

Hebrews 7:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

Analysis

Levi was 'still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.' This emphasizes the representative principle and establishes temporal priority - Melchizedek's priesthood predates the Levitical priesthood by centuries. What existed before the law and outside its system can also exist after it. Christ's priesthood isn't a novelty but a return to the superior, pre-Levitical order instituted by God's oath.

Historical Context

Abraham lived c. 2000 BC, Moses and the Levitical law c. 1400 BC. Melchizedek's priesthood predicated the law by 600 years, demonstrating that the Levitical system was a later, temporary insertion in God's redemptive plan, not the original or final word.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the pre-existence of Melchizedek's priesthood challenge the idea that Mosaic law is God's ultimate revelation?
2. What does the temporal priority of faith and priesthood over law teach about God's redemptive method?

Interlinear Text

ἔτι	γὰρ	ἐν	τῇ	όσφυϊ	τοῦ	πατρὸς	ἥν	ὅτε
yet	For	in	G3588	the loins	G3588	of his father	he was	when
G2089	G1063	G1722		G3751		G3962	G2258	G3753

συνήντησεν	αὐτῷ	ό	Μελχισέδεκ
met	him	G3588	Melchisedec
G4876	G846		G3198

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