

Hebrews 7:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest:

Analysis

Christ's priesthood was confirmed 'by an oath' - a crucial difference from Levitical priests who were appointed 'without an oath.' Divine oath-taking indicates immutability and supreme importance. God's oath establishes Christ's priesthood as unchangeable, unlike the Levitical which could be (and was) superseded. Reformed theology sees covenant oaths as demonstrating God's commitment to His redemptive purposes.

Historical Context

Psalm 110:4 records God's oath: 'The LORD has sworn and will not repent.' This oath creates an irrevocable priesthood, unlike the Levitical appointment in Exodus which contained no divine oath.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Why did God confirm Christ's priesthood with an oath, and what does this reveal about its permanence?

2. How does the oath-bound nature of Christ's priesthood strengthen your assurance?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ καθ' ὅσον οὐ χωρὶς ὁρκωμοσίας
And inasmuch as G3745 not without an oath
G2532 G2596 G3756 G5565 G3728

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