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hi·er·arch  (hī ə-rärk', hī rärk')

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n.

1. One who occupies a position of authority in a religious hierarchy.
2. One who occupies a high position in a hierarchy: *governmental hierarchs*.

[From Middle English *jerarchis*, hierarchs, from Medieval Latin *hierarcha*, dignitary, prelate, from Greek *hierarkhēs*, high priest : *hieros*, holy; see **eis-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *-arkhēs*, *-arch*.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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