

Two Stone Tablets

Exodus 28-29 and 31

And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

Exodus 31:18



Symbols on Clothing



Ohm om aum yoga symbols



Yin Yang symbol—opposites or contrary

Dark/bright

Good/bad

Female/Male



Atomic symbol—Big Bang Theory



The Lord often uses symbols to teach or remind us of gospel truths.

Items of clothing are sometimes used as symbols for this purpose.



Sacred Religious Clothing



Sacred religious clothing has been used symbolically since the Lord made “coats of skins” for Adam and Eve before they were cast out of the Garden of Eden

Genesis 3:21

When Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days, the Lord revealed to him details concerning the tabernacle as well as the sacred clothing that was to be worn by the priests who would serve in the tabernacle.



Aaron and Priests Clothing

Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.



The purpose of the clothing was to consecrate them



The Clothing

The Undergarment (White Tunic)

The golden diadem and the mitre—
Engraved on the band were the
words “Holiness to the Lord”
(Ex. 28:36-38)

Breastplate--was made of fabric rather than
of metal. It was twice as long as it was wide
and when folded became a square pocket
into which the Urim and Thummim was
placed.

Stones inscribed with the names of each of the
tribes of Israel.
(Ex. 28:13-29)



The Upper Robe (Blue)

The robe was] woven in one piece, which set forth the idea
of wholeness or spiritual integrity; and the dark-blue
colour indicated nothing more than the heavenly origin
and character of the office with which the robe was
associated. (Ex. 28:31)

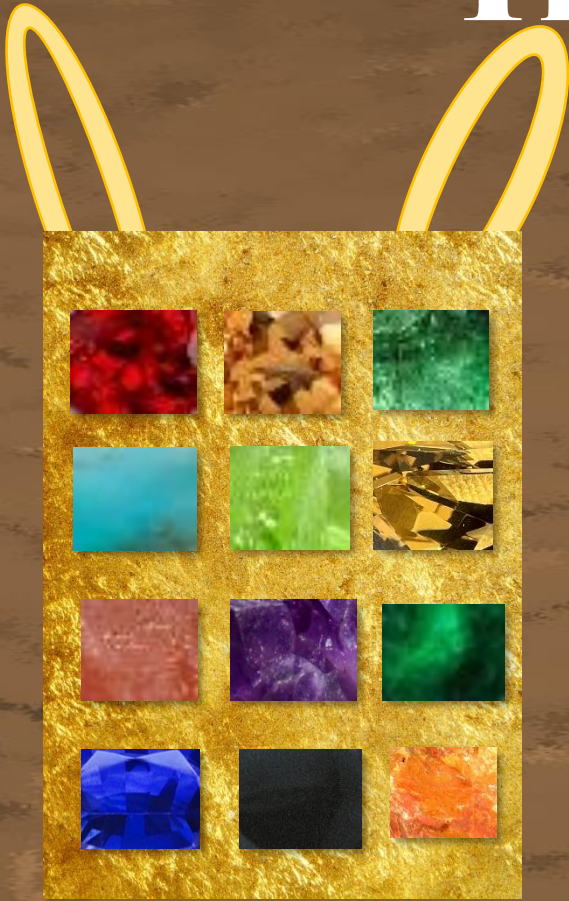
The Fringe— Pomegranate and gold

Every Israelite is directed to make a fringe in the
border of his garment, of dark-blue purple thread,
and when he looks at the fringe to remember the
commandments of God and do them.
(Ex. 28:33-34)

Ephod--This garment was fastened at each shoulder
and had an intricately woven band with which it
could be fastened around the waist.
(Ex. 28:12)

Onyx Stones--engraved with the names of the 12
sons of Israel as a ‘memorial’ as the priest served
before the Lord (Ex. 28:9)

The Stones–Breastplate



The high priest bore “the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart ... for a memorial before the Lord continually” (vs. 29)

The Lord instructed Moses to have the names of the twelve sons of Israel engraved on twelve stones in the breastplate of the high priest. The exact order, arrangement, and type of each stone was explicitly stated in Ex. 28:17-21, but the name to be written on each stone was not given, perhaps because it was obvious to Moses.

