



Two theories have been proposed to explain how the Urim and Thummim actually functioned in revealing the will of God.

One theory proposes that Urim and Thummim refers to the gleaming of the precious and semiprecious gemstones in the high priest's breastplate. Under this view, the high priest could learn the will of God in the following ways:

- If a tribe were selected, that tribe's gemstone would gleam.
- If a tribe were not selected, that tribe's gemstone would remain dark.
- If the answer to a question were "yes", then all the gemstones would gleam.
- If the answer to a question were "no", then the gemstones would remain dark.