

Hebrews 7:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

Analysis

Christ became priest 'not after the law of a carnal commandment' (the Levitical requirement of tribal descent) but 'after the power of an endless life' (Greek 'zoes akatalytou'—indestructible life). His priesthood rests not on physical qualifications but on resurrection power. The Aaronic priesthood was 'carnal' (Greek 'sarkikos'—fleshly) in being based on physical descent; Christ's is spiritual and eternal.

Historical Context

Levitical priests qualified by birth into Levi's tribe and Aaron's line. They served until age 50 or death. Christ's priesthood, based on His resurrection life, never ends.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's indestructible life give you confidence that your salvation is secure?

2. What difference does it make that your High Priest operates by resurrection power, not human limitation?

Interlinear Text

ὅς	οὐ	κατὰ	νόμον	ἐντολῆς	σαρκίκης	γέγονεν	ἀλλὰ
Who	not	after	the law	commandment	of a carnal	is made	but
G3739	G3756	G2596	G3551	G1785	G4559	G1096	G235

κατὰ	δύναμιν	ζωῆς	ἀκαταλύτου
after	the power	life	of an endless
G2596	G1411	G2222	G179

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 1:18 (Parallel theme): I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Hebrews 7:28 (Word): For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

Hebrews 10:1 (Word): For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

Hebrews 7:3 (Creation): Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

Colossians 2:20 (Parallel theme): Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

Colossians 2:14 (Parallel theme): Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Galatians 4:9 (Parallel theme): But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Galatians 4:3 (Parallel theme): Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

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