

Of Which Tribe Moses Spake Nothing

The book of Hebrews can be described in one word: better. Throughout the book, the author shows, point by point, that Christ with His law is better than Moses and the law he gave to the physical children of Israel. In the seventh chapter of Hebrews, a contrast is being developed between Christ and the levitical priesthood. In Hebrews 7:4-10, the author begins his comparison. He begins by putting Melchizedek and Abraham side by side. These two men will later be representing the two priesthoods: Christ's priesthood and the Levitical priesthood. Melchizedek is shown to be superior to Abraham because Abraham paid a tithe of all he owned to this priest/king. Using logic, the author shows Levi as inferior to Melchizedek, because if Abraham paid tithes, than Levi indirectly paid a tithe to him being the descendant of Abraham. If Abraham, the father of the nation of Israel, paid tithes, it is understood that all of his descendants would have done the same because Melchizedek's status of superiority had been set.

With this in mind, look now into verses 11-14:

Now if there was perfection through the Levitical priesthood for under it hath the people received the law, what further need was there that another priest should arise after the order of Melchizedek, and not be reckoned after the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. For he of whom these things are said belongeth to another tribe, from which no man hath given attendance at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord hath sprung out of Judah; as to which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priests.

With every new argument in the book of Hebrews, the author shows the need for something new. He shows that perfection had not yet been obtained. In the new testament, Christ's law, the priesthood has been changed. Peter writes that Christians, "*also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices*" (1 Peter 2:5). Here in Hebrews, the author clearly shows that we have a new high priest: "*Thou art a priest for ever After the order of Melchizedek*" (Hebrews 7:17). This is a prophecy of Christ. His priesthood will exist forever. This answers the question posed in Hebrews 7:11.

Once a priesthood change has been established, there had to be a change of law! Why? "*For it is evident that our Lord hath sprung out of Judah; as to which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priests.*" Some might say, "well Moses never said that a priest could not come from Judah!" This is a correct statement. Never in scripture is a command that states, "no priests shall come from Judah." So why is it wrong? Why couldn't a priest come from Judah? The answer is simple and if one uses common sense the answer presents itself. In Numbers 1:49-50, the Lord tells Moses, "*Only the tribe of Levi thou shalt not number, neither shalt thou take the sum of them among the children of Israel; but appoint thou the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all the furniture thereof, and over all that belongeth to it: they shall bear the tabernacle, and all the furniture thereof; and they shall minister unto it, and shall encamp round about the tabernacle.*" The word "priest" is never mentioned in these verses, but this is the

point when the Levites become the official priests of Israel. From this point forward the words, "priest" and "Levites" become synonymous. In the entire book of Levi, the Levites are never mentioned by name, but everyone understands that the priests are from Levi and no where else. As logical human beings, when one says, "Here is five dollars. Could you please go to the store and buy me a gallon of milk?" Everyone can hear this from anyone else and know several things: five dollars are to be used to buy one gallon of milk, the milk can be purchased at any store, and anything except milk that is purchased with the five dollars received is a violation of what was asked. Christ was born of the tribe of Judah. Judah is not the tribe of Levi. Levi is the only approved tribe to be priests under the old law of Moses. Conclusion, there had to be a change of law for there to be a change in priesthood.

Silence is never authoritative! If one's parents commanded them to go to school and then come home, logic would demand nothing else. If the child violated this command and went to school for five minutes, then to the mall for the day, and then home, the parents are going to punish that child for violating their command! Did the parents have to eliminate all other possibilities that the child might think of going in order to keep them from going there? No. This would become an endless list and completely unnecessary. This is understood in the secular world, but is neglected in the religious world. The argument is made, "God never said that we couldn't!" The child above may say, "Dad, you never told me I couldn't go to the mall, and I did still go to school and come home!" The conclusion is the same: The command has been violated. The child did not have authority to go to the mall, and one can not be approved by God unless we fulfill His commandments.