the angels were standing around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell upon their faces before the throne and worshiped God. (**Revelation 7:11**)
 - Saying; Amen! The blessing and the glory and the wisdom and the thanksgiving and the honor and the power and the strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen. (**Revelation 7:12**)
 - And in response one of the **elders** said to me; These who are dressed in the white robes, who are they and where did they come from? (**Revelation 7:13**)
 - So right away I said to him; My lord, you are the one that knows. And he said to me; These are the ones that come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (**Revelation 7:14**)
 - That is why they are before the throne of God, and they are rendering him sacred service day and night in his temple, and the One seated on the throne will spread his tent over them. (**Revelation 7:15**)
 - They will hunger no more nor thirst anymore, neither will the sun beat down upon them nor any scorching heat. (**Revelation 7:16**)
 - Because the Lamb, who is in the midst of the throne, will shepherd them, and will guide them to fountains of waters of life. And God will wipe out every tear from their eyes. (**Revelation 7:17**)
 - And they are singing as if a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders, and no one was able to master that song but the hundred and forty-four thousand, who have been bought from the earth. (**Revelation 14:3**)

- And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God seated upon the throne, and said; Amen! Praise Yah, you people! (**Revelation 19:4**)
- Especially were they observed joining in the Kingdom proclamation to the effect that Yehowah had taken up his great power and had begun to rule as king.
- And the seventh angel blew his trumpet. And loud voices occurred in heaven, saying; The kingdom of the world did become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will rule as king forever and ever. (**Revelation 11:15**)
- And **the twenty-four elders** who were seated before God upon their thrones fell upon their faces and worshiped God. (**Revelation 11:16**)
- Saying; We thank you, Yehowah God, the Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have **taken your great power and begun ruling as king**. (**Revelation 11:17**)
- But the nations became wrathful, and your own wrath came, and the appointed time for the dead to be judged, and to give their reward to your slaves the prophets and to the holy ones and to those fearing your name, the small and the great, and to bring to ruin those ruining the earth. (**Revelation 11:18**)
- In ancient Israel, **older men, elders**, of Israel represented and spoke for the entire nation.
- You go, and you must gather the **older men** of Israel, and you must say to them, Yehowah the God of your forefathers has appeared to me, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying; I will without fail to you and to what is being done to you in Egypt. (**Exodus 3:16**)
- So Moses came and called the **older men** of the people and set before them all these words that Yehowah had commanded him. (**Exodus 19:7**)
- In the same way **elders** may stand for, or represent, the entire congregation of Spiritual Israel. Therefore, the **24 elders** seated on thrones about God might well represent the entire body of anointed

Christians who, proving faithful till death, receive the promised reward of a heavenly resurrection and thrones near that of Yehowah.

- **To the one that conquers I will grant to sit down with me on my throne, even as I conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. (Revelation 3:21)**
- **The number 24 is also significant, for this was the number of the divisions into which King David organized the priests to serve at Jerusalem's temple. The anointed Christians are to be a royal priesthood.**
- **But you are, a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for special possession, that you should declare abroad the excellencies, of the one that called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)**
- **Now the sons of Aaron had their divisions. The sons of Aaron were Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. (1 Chronicles 24:1)**
- **However, Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and they did not happen to have any sons, but Eleazar and Ithamar continued to act as priests. (1 Chronicles 24:2)**
- **And David, and Zadok from the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech from the sons of Ithamar proceeded to make divisions of them for their office in their service. (1 Chronicles 24:3)**
- **But the sons of Eleazar were found to be more numerous in headmen than the sons of Ithamar. So they distributed them to the sons of Eleazar, as heads for their paternal houses, sixteen, and to the sons of Ithamar, as heads for their paternal houses, eight. (1 Chronicles 24:4)**
- **Further, they distributed them by lots, these along with those, for there had to be chiefs of the holy place and chiefs of the true God from the sons of Eleazar and from the sons of Ithamar. (1 Chronicles 24:5)**
- **Then Shemaiah the son of Nethanel the secretary of the Levites wrote them down before the king and the princes and Zadok the priest and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar and the heads of the fathers of the priests and of the Levites, one paternal house being picked out for Eleazar and one being picked out for**

Ithamar. (1 Chronicles 24:6)

