

Hebrews 7:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.

Analysis

Here (Levitical system) 'mortal men receive tithes,' but there (Melchizedek) one 'of whom it is witnessed that he lives.' The contrast is mortality vs. life. Levitical priests die and are replaced; Melchizedek, in the Genesis account, appears without record of death, typifying Christ who 'lives forever' (7:16, 24). Christ's unending priesthood provides permanent intercession and access to God.

Historical Context

The Genesis narrative's silence about Melchizedek's death was unusual enough to be theologically significant. The author uses this literary feature to point to Christ's eternal priesthood, grounded in His resurrection and eternal life.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's eternal priesthood differ from temporary human priesthods in effectiveness?

2. What comfort does Christ's ongoing priestly intercession provide for you daily?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ὧδε μὲν δεκάτας ἀποθνήσκοντες ἄνθρωποι
And **here** G3303 **tithes** **that die** **men**
G2532 G5602 G1181 G599 G444

λαμβάνουσιν ἐκεῖ δὲ μαρτυρούμενος ὅτι
receive **there** **but** **he receiveth them of whom it is witnessed** **that**
G2983 G1563 G1161 G3140 G3754

ζῇ
he liveth
G2198

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 6:20 (Parallel theme): Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 5:6 (Parallel theme): As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

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 7:23 (Parallel theme): And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

John 14:19 (Parallel theme): Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.