After the destruction of the temple, the knowledge of which tribe was associated with which stone was lost, and even the identity of some of the stones has been uncertain..

One of the long unsolved mysteries in the Bible is the identification of the twelve stones in the breastplate of the high priest. Most of those stones are mentioned only in that context, and so they have been extremely hard to identify.

The Lord specified birth order for listing the names of six tribes on each of the two shoulder stones of the high priest (Ex. 28:10), so many scholars **assume** the same order for the twelve stones. (2)

Jewels of Israel

The high priest bore “the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart ... for a memorial before the Lord continually” (vs. 29)



Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. (Ezek 28:13).

For I, the Lord, rule in the heavens above, and among the armies of the earth; and in the day when I shall make up my jewels, all men shall know what it is that bespeaketh the power of God. D&C 60:4

Yet I will own them, and they shall be mine in that day when I shall come to make up my jewels. D&C 101:3

Becoming Clean

The distinction that the Israelites drew between clean and unclean had a great effect upon the whole of their religious and social life

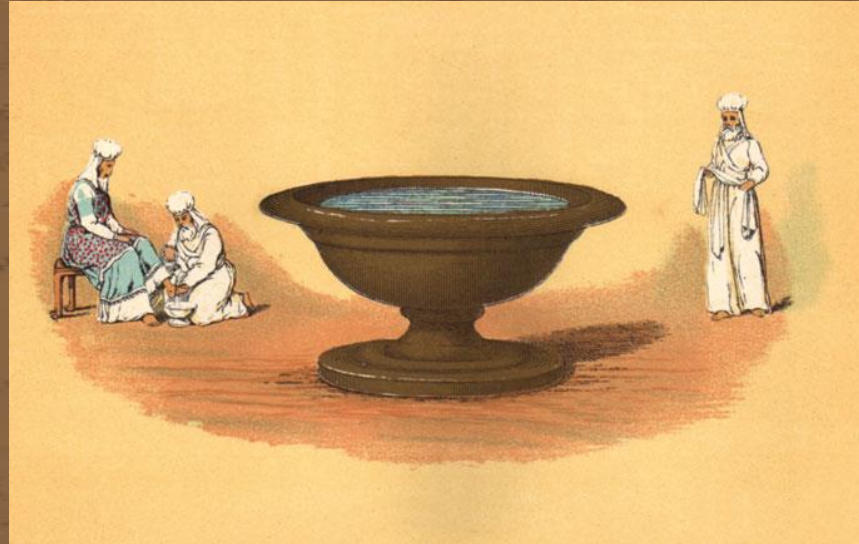
Physically Clean

Certain animals, birds, and fish were regarded as clean and acceptable to eat, while others were unclean and were forbidden.

Touching a dead person was unclean.

7-14 days after childbirth a woman was unclean.

Some diseased persons were also considered unclean. (3)



Ceremonially Clean

In a spiritual sense, to be clean is to be free from sin and sinful desires. In this sense the word is used to describe a person who is virtuous and has a pure heart.

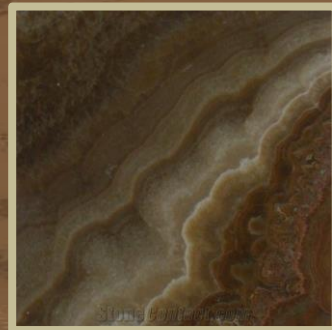
God's covenant people have always had special instructions to be clean.

Urim and Thummim

Light and Protection

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.

An instrument prepared of God to assist man in obtaining revelation from the Lord and in translating languages.



