

Various Ways God Guided His People In The Past

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds. Hebrews 1:1-2

In Immanuel, Jesus talks to us in a way we can understand. It is intimate and immediate like talking to any other person. He loves being with us and communicating.

Studies included in this article are: The Fact Of God's Guidance; Urim and Thummim; Casting Lots; The Oracle of God; The Ark of God; Dark Sayings; Parable/Parables; Explanation Of The Parables; Speaking Openly; Plain Speaking To Disciples/Friends; Proverb/Proverbs; God's Eye And Hand; Apple of His Eye

For additional information on this topic, please see: "Seeing God In Dreams and Visions"; "God's Conversational Guidance"

The Fact Of God's Guidance

Exodus 15:13 You in Your mercy have led forth The people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them in Your strength To Your holy habitation.

2 Chronicles 32:22 Thus the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all others, and guided them on every side.

Psalms 31:3 For You are my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead me and guide me.

Psalms 73:24 You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.

Psalms 77:20 You led Your people like a flock By the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Psalms 78:52 But He made His own people go forth like sheep, And guided them in the wilderness like a flock;

Psalms 78:72 So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.

Urim and Thummim

Exodus 28:30 "And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the [Urim](#) and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron's heart when he goes in before the LORD. So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over his heart before the LORD continually.

Leviticus 8:8 Then he put the breastplate on him, and he put the [Urim](#) and the Thummim in the breastplate.

Numbers 27:21 "He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire before the LORD for him by the judgment of the [Urim](#). At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him—all the congregation."

Deuteronomy 33:8 And of Levi he said: "*Let Your Thummim and Your [Urim](#) be with Your holy one, Whom You tested at Massah, And with whom You contended at the waters of Meribah,*

1 Samuel 28:6 And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by [Urim](#) or by the prophets.

Ezra 2:63 And the governor said to them that they should not eat of the most holy things till a priest could consult with the [Urim](#) and Thummim.

Nehemiah 7:65 And the governor said to them that they should not eat of the most holy things till a priest could consult with the [Urim](#) and Thummim.

Casting Lots

Proverb 16:33 The [lot](#) is cast into the lap, But its every decision *is* from the LORD.

Leviticus 16:8 "Then Aaron shall cast [lots](#) for the two goats: one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat.

Joshua 18:6 "You shall therefore survey the land in seven parts and bring *the survey* here to me, that I may cast [lots](#) for you here before the LORD our God.

Joshua 18:8 Then the men arose to go away; and Joshua charged those who went to survey the land, saying, "Go, walk through the land, survey it, and come back to me, that I may cast [lots](#) for you here before the LORD in Shiloh."

Joshua 18:10 Then Joshua cast [lots](#) for them in Shiloh before the LORD, and there Joshua divided the land to the children of Israel according to their divisions.

1 Samuel 14:42 And Saul said, "Cast [lots](#) between my son Jonathan and me." So Jonathan was taken.

1 Chronicles 24:31 These also cast [lots](#) just as their brothers the sons of Aaron did, in the presence of King David, Zadok, Ahimelech, and the heads of the fathers' *houses* of the priests and Levites. The chief fathers *did* just as their younger brethren.

1 Chronicles 25:8 And they cast [lots](#) for their duty, the small as well as the great, the teacher with the student.

1 Chronicles 26:13 And they cast [lots](#) for each gate, the small as well as the great, according to their father's house.

1 Chronicles 26:14 The lot for the East *Gate* fell to Shelemiah. Then they cast [lots](#) for his son Zechariah, a wise counselor, and his lot came out for the North Gate;

Nehemiah 10:34 We cast [lots](#) among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for bringing the wood offering into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at the appointed times year by year, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God as *it is* written in the Law.

Nehemiah 11:1 Now the leaders of the people dwelt at Jerusalem; the rest of the people cast [lots](#) to bring one out of ten to dwell in Jerusalem, the holy city, and nine-tenths *were to dwell* in other cities.

Psalms 22:18 They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast [lots](#).

Proverbs 18:18 Casting [lots](#) causes contentions to cease, And keeps the mighty apart.

Joel 3:3 They have cast [lots](#) for My people, Have given a boy *as payment* for a harlot, And sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.

Obadiah 1:11 In the day that you stood on the other side—In the day that strangers carried captive his forces, When foreigners entered his gates And cast [lots](#) for Jerusalem—Even you *were* as one of them.

