

(4) Ambrose, archbishop of Milan (A.D. 374)

In his commentary on the seven stars of Revelation 1, he observes, "We ought, therefore, to understand the seven angels to be the rectors or presidents of the seven churches, because angel means messenger, and they who announce the word of God to the people are not improperly called angels, that is, messengers."

Syricius wrote to Syrus, the presbyter of Ambrose, to reprove him for inattention to his charge, and Ambrose concurred, denominating Syrus brother, and co-presbyter.

(5) Coelus Sedulus Scotus, of Britain (A.D. 390)

(Exposition on Titus 1) "He calleth him a bishop, whom before he named a presbyter. Before, . . . the churches were governed with the common counsel of the presbyters; but after that every one thought those whom he baptized to be his, not Christ's, it was decreed, throughout the world, that one chosen of the presbyters should be set over the rest, to whom all the care of the church should appertain, and the seeds of schisms should be taken away. In the Acts of the Apostles it is written, that when the apostle Paul came to Miletus, he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of that church, unto whom, among other things, he spake thus; Take heed to yourselves, and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you bishops, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. And here observe more diligently, how that he, calling the elders of but one city, Ephesus, doth afterwards style them bishops; these things I have alleged, that we might show how, that among the ancients, presbyters to have been the same that bishops were; but, by little and little, that the seeds of dissension might be utterly extirpated, the whole care was transferred to one."

(6) Chrysostom, bishop of Constantinople (A.D. 398)

(Exposition on I Timothy 3:1-10) "Having spoken of bishops and characterized them, saying both what they should possess, and from what they should abstain, and omitting the order of presbyters, Paul has passed over to the deacons. But why is this? Because there is not much difference. For these, also, in like manner, have been set over the teaching and government of the church, and what things he has said concerning bishops, the same also he intended for presbyters; for they have gained the ascendancy over them only in respect of ordaining, and of this thing also they appear to have robbed the presbyters."

(7) Jerome (A.D. 380) (a presbyter)

(Commentary on Titus) "A presbyter, therefore, is the same as a bishop;. . . If any suppose, that it is merely our opinion, and not that of the scriptures, that bishop and presbyter are the same, and that one is the name of age, the other of office, let him read the words of the apostles to the Philippians, saying, Paul and Timothy, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus that are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons. Phillippi is a city of Macedonia,