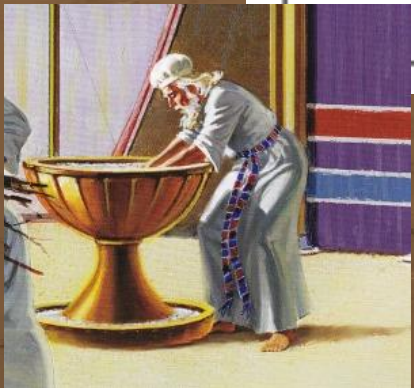
Seer Stone Belonging to Joseph Smith



The stone for the tribe of Joseph is an Onyx. It is described as a chocolate colored oval shape. This stone passed from Joseph Smith to Oliver Cowdery and then to the Church through Brigham Young and others.

Symbolic Meaning

The Lord's Instruction	Symbolic Meaning
1. Exodus 29:4 <u>Aaron and his sons are washed with water.</u>	4 Represented the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
2. Exodus 29:5–6 <u>Dressing in the Robes of the Priesthood</u>	1 Symbolic of being cleansed.
3. Exodus 29:7 <u>Anointing Oil—on the head</u>	3 This substance was used for light and represented the Holy Ghost.
4. Exodus 29:15–16 <u>Sacrifice the Ram</u>	2 Wearing this showed that the priests were set apart from the world and were prepared for sacred responsibilities.



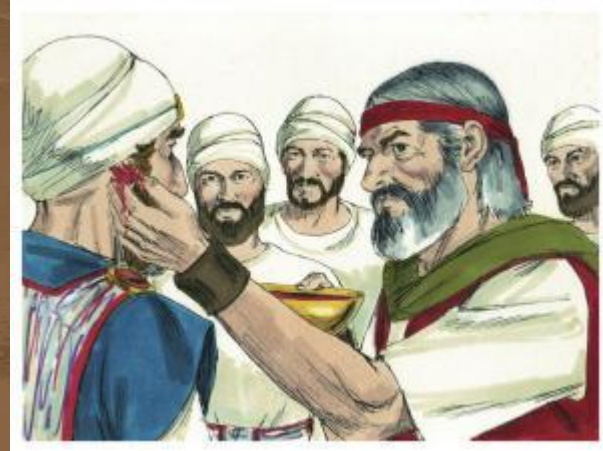
The Ram's Blood

Right Ear

HEARING

Thumb

ACTING



Toe

WALKING

The priest would listen to and follow Him



The **wave offering** (Hebrew: tenufah (תנופה) sheaf **offering** or omer **offering** (korban omer) was an **offering** made by the Jewish priests in token of a solemn special presentation to God

If we will apply the atoning blood of Jesus Christ by listening to the word of the Lord, acting upon it, and walking in His paths, we will be sanctified.

Ram, Bullock, and Lamb

Just as animal sacrifice was the divinely instituted means of maintaining ancient Israel's purity and holiness before God, so too the Atonement of Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest, is necessary in order to purify men and women of all ages from sin and to prepare them to come into the presence of God. (4)



And then the angel spake, saying: This thing is a similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of the Father, which is full of grace and truth. Moses 5:7

But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; Hebrews 10:12

The incompleteness of the priestly sacrifices, being offered annually, stands in contrast to the “infinite and eternal sacrifice” of Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest, and is further illustrated by the fact that Israel's priests stood while offering sacrifice, whereas Jesus “offered one sacrifice for sins for ever” and thereafter “sat down on the right hand of God.”

