

Elders

Elders hold the office of **Diakonos (dee-ak'-on-os)** which means servant and also of the **Episkope (ep-is-kop-ay')** which means the overseers. Therefore, an elder is both servant and overseer. This term diakonos has been translated as deacon six times in Scripture and is not to be seen as a singular office but as a category for multiple offices for which ministers, teachers, preachers, deacons also occupy. Please see the study on [Church: Forms and Practices](#) for a fuller study on this and other key points of Scripture.

4245 πρεσβύτερος presbuteros (pres-boo'-ter-os)

a comparative of *presbus (an old man)*; *elder*:— older; as noun, a senior; specifically, an Israelite Sanhedrist (also figuratively, member of the celestial council) or Christian "presbyter":—elder(-est), old.

NAS-elder (3), elders (57), men of old (1), old men (1), older (1), older man (1), older ones (1), older women (1), women (1).

AV-elder 64, old man 1, eldest 1, elder woman 1; 67

- 1) elder, of age,
 - 1a) the elder of two people
 - 1b) advanced in life, an elder, a senior
 - 1b1) forefathers
- 2) a term of rank or office
 - 2a) among the Jews
 - 2a1) members of the great council or Sanhedrin (because in early times the rulers of the people, judges, etc., were selected from elderly men)
 - 2a2) of those who in separate cities managed public affairs and administered justice
 - 2b) among the Christians, those who presided over the assemblies (or churches) The NT uses the term bishop, elders, and presbyters interchangeably
 - 2c) the twenty four members of the heavenly Sanhedrin or court seated on thrones around the throne of God

4244 πρεσβυτέριον presbuterion (pres-boo-ter'-ee-on)

from [4245](#); *a body of elders*:— the order of elders, i.e. (specifically) Israelite Sanhedrin or Christian "presbytery":—(estate of) elder(-s), presbytery.

NAS-council of the elders (1), council of elders (1), presbytery (1).

AV-elders 1, estate of elders 1, presbytery 1; 3

- 1) body of elders, presbytery, senate, council
 - 1a) of the Jewish elders
 - 1b) of the elders of any body (assembly) of Christians

4850 συμπρεσβύτερος sumpresbuteros (soom-pres-boo'-ter-os)

from [4862](#) and [4245](#); *a fellow elder*:— a co-presbyter:—presbyter, also an elder.

NAS-fellow elder (1).

AV-also an elder 1; 1

- 1) a fellow elder

Matthew 15:2

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"Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the **elders** <4245 presbuteros>? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."

Matthew 16:21

From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the **elders** <4245 presbuteros> and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

Matthew 21:23

When He entered the temple, the chief priests and the **elders** <4245 presbuteros> of the people came to Him while He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?"

Matthew 26:3

Then the chief priests and the **elders** <4245 presbuteros> of the people were gathered together in the court of the high priest, named Caiaphas;

Matthew 26:47

While He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs, *who came* from the chief priests and **elders** <4245 presbuteros> of the people.

Matthew 26:57

Those who had seized Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the scribes and the **elders** <4245 presbuteros> were gathered together.

Matthew 27:1

Now when morning came, all the chief priests and the **elders** <4245 presbuteros> of the people conferred together against Jesus to put Him to death;

Matthew 27:3

Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and **elders** <4245 presbuteros>,

Matthew 27:12

And while He was being accused by the chief priests and **elders** <4245 presbuteros>, He did not answer.

Matthew 27:20

But the chief priests and the **elders** <4245 presbuteros> persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to put Jesus to death.

Matthew 27:41

In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and **elders** <4245 presbuteros>, were mocking *Him* and saying,

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Matthew 28:12

And when they had assembled with the **elders** <4245 presbuteros> and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

Mark 7:3

(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, *thus* observing the traditions of the **elders** <4245 presbuteros>;

Mark 7:5

The Pharisees and the scribes *asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the **elders** <4245 presbuteros>, but eat their bread with impure hands?"

Mark 8:31

And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the **elders** <4245 presbuteros> and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Mark 11:27

They *came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the **elders** <4245 presbuteros> *came to Him,

Mark 14:43

Immediately while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, *came up accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, *who were* from the chief priests and the scribes and the **elders** <4245 presbuteros>.

Mark 14:53

They led Jesus away to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the **elders** <4245 presbuteros> and the scribes *gathered together.

