

in the time before Jesus came because then we saw through a glass darkly and had to give certain things in forms and ceremonies to impress truths into our minds. So in the OT we have a very detailed account of the forms and ceremonies to be followed. But in the NT we have no such things. There have been those who said the communion service must be in fermented wine. There have been those who have said, No this is not necessary. There have been those have one idea and another idea. Some come up with == to the front. Others pass it out. Some got the idea in the middle ages that the wine was so important in the communion service that if people might spill it it would be terrible so they had the clergy drink the wine and the people only eat the bread, for fear they might spill it. There has been all kinds of controversy over forms and ceremonies in the Christian church, over matters God could have settled with one simple sentence in Scripture if He want the form to be this way, that way, or the other way! Now we have a full account of what Jesus Christ did. And we look back and so our forms and ceremonies are far less important today and the <sup>manner</sup> ~~matter~~ in which we do them because we have the reality; we don't see through a glass darkly. We see face to face as we look back to what He did. But in OT times they were looking forward to what He was going to do; it was all predicted but not so clearly. So God gave forms and ceremonies that should be rigidly adhered to.

So Jeroboam said, I'm introducing a new set of forms and ceremonies here, but the purpose of his introducing these was contrary to God's will, and consequently God sent the prophet up there to give a rebuke. So we read, v. 2, The man came in and he cried against the altar in the word of the Lord and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD: Behold a child shall be born to the house of David . . . . .