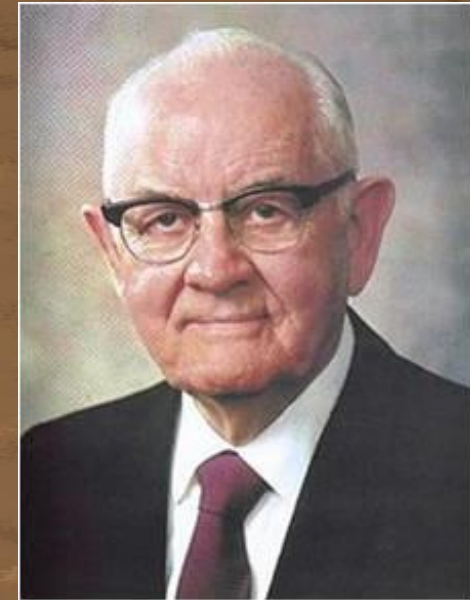
Priests Are Set Apart

Now that the priests had performed these rituals they were set apart to enter into the Temple



God would meet with the children of Israel in the tabernacle, He would sanctify the tabernacle and the priests, He would dwell among the Israelites, He would be their God, and they would know that He is the Lord their God

“The setting apart may be taken literally; it is a setting apart from sin, apart from the carnal; apart from everything which is crude, low, vicious, cheap, or vulgar; *set apart* from the world to a higher plane of thought and activity” (5)

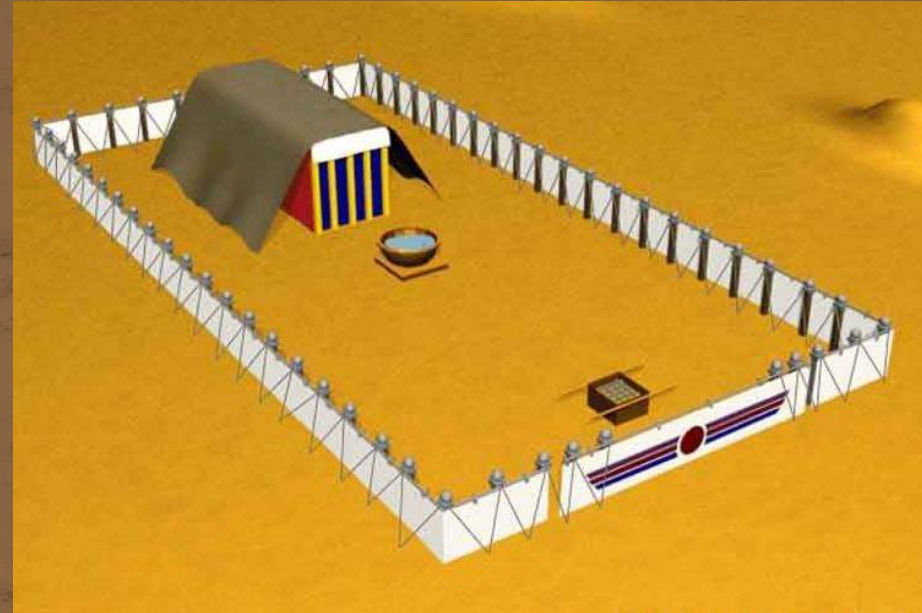


Bezaleel And Aholiah

Bezaleel was the son of Uri, who was the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah

His name means: in the shadow of God, or under God's protective care

He was one of the skilled craftsmen given by the Lord to Moses, along with Aholiab, to help prepare the Tabernacle under the inspiration of the Spirit of God



Aholiah's name means: tent of the father

Sabbath and Stone Tablets

The Lord often uses signs or symbols to remind His children of what they have promised Him and what He has promised them.

Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.

Exodus 31:13



Before the Lord concluded His revelation to Moses at Mount Sinai, He gave him an additional reminder of His law and covenant with Israel.

