



To show sorrow

When a man in the Old Testament heard sad news, he showed his sadness by tearing his clothes. So when David heard of the death of King Saul, he "rent" his clothes. (See II Samuel 1:2,11)

Reuben rent his clothes when he found that Joseph was not in the pit. The brothers had put him there. Then without Reuben knowing what they were doing, the other brothers sold Joseph to some merchants going to Egypt. (See Genesis 37:29)

Then the brothers showed Jacob, their father, Joseph's bloody coat. Jacob thought Joseph was dead. He rent his clothes. (Genesis 37:34)

To show God you were sorry and would not keep on with sin

Sometimes a man rent his clothes to show God he was truly sorry and would not keep on sinning. King Josiah rent his clothes when he heard God's Word that had been lost for so long. Josiah knew that he and the people had not kept this Word of God. He was very sorry. So he tore his clothes.

(See II Kings 22:11,19)

TURN CARD OVER

Sometimes when people would tear their clothes, they were not truly sorry for their sins. They did not intend to stop sinning. God said to such people -

Rend your heart and not your garments.

(Joel 2:13)

It is no good to pretend to God. If you are not sorry, God knows. You cannot prove you are sorry just by tearing your garment.

The Lord loves us so much and He invites each one of us.

Turn to me with all your heart.

(Joel 2:12)