

Standards — Phil 3:16

“However, let us keep living by that same *standard* to which we have attained.”

There must be a standard — one standard in order for the twelve tribes to be raised up. This is what makes us a nation. If we already start to go off the standard now the nation cannot be formed. At least keep the standard that has been established up to this point until all the tribes are raised up. Then each tribe can decide for themselves whether they want to keep the standard. Then you will have something to fall away from. Then you can do the following:

Let men like Bob Pardon come in and teach you so you can be influenced by him.

Study all the library books on the “church fathers” and church history you want.

Let all your sons wear tee-shirts with signs all over them, if you want.

Let your people wear polyester clothing if you want.

BUT NOT NOW! Not as long as Yoneq is still establishing a standard. Not until something holy and set-apart has been raised up to startle the nations (Isa 52:15), then do Jdg 17:6, if you want.

Amatz came here wearing his 100% polyester jacket with *L. L. Bean* written across the front. All his “work shirts” had big signs across them. He said they were “just for work.” Yoneq said, “At least don’t wear them to work. That is where the nations see us. Wear the shirts to the minchah if you really think it is all right for a priest to be a walking signboard, advertising the world’s wares. If *L. L. Bean* merits us to wear their *mark*, then advertise with dignity.

If *Hakam* wants his seed to wear *Polar Fleece*, he will have to wait until later. We have carefully scrutinized his clothing since he was born, throwing away any clothes that were found to be 5 to 10% polyester. But now he comes to us wearing 100% polyester. The first thing Yoneq said was, “Where did you get that polyester coat?”

Amatz looked blank and said, “Is it polyester?”

“Of course it is,” said Yoneq.

I looked at the tag and added, “100%.”

“Well, Kepha, *Sameach’s* son, gave it to me,” he said. He took off the jacket to expose a tee-shirt covered with skateboard advertisements. “Oh, my uncle gave me this,” he said, already excusing what he *knew* was wrong. He had already worn that shirt around here in the men’s room, telling them all about his “rich uncle” who sends their family tee-shirts. Isn’t it clear that he has been introduced to a loving relationship with the world?

Zadok admitted in his shamefully fallen state, how he had gone against the advice of the brothers and taken his children to his relative’s house. Now that is their new address. He reaped what he has sown. God is not mocked. If our children wear BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT tee-shirts, we obviously want our children’s allegiance to be there. Yoceph obviously does not realize that his sons wear those tee-shirts. We are very concerned that some sort of dullness has set in.

Bynah said the *L. L. Bean* factory is right near the Maine community, so those *Polar Fleece* jackets have become the fashion in Judah. She said she was even tempted to get one before she left because they are so *practical*. She resisted and got something cotton made by one of our seamstresses. But she said many people have been forced to wear polyester clothing because they don’t have anything else. But, even when we were in our poorest times in Island Pond, we still went on exhausting trips far away to second-hand shops and found 100% cotton and wool for our people.

In closing, Bynah told us an interesting story that happened before she left Judah. She was in Boston and heard Racham speaking in the minchah about the horrible pride of a man who even proclaimed, “I am the greatest,” and then was struck down with a crippling disease. She went to Monticello and found that *Sameach* had bought a sweat shirt for her son that said across the back, “I AM THE GREATEST,” signed, Mohammed Ali. She hated it and tried to get it from the boy, but he would not give it up. *Sameach* said “I just got it for him because it was a good quality cotton sweat shirt. It is just for work!”

Yoneq is very grieved about this. He also does not like to use the names of his very good friends *Hakam*,

Sameach, and Yoceph — but he wants to make his point clear.