

James 5 – Elders



The Ecclesia had two main offices of administration - apostles and elders (cp Acts 15:2,4,6,22-23; 16:4). This term was also used of classes of mature men such as the Sanhedrin (cp Luke 22:66; Acts 22:5) and appointed overseers of the Ecclesia (cp Acts 14:23; 1 Tim 5:17).

The elders were also known as Bishops or Overseers (*episkopos* (1985) - superintendent. Cp Acts 20:17,28; Tit 1:5,7). "*Presbuteros* refers to their dignity, *Episkopos* to their function" (Grimm-Thayer).

The duty of the elders was to care for the ecclesial members in all their needs (cp Acts 20:28; 1 Tim 3:5; 5:17; Heb 13:17; 1 Pet 5:1-3). For their qualifications see 1 Tim 3:1-7; Tit 1:5-9.

The elders are to help in meekness knowing that they are also subject to the same weaknesses (cp Gal 6:1).