

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' ἧς γὰρ λέγεται ταῦτα φυλῆς ἐτέρας
he of which For are spoken these things tribe to another
G1909 G3739 G1063 G3004 G5023 G5443 G2087

μετέσχηκεν ἅφ' ἧς 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.