

## **What happened to the Levites after the coming of Christ?**

After the coming of Jesus what happened to the Levites? Are the disciples descendents of them, or were the Levites lost and destroyed with the other tribes of Israel? God had originally appointed them as His priests, but Jesus chose His disciples which where the first bishops of the Church. Please explain.

With Christ there was a change in the priesthood. The Levitical priesthood of the Old Covenant gave way to the priesthood of Christ in the New Covenant. This entailed a movement away from sacrificial rites that involve the blood of animals toward the sacramental rites of the Church, through which the merits of Christ's redemptive sacrifice are applied to the faithful.

Interestingly, Christ is not a Levite. He is identified in Scripture not as a Levitical priest, but as a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek (see Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 7:11-17). The connection of Christ to Melchizedek is fascinating. Read more about it [here](#), or Google "Melchizedek" and "Scott Hahn" for other resources.

This transition from a Levitical priesthood to the New Covenant priesthood is a significant theme in the Letter to the Hebrews, especially chapter 7. The [Ignatius Catholic Study Bible on Hebrews](#) is an exceptional resource for going deeper into this book of the Bible.

Lastly, from a more liturgical/catechetical perspective, check out [Catechism, nos. 1539-45](#).