

Hebrews 7:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

Analysis

The Levitical priesthood required 'many priests' because 'they were not suffered to continue by reason of death.' Physical death constantly necessitated new priests. This limitation revealed the temporary, inadequate nature of the old covenant priesthood. The succession of priests pointed to the need for an eternal priest.

Historical Context

From Aaron to the temple's destruction in 70 AD, an unbroken succession of high priests served. Each one eventually died and required replacement, demonstrating the system's inherent weakness.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the constant succession of Old Testament priests highlight Christ's uniqueness?
2. What comfort comes from knowing your High Priest will never die or need replacement?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οἱ	μὲν	πλείονές	εἰσιν	γεγονότες	ἱερεῖς	διὰ	τὸ	
And	G3588	truly	many	they		G1096	priests	because	G3588
G2532		G3303	G4119	G1526			G2409		G1223
θανάτῳ κωλύεσθαι παραμένειν.									
death		they were not suffered		to continue					
G2288		G2967		G3887					

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org