Sabbath Day

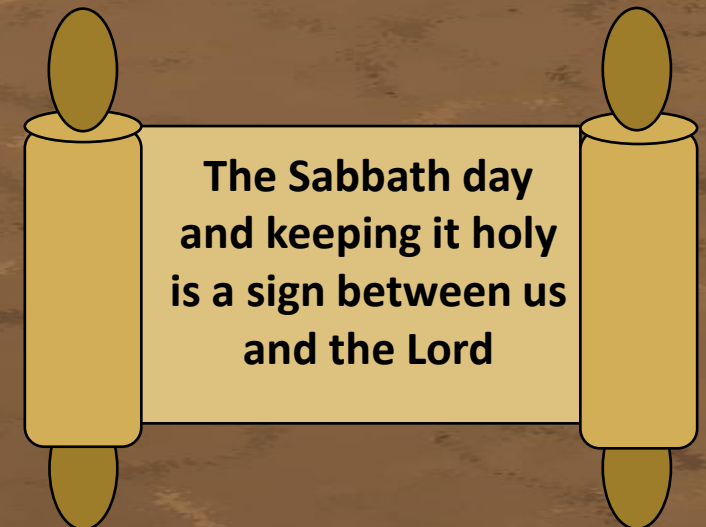
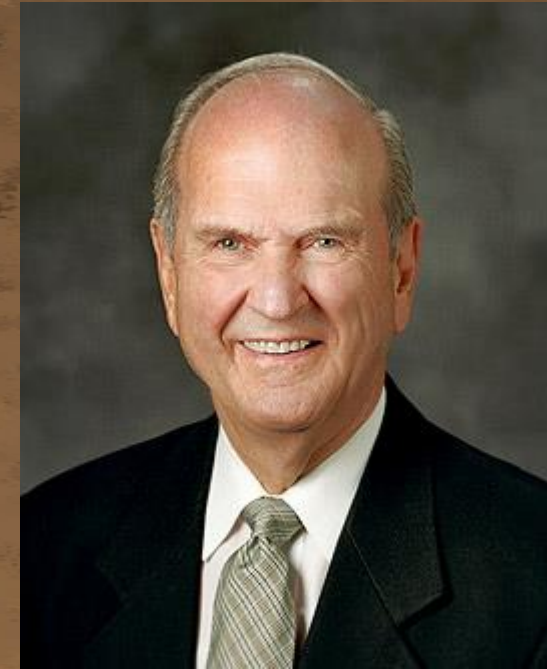
“How do we *hallow* the Sabbath day?”

In my much younger years, I studied the work of others who had compiled lists of things to do and things *not* to do on the Sabbath.

It wasn't until later that I learned from the scriptures that my conduct and my attitude on the Sabbath constituted a *sign* between me and my Heavenly Father.

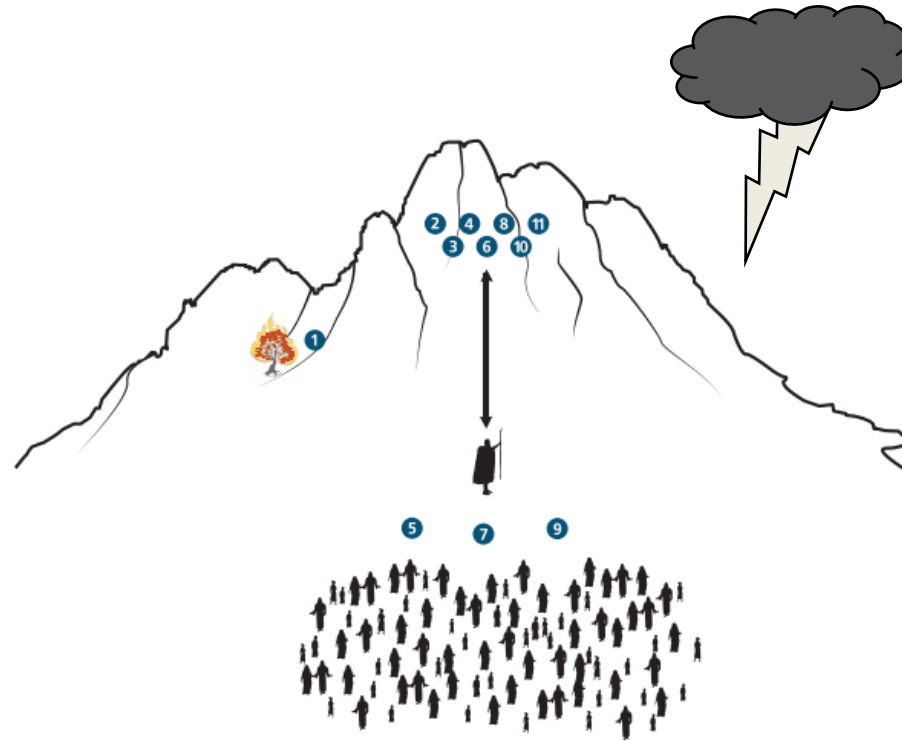
With that understanding, I no longer needed lists of dos and don'ts. When I had to make a decision whether or not an activity was appropriate for the Sabbath, I simply asked myself, ‘What *sign* do I want to give to God?’

