

13. “For the one concerning whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no one has continuously attended the altar.”

Having said that there has been a change from the Levitical priesthood to the Melchizedek Priest, Jesus Christ, we are told that He has and continues to belong to another tribe, not the priest-providing tribe of Levi. Furthermore, it is emphasized that no one from this tribe has ever “continuously attended” (προσέσχηκεν), *served*, and *officiated* at the altar.

14. “For it is evident that our Lord has risen out of Judah, regarding which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priests.”

Note two important facts which indicate a *distinct breakaway* from the Mosaic Law. First, our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ, being of the tribe of Judah, *had no right to serve as a priest*. Second, *Moses gave no one from the tribe of Judah the privilege to become a priest in conjunction with his Law*. The foregoing verses clearly indicate that the Mosaic Law has been replaced by Jesus Christ, *our Great High Priest*, and an *Economy of Grace*.

15. “And this is still more abundantly evident, if another priest rises up according to the likeness of Melchizedek,”

In the preceding verse, Paul says that it is “evident” (προδηλον) and very obvious that our Lord has risen out of Judah. In this verse, he says that it is “still more abundantly evident” (περισσότερον ἐτι κατάδηλον) and *easily understood* that there has been a change by the fact that another priest has risen up according to the likeness of Melchizedek. According to the usage of the verb translated “rises up” (ἀνέσταται), we interpret this to mean that God brought about *the rising up* of our Great High Priest. This is further evidence of a change. Jesus Christ’s great high priestly ministry has replaced the Levitical priesthood and the Law.

16. “who has been made [a priest], not according to the Law of a carnal commandment, but according to the power of an endless life.”

This verse declares that Jesus Christ “has been made” (γεγονεν) and has become a High Priest according to the power of an “endless life” (ζωῆς ακαταλύτου), a *life which cannot be ended nor caused to cease*. Our preferred interpretation is that “the power of an endless