

Hebrews 7:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar.

Analysis

The one (Jesus) of whom these things are said 'belongs to another tribe' (Judah), 'from which no one has officiated at the altar.' This was a legal impossibility under the old covenant - Judah was the royal tribe, Levi the priestly. Christ's priesthood transcends and combines both offices (king-priest), fulfilling Melchizedek's dual role. Reformed theology sees Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King, holding all mediatorial offices.

Historical Context

The strict separation of priesthood (Levi) and kingship (Judah) was fundamental to Israel's theocracy. King Uzziah's attempt to offer incense resulted in leprosy (2 Chronicles 26:16-21). Only the Messiah could legitimately combine both offices.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's combination of priestly and kingly offices benefit you?

2. What does Christ's tribal descent (Judah, not Levi) teach about God's sovereignty over His own laws?

Interlinear Text

ἐφ'	ἥς	γὰρ	λέγεται	ταῦτα	φυλῆς	έτέρας
he of	which	For	are spoken	these things	tribe	to another
G1909	G3739	G1063	G3004	G5023	G5443	G2087
μετέσχηκεν	ἀφ'	ἥς	οὐδεὶς	προσέσχηκεν	τῷ	
pertaineth	of	which	no man	gave attendance		G3588
G3348	G575	G3739	G3762	G4337		
θυσιαστηρίῳ.						
at the altar						
G2379						

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 7:11 (Parallel theme): If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

Hebrews 7:14 (Parallel theme): For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.