



THE
ELDERS
OF THE CHURCH

ELDERS IN THE BIBLE

THE NEED FOR LEADERSHIP

- “*God is not the author of confusion but of peace*” (1 Cor. 14:33)
- God’s eternal purpose includes the church — Eph. 3:10-11
- The church is under authority — Ephesians 1:22-23
- Christ left the church with leadership — Ephesians 4:11-13
- Age is a key component to biblical leadership — Job 12:12;
Proverbs 16:31; Leviticus 19:32
- The church is given leadership of aged men — Acts 20:17

THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL

Elders as Representatives

- Representatives of the people — **Exodus 3:11-18; 5:1**
- Provided experiences to equip them for leadership — **Exodus 4:28-31; 17:5-6; 24:1, 9-16**
- Represented the people in needed atonement for continued fellowship with God — **Leviticus 4:13-15, 20 (cf. Hebrews 13:17)**
- Taking into consideration the thoughts and needs of the people — **1 Kings 12:3-8, 13**

THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL

Elders and the Law

- Entrusted with leadership in Passover — Exodus 12:21, 28
- Covenantal introduction laid before them — Exodus 19:3-8
- Involved in renewing the covenant — Deuteronomy 27:1; 31:9-11, 24-29 (cf. Hebrews 13:17)

THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL

Elders in Judgment and Discipline

- Moses delegated judgment to some elders — **Exodus 18:13-23**
 - 70 elders given Spirit for judgment — **Num. 11:16-17, 24-25**
 - **Deut. 1:15-18** — to judge righteously and without partiality.
- Elders sat in judgment and carried out discipline — **Deuteronomy 19:11-13; 21:18-21; 22:13-21; 25:7-10**
 - *“so you shall put away the evil from among you...”* (**cf. 1 Cor. 5:12-13**)

THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL

Elders in Conflict and Crisis

- Wept before God at defeat — **Joshua 7:6**
- Sought the Lord after defeat — **1 Samuel 4:3**
- Included in restoring true worship — **2 Kings 23:1-2**
- Inquired of the Lord during captivity — **Ezekiel 14:1-3; 20:1-4**
- Part of the leadership in calling the people to fast and repent — **Joel 1:2-3, 13-14; 2:15-17**

THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL

Elders and the Way of the Nation

- The leadership of “*the elders of Israel*” shaped the way of the nation for better or worse.
- The elders who outlived Joshua led the people in faithfulness — **Joshua 23:1-3, 6; 24:31; Judges 2:7**
- Conduct of the elders a reason for judgment — **Isaiah 3:13-15**
- Corrupt leadership contributed to the captivity — **Ezekiel 8:1, 3, 9-12, 17-18**

THE ELDERS OF THE ISRAEL OF GOD

“they had appointed elders in every church” (Acts 14:23)

“set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city” (Titus 1:5)

- The elders of the church have great responsibility and are an indispensable part of a sound, strong, and fortified church — Acts 20:17-18, 25, 28



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