

A second theory proposes that Urim and Thummim refers to two flat pieces of wood or bone or stone, with different colors or symbols on their two flat sides; and that these two pieces were kept in the pouch formed by the folding of the material of the breastpiece. This theory proposes that these pieces were cast, either on the ground or into the lap, in order to ascertain the will of God. Under this view, the high priest would learn the will of God in the following ways:

If a question were asked and both pieces fell with the same color or symbol up, the Lord's answer was either "yes" or "no", depending on the color or symbol that came up.

If a question were asked and different symbols or colors came up, the Lord's answer was "wait" or perhaps there was no answer.

If a tribe were selected or not selected, that could be ascertained by throwing the pieces after the mention of each tribal name.

If a family or even an individual were selected, that could be ascertained by throwing the pieces after the mention of the family's or individual's name.

Of course, the truth of the matter is that we do not know exactly how the Urim and Thummim worked. That information seems to have been lost in the mists of antiquity! But however Urim and Thummim worked, this was a mode of special revelation.

i. Revelation by means of the lot

It appears that many nations in antiquity used the lot to determine doubtful questions. Stones or inscribed tablets were put into some kind of vessel, were shaken, and were then either cast out or drawn out.

In the O. T. two words are used: GORAL (גֹּרָל) and PUR (פֹּר) .

PUR is used exclusively in the book of Esther, and in two chapters only (chapters 3 and 9), where it is used seven times. In Esther 3:7 and 9:24 PUR is equated with GORAL. From this account comes the name and significance of the Jewish feast of PURIM (פּוּרִים)

GORAL is used 77 times in the O. T. Many of its uses are related to the distribution of the land and of the cities of Canaan among the tribes of Israel.

The courses of the priests (24 each year) to determine which priests were to serve in the temple were ascertained by lot (I Chronicles 24:1-19).