Jonah 1:7 And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast [lots](#), that we may know for whose cause this trouble *has come* upon us." So they cast [lots](#), and the lot fell on Jonah.

Nahum 3:10 Yet she *was* carried away, She went into captivity; Her young children also were dashed to pieces At the head of every street; They cast [lots](#) for her honorable men, And all her great men were bound in chains.

Matthew 27:35 Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting [lots](#), that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast [lots](#)."

Mark 15:24 And when they crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting [lots](#) for them *to determine* what every man should take.

Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast [lots](#).

John 19:24 They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast [lots](#) for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast [lots](#)." Therefore the soldiers did these things.

Acts 1:26 And they cast their [lots](#), and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Sacrifice By Lot

Leviticus 16:8-10 "Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one [lot](#) for the LORD and the other [lot](#) for the scapegoat.

Inheritance By Lot

Numbers 26:55 But the land shall be divided by [lot](#); they shall inherit according to the names of the tribes of their fathers. Cp. Numbers 26:56; 33:54; 34:13; 36:2-3; Joshua 13:6; 14:2; 15:1, 16:1; 17:1-2, 14, 17; 18:11; 19:1, 10, 17, 24, 32, 40, 51; 21:4-6, 8, 10, 20, 40; 21:4-6, 8, 10, 20, 40; 23:4; 1 Chronicles 6:54, 61, 65; Ezekiel 45:1; 47:22; 48:29

Psalms 16:5 O LORD, *You are* the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my [lot](#).

Isaiah 34:17 He has cast the [lot](#) for them, And His hand has divided it among them with a measuring line. They shall possess it forever; From generation to generation they shall dwell in it."

Isaiah 57:6 Among the smooth *stones* of the stream *Is* your portion; They, they, *are* your [lot](#)! Even to them you have poured a drink offering, You have offered a grain offering. Should I receive comfort in these?

Jeremiah 13:25 This is your [lot](#), The portion of your measures from Me," says the LORD, "Because you have forgotten Me And trusted in falsehood.

Ezekiel 24:6 "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Woe to the bloody city, To the pot whose scum *is* in it, And whose scum is not gone from it! Bring it out piece by piece, On which no [lot](#) has fallen.

Micah 2:5 Therefore you will have no one to determine boundaries by [lot](#) In the assembly of the LORD.

War By Lot

Judges 20:9 but now this *is* the thing which we will do to Gibeah: *We will go up* against it by [lot](#).

Discernment By Lot

1 Samuel 14:41 Therefore Saul said to the LORD God of Israel, "Give a perfect [lot](#)." So Saul and Jonathan were taken, but the people escaped.

Jonah 1:7 And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble *has come* upon us." So they cast lots, and the [lot](#) fell on Jonah.

Priests, Musicians, And Gatekeepers Assigned By Lot

1 Chronicles 24:5 Thus they were divided by [lot](#), one group as another, for there were officials of the sanctuary and officials *of the house* of God, from the sons of Eleazar and from the sons of Ithamar.

1 Chronicles 24:7 Now the first [lot](#) fell to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah,

1 Chronicles 25:9 Now the first [lot](#) for Asaph came out for Joseph; the second for Gedaliah, him with his brethren and sons, twelve;

1 Chronicles 26:14 The [lot](#) for the East *Gate* fell to Shelemiah. Then they cast lots *for* his son Zechariah, a wise counselor, and his [lot](#) came out for the North Gate;

1 Chronicles 26:16 To Shuppim and Hosah *the lot came out* for the West Gate, with the Shallecheth Gate on the ascending highway—watchman opposite watchman.

Luke 1:9 according to the custom of the priesthood, his [lot](#) fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

Acts 1:26 And they cast their lots, and the [lot](#) fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Special Days By Lot

Esther 3:7 In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that *is*, the [lot](#)), before Haman to determine the day and the month, until *it fell on the twelfth month*, which *is* the month of Adar.

Esther 9:24 because Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to annihilate them, and had cast Pur (that *is*, the [lot](#)), to consume them and destroy them;

The Oracle of God

Numbers 23:7 And he took up his [oracle](#) and said: "Balak the king of Moab has brought me from Aram, From the mountains of the east. 'Come, curse Jacob for me, And come, denounce Israel!'

Numbers 23:18 Then he took up his [oracle](#) and said: "Rise up, Balak, and hear! Listen to me, son of Zippor!

