

Hebrews 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.

Analysis

The priesthood change necessitates a law change - they're inseparable. The Mosaic law established the Levitical priesthood; changing priesthoods requires changing the entire legal framework. Reformed covenant theology sees this as the transition from old to new covenant. The law has been fulfilled in Christ (Matthew 5:17), and believers relate to God through the new covenant in Christ's blood, not Sinai's tablets.

Historical Context

This would be shocking to Jewish readers who saw Mosaic law as eternal. The author demonstrates from Scripture itself (Psalm 110:4) that God planned to change the priesthood, requiring a new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the change from old to new covenant affect how you relate to God?
2. What aspects of the Mosaic law continue in the new covenant, and what has changed?

Interlinear Text

μετατιθεμένης	γὰρ	τῆς	ιερωσύνης	ἐξ	ἀνάγκης	καὶ
being changed	For	G3588	the priesthood	of	necessity	also
G3346	G1063		G2420	G1537	G318	G2532

νόμου	μετάθεσις	γίνεται
of the law	a change	there is made
G3551	G3331	G1096

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 66:21 (Parallel theme): And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the LORD.

Ezekiel 16:61 (Parallel theme): Then thou shalt remember thy ways, and be ashamed, when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger: and I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant.