

A CHART COMPARING OFFICES IN THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE CHURCH

By C White

(extracted from *Synagogue and Church: Comparative Structures* by C White)

| Offices in the Synagogue | Historical evidence for offices in the NT Church | Ephesians 4:11-12 | ICor 12:28-29 | Old WCG Structure |
|--|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | Apostle (<i>apostolos</i>) ¹ | Apostle (<i>apostolos</i>) | Apostle (<i>apostolos</i>) | Apostle |
| | Prophet (<i>prophetes</i>) | Prophet (<i>prophetes</i>) | Prophet (<i>prophetes</i>) | N/A, unless some senior men who brought truths to HWA may have functioned in this capacity in some way at various times |
| Senior or Chief Elder (<i>nasi = president</i>) ² | | Evangelist (<i>euaggelistes</i>) | | Evangelist (many were Regional Directors) |
| Community Chief/Pastor & Elders in Council (including Notables) (<i>chazen or zaken</i>) | Community Chief (<i>archisynagogi</i>) & Elders in Council (<i>poimen</i>) | Pastor & Elders in Council | | Pastor sometimes Assistant Pastors Local Elders Local Local Elders (pastor presided over regular meetings with Elders and Deacons (DELS)) |
| Teacher (<i>rab</i>) | Teacher (<i>didaskalos</i>) | Teacher | Teacher | Sermonette presenters. Youth class leaders |

¹ This is probably also known as the *Angeloi tas Ekklesias* (cp Rev 2:1,8,12,18, 3:1,7,14)

² This aspect is still not clear to me. It may have been a parallel role to the *magid* who traveled around and raised up local churches and proclaimed the Gospel to the community. See IITim 4:5; Titus 1:5.

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| Assistants (Deacons) (<i>almoners or parnasin</i>) | Deacons (in Councils) | (Deacons are mentioned elsewhere in the NT) | (Deacons are mentioned elsewhere in the NT) | Deacons & Deaconesses |
| Apostoli (<i>shaliach</i> or <i>announcer</i>) | | | | |
| Prophets (outside the jurisdiction of the synagogue) (<i>esha'elohim, nabyi'</i>) | | | | |
| various gifts were noted and utilised, but were not ministerial rank: scribe, commissioner, priest, reader, apostle, prophet. One such was the <i>preceptor</i> or song-leader. Another was the <i>meturganim</i> who translated into the local language the teaching of the Law in Hebrew. He stood next to the teacher as he undertook the translation. ³ | | | (various gifts such as miracles, healings, helps, governments, languages) See ICor 13:1, 8; 14:1-28 | Members in general |

NB: further detail on the structure of the synagogue could be added here, however the above suffices. The striking feature is the similarity between the synagogue and that postulated by Paul. Also the non-rank role of apostle and prophet. These were evidently raised by Paul to highest office in the early Church of God.

³ See the *Talmud: Meg. 4; Maimon. Tephillah, 12; Mas-secheth Soph. 103*