

## URIM AND THUMMIM

Urim and Thummim were precious stones (gems) carried by the High Priest. They represented Yeshua. They were used by the priest to determine Yah's answers to the questions. There is not a lot said about them in the bible but there are some theories as to what they were and how they worked.

Urim means "light". It begins with the letter "alef". Thummim begins with the letter "tav" and means perfection (decision). When we understand Hebrew we see that "the urim and the thummim" is spelled out as: האורים והתומים

The transliteration of the Hebrew would be *ha-Urim vaha-Tummim*. "HA" means "the" and "VE" means "and". Thus the above is literally "the URIM and the THUMMIM"

URIM means "light" and THUMMIM means "perfection". But technically speaking, these words are plurals (remember when you add "IM" to a Hebrew noun it become plural), so it could be rendered as "Lights and Perfections". The idea is that light and perfection are the two most recognizable qualities of Adonai.

These stones represented Yeshua as the High Priest of the order of Melchizedek, the alef/tav, the beginning and the end (Isa. 46:9-10). The Rabbis teach that the alef/tav means perfection and completion. Yeshua is the light. He once came as the perfect lamb sacrifice; "it is finished". He later comes as the Lion of the tribe of Yuhudah for completion.



Urim was a very distinctive stone, and the thummim ("im" makes it plural), were two identical stones that even felt alike. When asked a yes or no question, the High Priest would reach into the pocket and grab one of the thummim stones (they were identical, so he could not tell one from the other), and the urim stone. The answer would come from Adonai as a yes if the urim stone was illuminated, and no if the urim was not illuminated.

Yeshua, the urim and thummim, changes our heart through the light of perfection given to the world. He is/was the perfect sacrifice (thummim). When Yah spoke through the High Priest urim and thummim stones, they would light up, causing the other twelve stones to light up. That was one of the ways Yah communicated directly through His High Priest to His people. He uses His light (Yeshua) to shed His light on the world and light up all those who believe and obey His commands.

The Urim and Thummim were on, by, or part of the Ephod worn by the High Priest. Remember that the EPHOD includes the Breastplate and the pouch that contained the URIM and the THUMMIM. The stones were beneath the breastplate, close to the heart of the High priest. The heart being symbolic of where His law/instructions/torah are supposed to be on born again people. The breastplate is often referred to as the breastplate of judgement. Many believe these stones were thrown in a similar way as dice are thrown. In the throwing of the stones Yah would somehow reveal a decision to the High Priest. In the instructions for making the breastplate in Exod. 28:16, it says the linen was to be double stitched to form a square. It is possible that these two stones were kept in a type of pocket or pouch that was part of the breastplate.

Many believe that whatever the question presented was, the stones represented either true or false as an answer for the High priest. Some historians think that by staring into these gems the priest would go into a state of a trance or ecstasy and receive the answer from Yah.

No one is certain what thummim meant but it appears to have meant either affirmative or negative. In other words, the decisions. Essentially what would happen was that a yes or no question would be posed to the High Priest. As the bible says: "say yea or nay".

The idea of a fortune teller gazing into a crystal ball originates from the theory of the High Priest getting direction from the stones of the Urim and Thummim when he gazed into them.

It is believed that the urim and thummim were kind of like looking at a collide-scope. The High Priest would look at the stones and the way and manner they lit up formed Hebrew letters that answered the question asked of the High priest. The stone would look alive in a sense with their colliding colors moving on the inside. This was almost like looking into a diamond in the light.

Over the years it was made possible to purchase the High Priests position and then the ephod became of no value. As the priesthood became corrupted the urim and thummim simply became inactive.



**Exod. 28:15-16** “You shall make a breast-piece of judgment, the work of a skillful workman; like the work of the ephod you shall make it: **of gold, of blue and purple and scarlet [material] and fine twisted linen you shall make it.** “It shall be square [and] folded double, a span in length and a span in width.”

**Exod. 28:30** “**You shall put in the breast-piece of judgment the Urim and the Thummim,** and they shall be over Aaron’s heart when he goes in before Yahveh; and Aaron shall carry the judgment of the sons of Israel over his heart before Yahveh continually.” On the inside part of the breastplate was a pouch that held the urim and thummim. Whenever the High priest was required to use them he would reach in next to his heart and draw them out for their function.

**Lev. 8:8** He then placed the breast-piece on him, and in the breastpiece he put the **Urim and the Thummim.**”

**Ezra 2:63** The governor said to them that they should not eat from the most holy things until a priest stood up with **Urim and Thummim.**”

**Deut. 33:8** Of Levi he said, “[Let] Your **Thummim and Your Urim** [belong] to Your godly man, Whom You proved at Massah, With whom You contended at the waters of Meribah;

In 1Sam. 28:6 Saul sought direction from the witch of En-dor because he got no direction from Yah.

**1Sam. 28:6** When Saul inquired of Yah, Yah did not answer him, either by dreams or **by Urim** or by prophets.”

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