Numbers 24:3 Then he took up his [oracle](#) and said: "The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, The utterance of the man whose eyes are opened,

Numbers 24:15 So he took up his [oracle](#) and said: "The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, And the utterance of the man whose eyes are opened;

Numbers 24:20 Then he looked on Amalek, and he took up his [oracle](#) and said: "Amalek *was* first among the nations, But *shall be* last until he perishes."

Numbers 24:21 Then he looked on the Kenites, and he took up his [oracle](#) and said: "Firm is your dwelling place, And your nest is set in the rock;

Numbers 24:23 Then he took up his [oracle](#) and said: "Alas! Who shall live when God does this?"

2 Samuel 16:23 Now the advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, *was* as if one had [inquired](#) at the oracle of God. So *was* all the advice of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

Psalms 36:1 To the Chief Musician. *A Psalm* of David the servant of the LORD. An [oracle](#) within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: *There is* no fear of God before his eyes.

Jeremiah 23:33 "So when these people or the prophet or the priest ask you, saying, 'What is the [oracle](#) of the LORD?' you shall then say to them, 'What [oracle](#)?' I will even forsake you," says the LORD.

Jeremiah 23:34 "And *as for* the prophet and the priest and the people who say, 'The [oracle](#) of the LORD! I will even punish that man and his house.

Jeremiah 23:36 "And the [oracle](#) of the LORD you shall mention no more. For every man's word will be his [oracle](#), for you have perverted the words of the living God, the LORD of hosts, our God.

Jeremiah 23:38 "But since you say, 'The [oracle](#) of the LORD!' therefore thus says the LORD: 'Because you say this word, "The [oracle](#) of the LORD!" and I have sent to you, saying, "Do not say, 'The [oracle](#) of the LORD!'"

The Ark of God

Judges 20:27 So the children of Israel inquired of the LORD (the [ark of the covenant](#) of God *was* there in those days,

1 Chronicles 13:3 "and let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we have not [inquired](#) at it since the days of Saul."

Jeremiah 3:16 "Then it shall come to pass, when you are multiplied and increased in the land in those days," says the LORD, "that they will say no more, 'The [ark of the covenant](#) of the LORD.' It shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they visit *it*, nor shall it be made anymore."

Dark Sayings

Numbers 12:8 I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in [dark sayings](#); And he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?"

Psalms 49:4 I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will disclose my [dark saying](#) on the harp.

Psalms 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter [dark sayings](#) of old,

Parable/Parables

Ezekiel 17:2 Son of man, pose a riddle, and speak a [parable](#) to the house of Israel,

Ezekiel 24:3 And utter a [parable](#) to the rebellious house, and say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD: "Put on a pot, set *it* on, And also pour water into it."

Matthew 13:34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a [parable](#) He did not speak to them.

Also see: [Matthew](#) 13:18, 24, 31, 33, 36; 15:15; 21:33; 24:32; [Mark](#) 4:10, 13, 30, 34; 7:17; 12:12; 13:28; [Luke](#) 5:36; 6:39; 8:4, 9, 11; 12:16, 41; 13:6; 14:7; 15:3; 18:1, 9; 19:11; 20:9, 19; 21:29

Matthew 13:3 Then He spoke many things to them in [parables](#), saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow.

Matthew 13:10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in [parables](#)?"

Matthew 13:13 "Therefore I speak to them in [parables](#), because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

Matthew 13:34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in [parables](#); and without a parable He did not speak to them,

Matthew 13:35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in [parables](#); I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."

Matthew 13:53 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these [parables](#), that He departed from there.

Matthew 21:45 Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His [parables](#), they perceived that He was speaking of them.

Matthew 22:1 And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by [parables](#) and said:

Mark 3:23 So He called them to *Himself* and said to them in [parables](#): "How can Satan cast out Satan?"

Mark 4:2 Then He taught them many things by [parables](#), and said to them in His teaching:

Mark 4:11 And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in [parables](#),

Mark 4:13 And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the [parables](#)?"

Mark 4:33 And with many such [parables](#) He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear *it*.

Mark 12:1 Then He began to speak to them in [parables](#): "A man planted a vineyard and set a hedge around *it*, dug *a place for* the wine vat and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.

Luke 8:10 And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is given* in [parables](#), that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.'

Speaking Openly

Numbers 12:8 **I speak with him** face to face, **Even plainly**, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?"

John 18:20 Jesus answered him, **I spoke openly to the world**. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and **in secret I have said nothing**.

Explanation Of The Parables: Plain Speaking To Disciples/Friends

Matthew 24:32 Now learn this [parable](#) from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near.