Mark 15:1

Early in the morning the chief priests with the **elders** <4245 presbuteros> and scribes and the whole Council, immediately held a consultation; and binding Jesus, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate.

Luke 7:3

When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish **elders** <4245 presbuteros> asking Him to come and save the life of his slave.

Luke 9:22

saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the **elders** <4245 presbuteros> and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day."

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Luke 15:25

"Now his **older** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

Luke 20:1

On one of the days while He was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) confronted *Him*,

Luke 22:52

Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) who had come against Him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as you would against a robber?"

Luke 22:66

When it was day, the **Council of elders** [<4244 presbuterion>](#) of the people assembled, both chief priests and scribes, and they led Him away to their council *chamber*, saying,

John 8:9

When they heard it, they *began* to go out one by one, beginning with the **older ones** [<4245 presbuteros>](#), and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center *of the court*.

Acts 2:17

'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR **OLD MEN** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) SHALL DREAM DREAMS;

Acts 4:5

On the next day, their rulers and **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem;

Acts 4:8

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) of the people,

Acts 4:23

When they had been released, they went to their own *companions* and reported all that the chief priests and the **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) had said to them.

Acts 6:12

And they stirred up the people, the **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) and the scribes, and they came up to him and dragged him away and brought him before the Council.

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Acts 11:30

And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#).

Acts 14:23

When they had appointed **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 15:2

And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, *the brethren* determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) concerning this issue.

Acts 15:4

When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#), and they reported all that God had done with them.

Acts 15:6

The apostles and the **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) came together to look into this matter.

Acts 15:22

Then it seemed good to the apostles and the **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#), with the whole church, to choose men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas—Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren,

Acts 15:23

and they sent this letter by them, "The apostles and the brethren who are **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#), to the brethren in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the Gentiles, greetings.

Acts 16:4

Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe.

Acts 20:17

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders [<4245 presbuteros>](#) of the church.

Acts 21:18

And the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders [<4245 presbuteros>](#) were present.

Acts 22:5

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as also the high priest and all the Council of elders [<4244 presbuterion>](#) can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished.

Acts 23:14

They came to the chief priests and the **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) and said, "We have bound ourselves under a solemn oath to taste nothing until we have killed Paul.

Acts 24:1

After five days the high priest Ananias came down with some **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#), with an attorney *named* Tertullus, and they brought charges to the governor against Paul.

Acts 25:15

and when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) of the Jews brought charges against him, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him.

1 Timothy 4:14

Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the **presbytery** [<4244 presbuterion>](#).

1 Timothy 5:1

Do not sharply rebuke an **older man** [<4245 presbuteros>](#), but *rather* appeal to *him* as a father, *to* the younger men as brothers,

1 Timothy 5:2

the **older women** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) as mothers, *and* the younger **women** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) as sisters, in all purity.

1 Timothy 5:17

The **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

1 Timothy 5:19

Do not receive an accusation against an **elder** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) except on the basis of two or three witnesses.

Titus 1:5

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) in every city as I directed you,

Hebrews 11:2

For by it the **men of old** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) gained approval.

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James 5:14

Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the **elders** <4245 presbuteros> of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

1 Peter 5:1

Therefore, I exhort the **elders** <4245 presbuteros> among you, as *your fellow elder* <4850 sumpresbuteros> and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,

1 Peter 5:5

You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your elders* <4245 presbuteros>; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

2 John 1:1

The **elder** <4245 presbuteros> to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth,

3 John 1:1

The **elder** <4245 presbuteros> to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.

Revelation 4:4

Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones *I saw* twenty-four **elders** <4245 presbuteros> sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.

Revelation 4:10

the twenty-four **elders** <4245 presbuteros> will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Revelation 5:5

and one of the **elders** <4245 presbuteros> *said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."

Revelation 5:6

And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the **elders** <4245 presbuteros> a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.

Revelation 5:8

When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four **elders** <4245 presbuteros> fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

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Revelation 5:11

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#); and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,

Revelation 5:14

And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) fell down and worshiped.

Revelation 7:11

And all the angels were standing around the throne and *around* the **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

Revelation 7:13

Then one of the **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?"

Revelation 11:16

And the twenty-four **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#), who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God,

Revelation 14:3

And they *sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#); and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.

Revelation 19:4

And the twenty-four **elders** [<4245 presbuteros>](#) and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!"