

The High Priest

DAY 8—URIM AND THUMMIM

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (EPHESIANS 5:15-17)

SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR THE PRAYER TIME

Praise

- Lord, we praise You for who You are—our Guide and Friend.
- Thank You that the Bible makes very clear Your will for us.
- We praise You for sending Jesus, who came to reveal the will of God to us.

Confession and Claiming Victory Over Sin

- Father, please show us which sins to confess privately. We claim Your victory over those sins.
- Forgive us for times we were unwilling to follow Your will written in Your Word.
- Thank You that You forgive us according to 1 John 1:9.

Supplication and Intercession

- Lord, help us to remember that Your plans for us are plans “of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11).
- We pray for hearts that delight to do Your will, not our own.
- May we each follow the example of Jesus, who came not to do His own will but to do the will of His Father (John 6:38).
- Lord, grant wisdom when we seek Your will for specific situations. May we seek You and obey Your Word.
- We pray for young people to understand Your will regarding the choice of life partner.
- Please lead and show Your will to those You have appointed as church leaders.
- We pray for wide distribution of Bible study guides, pamphlets, and books such as *Steps to Christ*. May these materials plant the seed of truth in people’s hearts and lead them to study God’s Word.
- May our church members, pastors, and leaders around the world feed on God’s Word every day. May we also seek You daily in personal prayer. Remind us that without You, we can do nothing.
- Lord, make us willing to follow You in every part of our lives. When we need to take the next step of obedience, show us what that is.
- Please revive our Sabbath School attendance around the world. Lead members and visitors to experience life-changing fellowship, mission, Bible study, and local outreach.
- Lord, we pray for the seven (or more) people on our individual prayer lists. May the Holy Spirit reveal Your will to each one of them.
- We also pray for the personal needs of those gathered here.

Thanksgiving

- Lord, thank You that You are willing to reveal Your will to us.
- Thank You that when we trust in You with all our heart and lean not on our own understanding, and when we acknowledge You in all our ways, You will direct our paths (Proverbs 3:5, 6).
- Thank You that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6).

SUGGESTED SONGS TO SING

“I Surrender All” (SDA Hymnal #309); “Take My Life and Let It Be” (SDA Hymnal #330); “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” (SDA Hymnal #567); “Open My Eyes That I May See” (SDA Hymnal #326); “Make Me a Captive, Lord” (SDA Hymnal #568).

Urim and Thummim

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (EPHESIANS 5:15-17)

The Urim and Thummim were placed on the shoulders of the High Priest and revealed God's will to His people. It is essential for us to understand the work of Christ on our behalf and His will for our life today.

Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. Each has a case pending at the bar of God. Each must meet the great Judge face to face. How important, then, that every mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when, with Daniel, every individual must stand in his lot, at the end of the days. (*Evangelism*, p. 222)

In the smallest as well as the largest affairs of life the first question should be, "What is God's will?" "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." Christ calls upon His children to rid themselves of all selfishness, all covetousness, all impurity. "Come unto Me," He says, "and I will give you rest." Yield yourselves to My training. Submit your will to My will, your way to My way. Let your life be one with My life. So shall you gain treasure that will endure unto life eternal. (*Signs of the Times*, Feb. 19, 1902, par. 13)

What is God's will? What shall I do to glorify God? I am pledged to serve my Saviour with undivided affection. I count everything but dross that I may win Christ. Heaven, eternal life, is worth everything to me, and Christ has died that I might come into possession of the eternal weight of glory. . . . (*That I May Know Him*, p. 203)

Every effort made to break away from the power of a bad habit is manly. It is God's will that we should, by determined effort, rise to the dignity of a pure life, gaining in spiritual strength, and obtaining moral power through the exercise of the faculties which God has given us. There is joy in the presence of the heavenly angels when the youth gain decided victories in the name of Jesus. (*The Youth's Instructor*, Nov. 12, 1896, par. 6)

"This is the will of God," the apostle Paul wrote, "even your sanctification." 1 Thessalonians 4:3. The sanctification of the church is God's object in all His dealings with His people. He has chosen them from eternity, that they might be holy. He gave His Son to die for them, that they might be sanctified through obedience to the truth, divested of all the littleness of self. From them He requires a personal work, a personal surrender. God can be honored by those who profess to believe in Him, only as they are conformed to His image and controlled by His Spirit. Then, as witnesses for the Saviour, they may make known what divine grace has done for them. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 559)

"This is the will of God" concerning you, "even your sanctification." 1 Thessalonians 4:3. Is it your will also? Your sins may be as mountains before you; but if you humble your heart and confess your sins, trusting in the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour, He will forgive and will cleanse you from all unrighteousness. God demands of you entire conformity to His law. This law is the echo of His voice saying to you, Holier, yes, holier still. Desire the fullness of the grace of Christ. Let your heart be filled with an intense longing for His righteousness, the work of which God's word declares is peace, and its effect quietness and assurance forever. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 566)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Ample provision has been made that the people of God may attain perfection of character. The apostle says, "This is the will of God, even your sanctification." Let every individual draw for himself from the inexhaustible source of all moral and intellectual power, in order that he may work the works of righteousness. Through the cross of Calvary every facility is furnished whereby man may be in union with his fellow men, and in harmony with Christ in God. The Father says that he will love those who believe that Christ died for them, even as he loves his only begotten Son. The cross of Christ is the assurance that we may be complete in him. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." In Christ is excellence, in him is intellectual greatness and moral efficiency. (*Review and Herald*, Nov. 30, 1897, par. 9)

God bids you with one hand, faith, take hold of His mighty arm, and with the other hand, love, reach perishing souls. Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Follow Him. Walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Walk even as He walked. This is the will of God, even your sanctification. The work you have to perform is to do the will of Him who sustains your life for His glory. If you labor for yourselves, it can profit you nothing. To labor for others' good, to be less self-caring and more in earnest to devote all to God, will be acceptable to Him and be returned by His rich grace. (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 170)