

Elder / Bishop / Shepherd

OT king: Coniah, Jeconiah, Jehoiachin

Elder, Bishop, Shepherd

- One man may wear many hats
- Peter: son of John; fisherman; disciple; fearful – fearless; apostle; prophet; evangelist; pastor; teacher; herald (Ac.2 / 10); persecuted; faithful; writer; exhorter; example; husband; father...

Proper principles of Bible study include...

- a. Word meanings. Apostle [2 Co.8:23; Ph.2:25]
- b. Sentence. Mt.28:19 . . . baptize infants?
 - No: '*make disciples*' (learners, followers), '*baptizing them*' (not nations)
- c. Context. Col.2:21 (once a favorite passage for temperance sermons)
- d. Circumstances of the document. Jd.3-4
- e. General teaching of Scripture [ever learning, obeying, and teaching]

The study of elders

Many different views –

- Merely older men
- Men or women
- No authority to make decisions
- Dictators
- Unnecessary

Only one thing matters:
What does the NT say?

I. Elder / Presbyter

Elder / Presbyter: older, old

- Lk.7:3, elders of the Jews
- Lk.15:25, age (older son)
- Jn.8:9, oldest (ones)
- 1 Tim.5:1, men (older)
- 1 Tim.5:2, women (older)

Eldership is presbytery: older, old

But contrast:

- 1 Tim.4:14, *presbytery* (also [N]KJV; NASB)
- But also *eldership* (some NKJV); *council of elders* (ESV; CSB)
- Other verses translate same root *elders* –
 - 1 Tim.5:17, 19, *elders*

Emphasis of these words: age

Elders: valued as counselors

- Ex.18, Jethro . . . and Moses
- Ex.24:9, seventy elders . . . (1 K.12)
- Dt.21:1-9, criminal cases . . .
 - Always a group; no single elder; wisdom
 - Settled problems in area; had to know Law
 - Mt.15:2...tradition of elders, Sanhedrin
 - Mt.16:21... evil elders

NT churches

- Ac.11:30, first mention of elders in church
- Ac.14:23, plurality appointed in each church

“The Divine arrangement seen throughout the NT was for a plurality of these to be appointed in each church...” – Vine, p.195

- Ac.15:1-2, 4, 6, 22... (21:18, Jerusalem)
 - Elders worked with apostles during crises
 - Today, elders work through word of apostles

I. Elder / Presbyter

II. Bishop / Overseer

Overseer – indicates nature of work

1 Pt.2:25 ... Overseer (Guardian; Bishop...)
– NASB; ESV

Phil.1:1 ... Bishops (NKJV: ftnt. - overseers)
also NASB; ESV

Corresponding verb: 1 Pt.5:2, serving as
overseers. NKJV; ESV; NASB

- Give attention to, look at, take care, see to it. To accept responsibility for the care of someone, oversee, care for ... especially of one entrusted with oversight – BDAG
- Ac.20:17 . . . 28

I. Elder / Presbyter

II. Bishop / Overseer

III. Shepherd / Pastor

Shepherd/Pastor: one who tends herds or flocks – Vine

- Guardian, leader, shepherd
 - Mt.9:36
 - 1 Pt.2:25
 - Ep.4:11

Shepherd/Pastor: verb

...to serve as tender of sheep, *herd, tend*
(*lead to*) *pasture*. *To watch out for other*
people ... lead, guide, feed, rule

Ac.20:28 (29, wolves threaten) [Ph.3:2, dogs]

1 Pt.5:1-2

- Gn.31:....36-41
- Ex.3:1
- 1 Sm.17:34-37
- Lk.2:8-20
- Lk.15:4-6

Jesus, Our Shepherd

John 21:15-16

Two commands:

1) feed: nourish to grow

2) tend: protect from danger

- Jesus is the model. 1 Pt.5:2, Shepherd the flock of God which is among you
- Jesus loves His sheep

Jesus, Our Example

1. Good Shepherd dies for His sheep,
Jn.10:11
2. Great Shepherd lives for His sheep,
Hb.13:20-21
3. Chief Shepherd comes for His sheep,
1 Pt.5:4