

# 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

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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

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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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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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

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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

ἱερατείαν 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 G1537

G3588 G80 G2539 G1831

τῆς ὄσφύος Ἀβραάμ·

who the loins of Abraham

G3588 G3751 G11

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