Mark 4:10 But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the [parable](#).

Mark 4:13 And He said to them, "Do you not understand this [parable](#)? How then will you understand all the parables?"

Mark 7:17 When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the [parable](#).

Luke 8:9 Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this [parable](#) mean?"

Luke 8:11 "Now the [parable](#) is this: The seed is the word of God.

Luke 12:41 Then Peter said to Him, "Lord, do You speak this [parable](#) *only* to us, or to all *people*?"

Proverb/Proverbs

Numbers 21:27 Therefore those who speak in [proverbs](#) say: "Come to Heshbon, let it be built; Let the city of Sihon be repaired."

Deuteronomy 28:37 "And you shall become an astonishment, a [proverb](#), and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you.

1 Samuel 10:12 Then a man from there answered and said, "But who *is* their father?" Therefore it became a [proverb](#): "*Is* Saul also among the prophets?"

1 Samuel 24:13 "As the [proverb](#) of the ancients says, 'Wickedness proceeds from the wicked.' But my hand shall not be against you.

1 Kings 4:32 He spoke three thousand [proverbs](#), and his songs were one thousand and five.

1 Kings 9:7 "then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight. Israel will be a [proverb](#) and a byword among all peoples.

2 Chronicles 7:20 "then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a [proverb](#) and a byword among all peoples.

Job 13:12 Your platitudes *are* [proverbs](#) of ashes, Your defenses are defenses of clay.

Psalms 49:4 I will incline my ear to a [proverb](#); I will disclose my dark saying on the harp.

Proverb 1:1 The [proverbs](#) of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

Proverb 1:6 To understand a [proverb](#) and an enigma, The words of the wise and their riddles.

Proverb 10:1 The [Proverbs](#) of Solomon: A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son *is* the grief of his mother.

Proverb 25:1 These also *are* [proverbs](#) of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied:

Proverb 26:7 *Like* the legs of the lame that hang limp *is* a [proverb](#) in the mouth of fools.

Proverb 26:9 *Like* a thorn *that* goes into the hand of a drunkard *is* a [proverb](#) in the mouth of fools.

Ecclesiastes 12:9 And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out *and* set in order many [proverbs](#).

Isaiah 14:4 that you will take up this [proverb](#) against the king of Babylon, and say: "How the oppressor has ceased, The golden city ceased!

Ezekiel 12:22 "Son of man, what *is* this [proverb](#) *that* you *people* have about the land of Israel, which says, 'The days are prolonged, and every vision fails?'

Ezekiel 12:23 "Tell them therefore, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will lay this [proverb](#) to rest, and they shall no more use it as a [proverb](#) in Israel." But say to them, "The days are at hand, and the fulfillment of every vision.

Ezekiel 14:8 I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a [proverb](#), and I will cut him off from the midst of My people. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD.

Ezekiel 16:44 "Indeed everyone who quotes proverbs will use *this proverb* against you: 'Like mother, like daughter!'

Ezekiel 18:2 "What do you mean when you use this *proverb* concerning the land of Israel, saying: 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children's teeth are set on edge'?"

Ezekiel 18:3 "*As* I live," says the Lord GOD, "you shall no longer use this *proverb* in Israel.

Micah 2:4 In that day *one* shall take up a *proverb* against you, And lament with a bitter lamentation, saying: 'We are utterly destroyed! He has changed the heritage of my people; How He has removed *it* from me! To a turncoat He has divided our fields.'

Habakkuk 2:6 "Will not all these take up a *proverb* against him, And a taunting riddle against him, and say, 'Woe to him who increases *What* is not his—how long? And to him who loads himself with many pledges?'

Luke 4:23 He said to them, "You will surely say this *proverb* to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country.'"

2 Peter 2:22 But it has happened to them according to the true *proverb*: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

God's Eye And Hand

Psalms 123:2 Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, So our eyes look to the LORD our God, Until He has mercy on us.

Psalms 139:5 You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

Psalms 139:10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

Psalms 37:24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.

Psalms 89:25 Also I will set his hand over the sea, And his right hand over the rivers.

Psalms 95:4 In His hand are the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills are His also.

Psalms 95:7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice:

Psalms 106:26 Therefore He raised up His hand in an oath against them, To overthrow them in the wilderness.

Apple of His Eye

Deuteronomy 32:10 He found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye.

Zechariah 2:8 For thus says the LORD of hosts: He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you;
for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.

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