



The Urim and the Thummim
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Exodus 28:1–4 (NLT)

“Call for your brother, Aaron, and his sons, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. Set them apart from the rest of the people of Israel so they may minister to me and be my priests. Make sacred garments for Aaron that are glorious and beautiful. Instruct all the skilled craftsmen whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom. Have them make garments for Aaron that will distinguish him as a priest set apart for my service. These are the garments they are to make: a chestpiece, an ephod, a robe, a patterned tunic, a turban, and a sash. They are to make these sacred garments for your brother, Aaron, and his sons to wear when they serve me as priests.”

Summary

God tells Moses that he has chosen Aaron and his sons to serve him as priests. When they serve, they are to wear special clothes.

Exodus 28:15, 29–30 (NIV)

“Fashion a breastpiece for making decisions . . . Whenever Aaron enters the Holy Place, he will bear the names of the sons of Israel over his heart on the breastpiece of decision . . . Also put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastpiece, so they may be over Aaron’s heart whenever he enters the presence of the Lord. Thus Aaron will always bear the means of making decisions for the Israelites over his heart before the Lord.

Questions:

1. What was the purpose of the breastpiece?

2. What part of the breastpiece was used for making decisions?

The _____ and the _____

3. What are the Urim and the Thummim?

The Urim and the Thummim are two _____ that were used to _____.

Urim = “ _____ ”

Thummim = “ _____ ”

FYI: In Old Testament times, casting lots was often used as a way of determining the will of God.

The lot is cast into the lap, but every decision is from the Lord.

Proverbs 16:33 (NIV)

FYI: For Christians, the act of casting lots continued until God sent the Holy Spirit.

Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.” Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

Acts 1:24–26 (NIV)

A Story of the Urim and Thummim in the United States

“He called me by name, and said unto me that he was a messenger sent from the presence of God to me, and that his name was Moroni . . .

He said there was a book deposited, written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, and the source from whence they sprang. He also said that the fullness of the everlasting Gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants; also that there were two stones in silver bows—and these stones, fastened to a breastplate, constituted what is called the Urim and Thummim—deposited with the plates.”

Joseph Smith, 1838

The manuscript that Joseph Smith said he compiled by translating the golden plates by use of the Urim and Thummim in Palmyra, New York, is called _____.

What was the original purpose of the Urim and Thummim?

Also put the Urim and Thummim in the breastpiece, so they may be over Aaron’s heart whenever he enters the presence of the Lord. Thus Aaron will always bear the means of making decisions for the Israelites over his heart before the Lord.

Exodus 28:30 (NIV)

- The purpose of the Urim and Thummim was that the High Priest may have a tangible way of knowing the will of God.

How do we Christians know God’s will for our lives?

- By the Holy Spirit

(Jesus) I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 14:16,26 (NIV)