

## “Elders [Hebrew, *zaqen*] of Israel” in Samuel/Kings

Hebrew, *zaqen*, “elder,” is found 180 times in the Masoretic Text. The phrase “elders of Israel” is found 31 times in the Hebrew Scriptures and once in the New Testament. The use is distributed as follows:

Exodus: 8	Samuel: 6
Leviticus: 1	Kings: 2
Numbers: 3	Chronicles: 4
Deuteronomy: 2	Ezekiel: 3
Joshua: 2	

1 SAMUEL	
4.3	When the troops came to the camp, the <b>elders of Israel</b> said, " <u>Why has YHWH put us to rout today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of YHWH here from Shiloh, so that he may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.</u> "
8.4-5	Then all the <b>elders of Israel</b> <u>gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations."</u>
2 SAMUEL	
3.17	<u>Abner sent word to the <b>elders of Israel</b>, saying, "For some time past you have been seeking David as king over you.</u>
5.3	So all the <b>elders of Israel</b> <u>came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before YHWH, and they anointed David king over Israel.</u>
17.4	The <u>advice pleased Absalom and all the <b>elders of Israel</b>.</u>
17.15	Then Hushai said to the priests Zadok and Abiathar, " <u>Thus and so did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the <b>elders of Israel</b>; and thus and so I have counseled.</u>
1 KINGS	
8.1-3	Then Solomon assembled the <b>elders of Israel</b> and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of YHWH out of the city of David, which is Zion. All the people of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the festival in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. And all the <b>elders of Israel</b> came, and the priests carried the ark.
NOTE ALSO IN 1 KINGS:	
12.6	Then <u>King Rehoboam took counsel with the <b>elders</b> who had attended his father Solomon while he was still alive, saying, "How do you advise me to answer this people?"</u>