

Exodus 28:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually.

Analysis

The Urim and Thummim (אורים וְתַמִּימִים, 'lights and perfections') in the breastplate enable the high priest to bear 'the judgment of Israel.' These mysterious objects allowed discerning God's will. The meanings ('lights'—illumination, 'perfections'—completion/truth) suggest divine guidance is both illuminating and perfecting. Christ, bearing our judgment, provides light for our path and perfection for our standing. Through Him we receive divine guidance and divine righteousness simultaneously.

Historical Context

The exact nature of Urim and Thummim remains debated—possibly engraved stones or sacred lots. Their use in determining God's will (1 Samuel 28:6) shows they functioned as divine communication, though Scripture rarely describes their operation.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Christ provide both 'lights' (guidance) and 'perfections' (righteousness) simultaneously?
2. What does bearing 'the judgment of Israel' teach about Christ's decision-making on your behalf?

Interlinear Text

וְנָתַתָּ	אֵל	חֹשֶׁן	מִשְׁפָּט	אֵת	הָאוּרִים	אֵת
And thou shalt put	H413	in the breastplate	of judgment	H853	the Urim	H853
H5414		H2833	H4941		H224	
הַתִּמָּיִם	עַל	לֵב	אֶהְרֹן	בָּבֹא	לִפְנֵי	
and the Thummim	H1961	H5921	heart	and Aaron	when he goeth	before
H8550		H3820	H175	H935	H6440	
יְהוָה	וְנָשָׂא	אֶהְרֹן	אֵת	מִשְׁפָּט	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל
the LORD	shall bear	and Aaron	H853	of judgment	of the children	of Israel
H3068	H5375	H175		H4941	H1121	H3478
עַל	לֵב	לִפְנֵי	יְהוָה	תָּמִיד:		
H5921	heart	before	the LORD	continually		
	H3820	H6440	H3068	H8548		

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 7:65 (Parallel theme): And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim.

Ezra 2:63 (Parallel theme): And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim.

Deuteronomy 33:8 (Parallel theme): And of Levi he said, Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be with thy holy one, whom thou didst prove at Massah, and with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah;

Numbers 27:21 (Judgment): And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.

Leviticus 8:8 (Parallel theme): And he put the breastplate upon him: also he put in the breastplate the Urim and the Thummim.

Hebrews 4:15 (Parallel theme): For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

1 Samuel 28:6 (References Lord): And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

Hebrews 9:24 (Parallel theme): For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Hebrews 9:12 (Parallel theme): Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Zechariah 6:13 (References Lord): Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.