That question made my choices about the Sabbath day crystal clear” (6)



**The Sabbath day
and keeping it holy
is a sign between us
and the Lord**

Moses's and Israel's Experiences with Jehovah at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19–34)



- 1 God calls Moses to deliver Israel (see Exodus 3:1–12).
- 2 God invites Israel to be His covenant People (Exodus 19:3-6)
- 3 Moses reports Israel's desire to enter God's Covenant (Ex. 19:7-8)
- 4 God warns that the people are not yet prepared to enter His presence (Ex. 19:20-21, 25)
- 5 God Speaks the Ten Commandments to the Israelites (Ex. 19-20)
- 6 God give Israel additional laws (Ex. 21-23)

- 7 Israel enters into a Covenant (Ex. 23)
- 8 God writes His law on Stone Tablets (Ex. 31:18)
- 9 _____
- 10 _____
- 11 _____

Sources:

Suggested Hymn: #146 *Gently Raise the Sacred Strain*

1. Old Testament Institute Manual
2. Pratt, John P., "Twelve Sons, Twelve Constellations" *Meridian Magazine* (13 Jul 2005)
3. Bible Dictionary Clean and Unclean
4. Stephen D. Ricks The Law of Sacrifice June 1998 Ensign
5. President Spencer W. Kimball (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed. Edward L. Kimball [1982], 478).
6. Russell M. Nelson, "The Sabbath Is a Delight," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2015, 130).

Something of Interest—nothing to do with the lesson

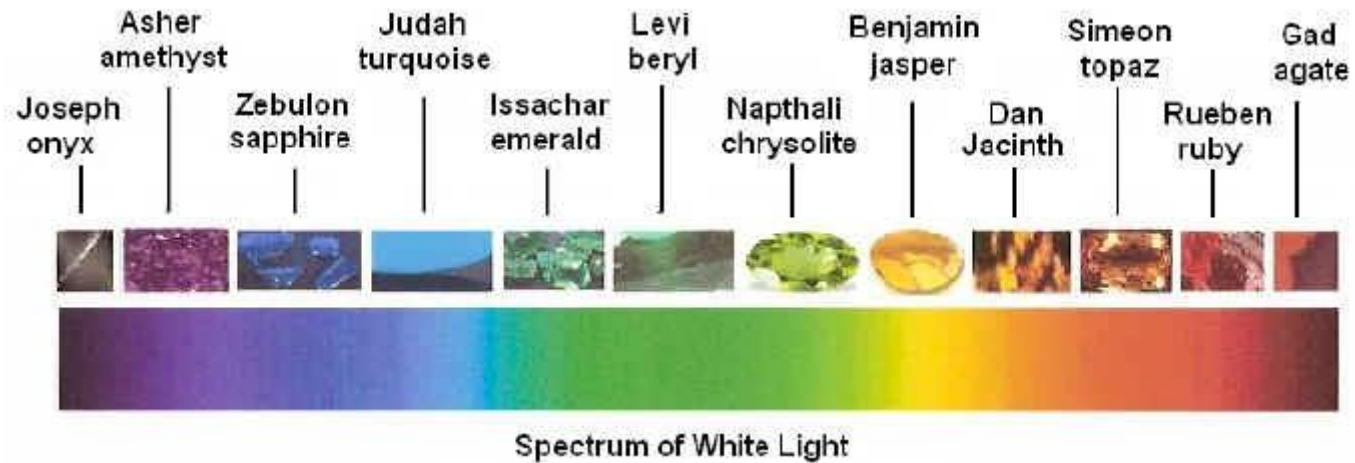
Yin Yang Symbol:

