on. iv. 4] EXPOUNDED 107  
  
High Priest entereth into the holy place every year with  
blood of others’’ (Heb. ix. 7, 12, 25; x.19; xiii. 11).  
The elders then are both kings and priests, each set  
over his particular department of creation.  
(1) They are kings, as seen by their crowns and  
thrones, and by their sitting thereon ; a posture suited  
to those to whom judgment belongs.  
Yet though these are kings, they are only called  
“elders.” They reign, not by virtue of creation, but by  
age and by the appointment of God. We are made  
kings unto God, by our second birth, and washing in the  
blood of Christ. They are councillors of the throne ;  
conversant with the purposes of the king, and able to  
impart intelligence to John, as the servant of God.  
But though councillors, they are not consulted, as in  
human courts. For who shall impart wisdom to God ?  
(2) They are also priests. This is betokened by their  
white raiment, which denotes them pure before God.  
A linen dress of white was the priest’s ordinary attire.  
Exod. xxviii. 42; Lev. vi. 10; xvi. 4. They also  
have harps, and songs, and golden bowls of odours,  
which they offer before the throne. These were priestly  
employments.  
(3) They are the heads of the angelic priesthood.  
They are the chief-priesis of the heavenly courses. They  
are the chief officers of the heavenly king, ruling over the  
angels ; and, through them, over the earth. They are  
like the elders of the tribes of Israel. It is with the  
design of enlightening us as to their position, that the  
name “elder’’ has been given them. There were  
\* elders” both of the civil rulers and also of the priests.  
Isa. xxxvii. 2; Jer. xix. 1.  
These, then, are the rulers of the angelic sons of God,  
who kept their government and their abode, when others  
left it. Jude 6.  
They are seen “ sitting.” Inferior angels stand. “I