

Three-fourths of the controversies that rend Christendom are based upon the fact that people think they can know what is not stated in the Scriptures. Then, of course, others think they know something different ~~from this~~ when the Scripture doesn't state it either way. I have never heard of a church ~~who~~ being split over whether it was Ahijah or Jeroboam had the garment upon him, but I have heard of them being split or almost split on positions with no more evidence than that in certain cases. I heard of one that practically split over the question of whether the ~~Crucifixion~~ Crucifixion was on Wednesday or on Friday. Of course, that is a much more important question than this, but hardly one ~~one~~ on which a church should split, especially when that also is not ~~figured~~ stated in Scripture, but is purely a matter of inference. But in this case it does not <sup>state</sup> ~~state~~, and we have to try to imagine which fits the picture best. One may prefer one, and the other, the other. But in any event Ahijah grabbed a new garment which was either on him or on Jeroboam and he took this new garment and he tore it in twelve pieces and he handed Jeroboam ten pieces. Now somebody says, "This doesn't represent the picture at all. ~~It simply~~ if the new garment was on Ahijah because actually he grabs the garment and tears it off and gives certain pieces of it to Jeroboam and it represents the kingdom being taken away from the son of Solomon.\* Now if he takes it off himself, how does it ~~represent~~ its being taken away? Therefore, he must have grabbed it off of Jeroboam." But the other man says, "Yes, but to grab it off of ~~Jeroboam~~ Jeroboam and then to give it back ~~back~~ ten-twelfths to him does not represent the situation at all because the kingdom was taken ~~away~~ from the son of Solomon and then only two parts were given back to the one from whom it was taken away and the rest were given to a different man altogether." So either way gives a part of the lesson and either way doesn't fit it exactly. Rarely do you find that a parable exactly fits the thing that is being described. It is an attempt to present by analogy a certain truth, and you have no right to think that every little of the parable has got to have a counterpart in the thing that is being