

The Amazing U and T

A 7emca7 study; August 21, 2014

It is always thrilling to take the time to see some of the lessons conveyed to us connected with the earthly sanctuary. My attention was called this week to something that was a part of the Breastplate of the High Priest; the Urim and the Thummim. These were two rather large and brilliant stones set on the right and left side of the breastplate.

The Urim and the Thummim were amazing things!! They were 2 precious stones that were placed in the High Priest's breastplate. One on the right—the Urim; and one on the left—the Thummim.

“At the right and left of the breastplate were two large stones of great brilliancy. These were known as the Urim and Thummim. By them the will of God was made known through the high priest. When questions were brought for decision before the Lord, a halo of light encircling the precious stone at the right was a token of the divine consent or approval, (Yes) while a cloud shadowing the stone at the left was an evidence of denial or disapprobation. (No)” PP 351.

It was the Spirit of God that made them work; they were just gem-stones and had no power in themselves. Someone could not steal the breastplate for example and take it away and use it for their own purposes such as fortune telling; no way! The stones would be no different than pebbles you might pick up on the ground; except for being prettier.

The question is; does this piece of history from the ancient sanctuary priesthood hold any meaning to us today? I did not think so; however, as I looked at it in the scriptures, the Lord showed me some amazing facts which I will attempt to share here. I know this will only scratch the surface as everything in the Word has many levels of truth and to think we know it all is most unwise.

The Urim and Thummim only worked for a people that were in covenant relationship with God; that is, they were in obedience to Him, keeping all His precepts and commandments. Notice this in God's instructions to Moses:

Numbers 27:18 “And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; 19 And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. 20 And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, **that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.** 21 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.”

The people and their leaders had to be obedient to the Lord for this special guidance system to be in place between God and Israel. This being the case, the people and the leaders had the privilege to inquire of God by going to the High Priest; he would bring the question before God and He would answer by making the shadow or the light appear on the correct stone. This was a wonderful privilege!

But we see what happened in the life of Saul; the first king of Israel. He became proud and began to exalt himself, reject the word of the prophet, and disobey God. He eventually even went so far as to murder the priests and their families! The Holy Spirit left him and he was no longer in a covenant relation with God. The time came when he desperately wanted a word from God and he could not get it! The stones would not indicate anything at all.

1 Samuel 28:6 “And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.”

For those who break the covenant with God and stubbornly refuse to repent when they have the chance, the future is grim indeed!

Proverbs 1:27 “When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. 28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: 29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: 30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.”

The U and T was a form of the Spirit of Prophecy! Notice these:

Ezra 2:63 “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.”

Nehemiah 7:65 “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.”

The priest having the U and T with God answering through them indicated the presence of the Spirit of Prophecy was among them. See, it was nothing to have the breastplate with the 2 stones on it, unless God was with them and they were in a covenant relationship to Him; only then He would communicate through them.

In order for this divine guidance system to be in place and God’s people to be in a covenant relationship with Him; all of the commandments need to be kept, not just some of them; not just most of them—all of them, including the Seventh Day Sabbath! So we see that as the Protestant Reformation movement arose, although it was blest of God, protected and guided, and He did send much light on the scriptures, the living Spirit of Prophecy was not fully active among them; why? They continued to follow in the steps of Rome and hallow the Sunday. They were not keeping all of God’s commandments.

Well, you say, “They did not know about it”; but actually they did! One of Luther’s co-laborers kept the Sabbath and did bring it to Luther’s attention, but he did not see it was of any importance!

All this has great meaning for us today—the Spirit of Prophecy was manifested amongst us at the time when God was gathering out a people to make a covenant with them. At the time of the first vision already some had begun looking into the Sabbath question. These people would keep all of His commandments so He would restore the Spirit of Prophecy to them. They had the privilege to inquire of the prophet and receive answers from God. But if they refused the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy, which as an organization they did in the early 1900s, then they would not receive answers from God any more as they went their own ways. When they put their ideas of ‘higher learning’ and man’s wisdom and theories on a pedestal and turned their back on the Spirit of Prophecy, they had nowhere to go but down!

What did King Saul do when God did not answer him in his time of crisis, not even by Urim and Thummim? He sought out a witch, a fortune-teller—a psychic! He was so blind by this time that he actually thought he was speaking to the dead prophet Samuel, instead of the enemy of souls, Satan, and his nasty masquerading angels.

The Spirit of Prophecy is directly connected to the Holy Spirit; even if you have the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy books in your hands, but you are seeking to vindicate yourself and are in rebellion against God in any way, like the Urim and Thummim, they will not speak for you; you will not understand them correctly; you will put your own ideas into them. This is what the official leaders of the organization have been doing since long before you and I were born! And so they began to get spiritualistic practices among them.

Did you ever hear of the Alpha apostasy? It started way back then, but it never ended, it just sneaked into the background and kept shifting shapes and growing among Adventism. So was there no light any more in Adventism? Oh yes; for those little people, small enough to realize that they did not know better than God; whether leaders or the folk in the pews, if they lived in the covenant relationship with God, the Urim and Thummim shown bright for them through the pages of the Spirit of Prophecy! Like David in the wilderness, it guided them aright.

Notice this bit of history; the Urim and Thummim are not mentioned by name here, but this breastplate part is what is meant when it references the Ephod.

1 Samuel 23:6 "And it came to pass, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David to Keilah, that he came down with an ephod in his hand."

Then as you read you will find places where David called for the priest to come and bring the ephod so he could inquire of the Lord, and the Lord guided the fugitive David.

So if we, individually, truly enter into a covenant with God, through complete surrender and the keeping of all His commandments, implementing His precepts into our daily lives; then we can receive guidance and communication from Him through the Spirit of Prophecy, the Bible and prayer. However, if there is known sin, a stubborn desire for our own ways, seeking self-exaltation, we will not receive guidance; and we will seek our own ways and make up our own ideas; even being so blind as to think we are hearing God's prophet, when it is Satan and his deceivers, and we are deep into spiritualism!

God did not forsake Saul completely right away, not at all. But He could not bless him as he sought his own paths. Saul's wicked ways cut off one source of heavenly blessing after another; he even came to the place he would kill his own son just to prove he was right! Read the history in the Bible and Patriarchs and Prophets. So it was with Adventism as they followed their own ideas further and further from the Blueprint given by God. So it will be for any one of us if we begin to turn to our own exaltation and cease from obedience and humility.

Finally Saul sought out the witch. What about Adventism? Be aware that in September 2001 the official leadership of the church committed an act which is the same as Saul going to the Witch!! And it was then that the Third Woe hit this world at 9/11! They officially adopted the spiritual exercises of Ignatius Loyola as essential for all leaders, teachers and Bible workers in the denomination—they have totally broken the covenant now! They are in blind darkness; seeking the witch, thinking the voice of devils is the voice of God!

Brothers and Sisters; the Urim and Thummim is still available to the surrendered soul, to those who have sought and entered into the covenant with God, it will still speak to us. Don't follow any leader, any speaker, check everything by the Spirit of Prophecy and the Bible and be careful because Satan has those among the very elect that are twisting even those things which rightly understood are safe guidance; false messages are flying even among the Students of Prophecy today!