Yin is the black side with the white dot in it, and yang is the white side with the black dot in it. The relationship between yin and yang is often described in terms of sunlight playing over a mountain and a valley. Yin (literally the 'shady place' or 'north slope') is the dark area occluded by the mountain's bulk, while yang (literally the 'sunny place' or 'south slope') is the brightly lit portion. As the sun moves across the sky, yin and yang gradually trade places with each other, revealing what was obscured and obscuring what was revealed.

Yin is characterized as slow, soft, yielding, diffuse, cold, wet, and passive; and is associated with water, earth, the moon, femininity, and nighttime.

Yang, by contrast, is fast, hard, solid, focused, hot, dry, and aggressive; and is associated with fire, sky, the sun, masculinity and daytime.

Yin and yang applies to the human body. In traditional Chinese medicine good health is directly related to the balance between yin and yang qualities within oneself. If yin and yang become unbalanced, one of the qualities is considered deficient or has vacuity. Wikipedia



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SEER STONE

In Joseph Smith's day, some individuals claimed that they had a gift to "see," or receive divine or supernatural messages, through seer stones. These beliefs came from the Bible and from European cultural traditions brought to early America by immigrants. Joseph Smith and his family accepted these beliefs, and Joseph occasionally used stones he located in the ground to help neighbors find missing objects or search for buried treasure.

When Joseph Smith received the golden plates in 1827, he also received a translation instrument with them, "two stones in silver bows" used by "'seers' in ancient or former times" (Joseph Smith—History 1:35). This instrument was referred to in the Book of Mormon as the "interpreters." During the translation of the Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith apparently used both of these instruments—the interpreters and his seer stone—interchangeably. They worked in much the same way, and the early Saints sometimes used the term "Urim and Thummim" to refer to the seer stone as well as the interpreters. The Prophet also received several of the revelations found today in the Doctrine and Covenants by means of these instruments of revelation.³ As Joseph became more experienced in spiritual matters, he eventually started receiving revelation without these aids.

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/history/topics/seer-stones?lang=eng>

Urim and Thummim

Hebrew term that means "Lights and Perfections." An instrument prepared of God to assist man in obtaining revelation from the Lord and in translating languages. See Ex. 28:30; Lev. 8:8; Num. 27:21; Deut. 33:8; 1 Sam. 28:6; Ezra 2:63; Neh. 7:65; JS—H 1:35. Using a Urim and Thummim is the special prerogative of a seer, and it would seem reasonable that such instruments were used from the time of Adam. However, the earliest mention is in connection with the brother of Jared (Ether 3:21–28). Abraham used a Urim and Thummim (Abr. 3:1–4), as did Aaron and the priests of Israel, and also the prophets among the Nephites (Omni 1:20–21; Mosiah 8:13–19; 21:26–28; 28:11–20; Ether 4:1–7). There is more than one Urim and Thummim, but we are informed that Joseph Smith had the one used by the brother of Jared (Ether 3:22–28; D&C 10:1; 17:1). (See *Seer*.) A partial description is given in JS—H 1:35. Joseph Smith used it in translating the Book of Mormon and in obtaining other revelations.

This earth in its celestial condition will be a Urim and Thummim, and many within that kingdom will have an additional Urim and Thummim (D&C 130:6–11)

Bible Dictionary.