

Hebrews 7:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham:

Analysis

Levitical priests received tithes 'from the people according to the law,' though they too descended from Abraham. This was a legal obligation based on the Mosaic covenant. The point is that receiving tithes indicates priestly authority over those who pay. The Levitical system had authority, but it was derived and temporary. Christ's Melchizedekian priesthood is superior and eternal.

Historical Context

Numbers 18:21-26 prescribed tithes for Levites as their inheritance since they received no land. This legal arrangement sustained the Levitical priesthood but also revealed its dependence on others and its this-worldly nature.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does the tithe system reveal about different levels of authority in redemptive history?
2. How does Christ's priesthood surpass the authority of the Levitical priesthood?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	τῆς	μὲν	ἐκ	τῆς	υἱῶν	Λευὶ	τῆς
And	who	verily	out of	who	the sons	of Levi	who
G2532	G3588	G3303	G1537	G3588	G5207	G3017	G3588
ιερατεῖαν			λαμβάνοντες		ἐντολὴν		ἔχουσιν
the office of the priesthood			receive		a commandment		have
G2405			G2983		G1785		G2192
ἀποδεκατοῦν	τῆς	λαὸν	κατὰ	τῆς	νόμον	τοῦτ'	
to take tithes	who	of the people	according to	who	the law	G5124	
G586	G3588	G2992	G2596	G3588	G3551		
ἔστιν	τῆς	ἀδελφοὺς	αὐτῶν	καίπερ	ἐξεληλυθότας	ἐκ	
G2076	who	brethren	G846	though	they come	out of	
G3588		G80		G2539	G1831	G1537	
τῆς	ὀσφύος	Ἀβραάμ·					
who	the loins	of Abraham					
G3588	G3751	G11					