- **And the lot proceeded to come out, the first for Jehoiarib, for Jedaiah the second.(1 Chronicles 24:7)**
- **For Harim the third, for Seorim the fourth. (1 Chronicles 24:8)**
- **For Malchijah the fifth, for Mijamin the sixth. (1 Chronicles 24:9)**
- **For Hakkoz the seventh, for Abijah the eighth.(1 Chronicles 24:10)**
- **For Jeshua the ninth, for Shecaniah the tenth. (1 Chronicles 24:11)**
- **For Eliashib the eleventh, for Jakim the twelfth. (1 Chronicles 24:12)**
- **For Huppah the thirteenth, for Jeshebeab the fourteenth. (1 Chronicles 24:13)**
- **For Bilgah the fifteenth, for Immer the sixteenth. (1 Chronicles 24:14)**
- **For Hezir the seventeenth, for Happizzaz the eighteenth. (1 Chronicles 24:15)**
- **For Pethahiah the nineteenth, for Jehezkel the twentieth. (1 Chronicles 24:16)**
- **For Jachin the twenty-first, for Gamul the twenty-second. (1 Chronicles 24:17)**
- **For Delaiah the twenty-third, for Maaziah the twenty-fourth. (1 Chronicles 24:18)**
- **These were their offices for their service, to come into the house of Yehowah according to their due right by the hand of Aaron their forefather, just as Yehowah the God of Israel had commanded him. (1 Chronicles 24:19)**
- **In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there happened to be a certain priest named Zechariah of the division of Abijah, and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was**

Elizabeth. (Luke 1:5)

- **They both were righteous before God because of walking blamelessly in accord with all the commandments and legal requirements of Yehowah. (Luke 1:6)**
- **But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they both were well along in years. (Luke 1:7)**
- **Now as he was acting as priest in the assignment of his division before God. (Luke 1:8)**
- **According to the solemn practice of the priestly office it became his turn to offer incense when he entered into the sanctuary of Yehowah. (Luke 1:9)**
- **And all the multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of offering incense. (Luke 1:10)**
- **To him Yehowah's angel appeared, standing at the right side of the incense altar. (Luke 1:11)**
- **But Zechariah became troubled at the sight, and fear fell upon him. (Luke 1:12)**
- **However, the angel said to him; Have no fear, Zechariah, because your supplication has been favorably heard, and your wife Elizabeth will become mother to a son to you, and you are to call his name John. (Luke 1:13)**
- **And you will have joy and great gladness, and many will rejoice over his birth. (Luke 1:14)**
- **for he will be great before Yehowah. But he must drink no wine and strong drink at all, and he will be filled with Holy Spirit right from his mothers womb. (Luke 1:15)**
- **And many of the sons of Israel will he turn back to Yehowah their God. (Luke 1:16)**
- **Also, he will go before him with Elijah's spirit and power, to turn back the hearts of fathers to children and the disobedient ones to the practical wisdom of righteous ones, to get ready for Yehowah a prepared people. (Luke 1:17)**

- **And Zechariah said to the angel; How am I to be sure of this? For I am aged and my wife is well along in years. (Luke 1:18)**
- **In reply the angel said to him; I am Gabriel, who stands near before God, and I was sent forth to speak with you and declare the Good News of these things to you. (Luke 1:19)**
- **But, look! You will be silent and not able to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their appointed time. (Luke 1:20)**
- **Meanwhile the people continued waiting for Zechariah, and they began to wonder at his delaying in the sanctuary. (Luke 1:21)**
- **But when he came out he was not able to speak to them, and they perceived that he had just seen a supernatural sight in the sanctuary, and he kept making signs to them, but remained dumb. (Luke 1:22)**
- **When, now, the days of his public service were fulfilled, he went off to his home. (Luke 1:23)**
- **The time now became due for Elizabeth to give birth, and she became mother to a son. (Luke 1:57)**
- **And the neighbors and her relatives heard that Yehowah had magnified his mercy to her, and they began to rejoice with her. (Luke 1:58)**
- **And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the young child, and they were going to call it by the name of its father, Zechariah. (Luke 1:59)**
- **But its mother answered and said; No, indeed! But he shall be called John. (Luke 1:60)**
- **At this they said to her; There is no one among your relatives that is called by this name. (Luke 1:61)**
- **Then they went asking its father by signs what he wanted it to be called. (Luke 1:62)**
- **And he asked for a tablet and wrote. John is its name. At this**

they all marveled. (**Luke 1:63**)

- Instantly his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed and he began to speak, blessing God. (**Luke 1:64**)
- And fear fell upon all those living in their neighborhood, and in the whole mountainous country of Judea all these things began to be talked around. (**Luke 1:65**)
- and all that heard made note of it in their hearts, saying; What really will this young child be? For the hand of Yehowah was indeed with it. (**Luke 1:66**)
- Happy and holy is anyone having part in the first resurrection, over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of the Christ, and will rule as kings with him for the thousand years. (**Revelation 20:6**)

See Also OVERSEER