

STANDARD, STANDARDS

Cain had one **standard** for how he should be treated, and another for how he should treat others. (He was fine with murdering Abel, but he insisted that no one should be allowed to murder him.)

- **Genesis 4:8, 13-14:** "And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. ... And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me."

Judah had one **standard** of behavior for himself, and a different one for everyone else. (Judah freely had sex with someone he thought was a prostitute, but when he thought Tamar was guilty of the same thing he demanded that she be *burned alive*.)

- **Genesis 38:15-16, 24:** "When Judah saw her, he thought her to be an harlot; because she had covered her face. And he turned unto her by the way, and said, Go to, I pray thee, let me come in unto thee; ... And it came to pass about three months after, that it was told Judah, saying, Tamar thy daughter in law hath played the harlot; and also, behold, she is with child by whoredom. And Judah said, Bring her forth, and let her be burnt."

Under the Mosaic Law, if a portion of a field was sanctified to

the Lord, it was to be valued according to the seed that could be sown in it. The field had to be priced according to the established **standard** that a homer of barley seed was valued at 50 shekels of silver.

- **Leviticus 27:16:** "And if a man shall sanctify unto the LORD some part of a field of his possession, then thy estimation shall be according to the seed thereof: an homer of barley seed shall be valued at fifty shekels of silver."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, each person was required to camp next to a specific **standard**. (There were four standards: Judah, Reuben, Ephraim, and Dan. Each one had three tribes that were associated with it. The Israelites had to camp with their particular tribe, which was by a specific standard.)

- **Numbers 1:52:** "And the children of Israel shall pitch their tents, every man by his own camp, and every man by his own standard, throughout their hosts."
- **Numbers 2:2:** "Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father's house: far off about the tabernacle of the congregation shall they pitch."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, the **standard** of Judah was to the east (of the tabernacle).

- **Numbers 2:3:** "And on the east side toward the rising of the sun shall they of the standard of the camp of Judah pitch throughout their armies: and Nahshon the son of Amminadab shall be captain of the children of Judah."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God commanded the tribe of Issachar to camp next to the **standard** of Judah.

- **Numbers 2:5:** "And those that do pitch next unto him shall be the tribe of Issachar: and Nethaneel the son of Zuar shall be captain of the children of Issachar."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God commanded the tribe of Zebulun to camp next to the **standard** of Judah.

- **Numbers 2:7:** "Then the tribe of Zebulun: and Eliab the son of Helon shall be captain of the children of Zebulun."

The three tribes that camped under the **standard** of Judah were to go forth as a single unit. (When the Israelites traveled through the wilderness, they went first.)

- **Numbers 2:9:** "All that were numbered in the camp of Judah were an hundred thousand and fourscore thousand and six thousand and four hundred, throughout their armies. These shall first set forth."
- **Numbers 10:14:** "In the first place went the standard of the camp of the children of Judah according to their armies: and over his host was Nahshon the son of Amminadab."

The tribes that camped under the **standard** of Judah contained 186,400 men.

- **Numbers 2:9:** "All that were numbered in the camp of Judah were an hundred thousand and fourscore thousand and six thousand and four hundred, throughout their

armies. These shall first set forth."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, the **standard** of Reuben was to the south (of the tabernacle).

- **Numbers 2:10:** "On the south side shall be the standard of the camp of Reuben according to their armies: and the captain of the children of Reuben shall be Elizur the son of Shedeur."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God commanded the tribe of Simeon to camp next to the **standard** of Reuben.

- **Numbers 2:12:** "And those which pitch by him shall be the tribe of Simeon: and the captain of the children of Simeon shall be Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God commanded the tribe of Gad to camp next to the **standard** of Reuben.

- **Numbers 2:14:** "Then the tribe of Gad: and the captain of the sons of Gad shall be Eliasaph the son of Reuel."

When the Israelites traveled through the wilderness, the tribes that encamped under the **standard** of Reuben were to go out second (behind those that camped under the standard of Judah).

- **Numbers 2:16:** "All that were numbered in the camp of Reuben were an hundred thousand and fifty and one thousand and four hundred and fifty, throughout their armies. And they shall set forth in the second rank."

- **Numbers 10:18:** "And the standard of the camp of Reuben set forward according to their armies: and over his host was Elizur the son of Shedeur."

The tribes that encamped under the **standard** of Reuben contained 151,450 men.

- **Numbers 2:16:** "All that were numbered in the camp of Reuben were an hundred thousand and fifty and one thousand and four hundred and fifty, throughout their armies. And they shall set forth in the second rank."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, the tribe of Levi wasn't in any of the four **standards**. Instead it was located in the middle.

- **Numbers 2:17:** "Then the tabernacle of the congregation shall set forward with the camp of the Levites in the midst of the camp: as they encamp, so shall they set forward, every man in his place by their standards."

When the Levites carried the tabernacle through the wilderness, each person had to be with their tribe and by their **standard**. (In other words, those who weren't Levites had to stay within their group and not go near the Levites or the tabernacle.)

- **Numbers 2:17:** "Then the tabernacle of the congregation shall set forward with the camp of the Levites in the midst of the camp: as they encamp, so shall they set forward, every man in his place by their standards."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, the **standard** of Ephraim was to the west (of the tabernacle).

- **Numbers 2:18:** "On the west side shall be the standard of the camp of Ephraim according to their armies: and the captain of the sons of Ephraim shall be Elishama the son of Ammihud."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God commanded the tribe of Manasseh to camp next to the **standard** of Ephraim.

- **Numbers 2:20:** "And by him shall be the tribe of Manasseh: and the captain of the children of Manasseh shall be Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God commanded the tribe of Benjamin to camp next to the **standard** of Ephraim.

- **Numbers 2:22:** "Then the tribe of Benjamin: and the captain of the sons of Benjamin shall be Abidan the son of Gideoni."

The tribes that camped under the **standard** of Ephraim were to go forth third (behind the standards of Judah and Reuben).

- **Numbers 2:24:** "All that were numbered of the camp of Ephraim were an hundred thousand and eight thousand and an hundred, throughout their armies. And they shall go forward in the third rank."
- **Numbers 10:22:** "And the standard of the camp of the children of Ephraim set forward according to their armies: and over his host was Elishama the son of Ammihud."

The tribes that camped under the **standard** of Ephraim contained 108,100 men.

- **Numbers 2:24:** "All that were numbered of the camp of Ephraim were an hundred thousand and eight thousand and an hundred, throughout their armies. And they shall go forward in the third rank."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, the **standard** of Dan was to the north (of the tabernacle).

- **Numbers 2:25:** "The standard of the camp of Dan shall be on the north side by their armies: and the captain of the children of Dan shall be Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God commanded the tribe of Asher to camp next to the **standard** of Dan .

- **Numbers 2:27:** "And those that encamp by him shall be the tribe of Asher: and the captain of the children of Asher shall be Pagiel the son of Ocran."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God commanded the tribe of Naphtali to camp next to the **standard** of Dan.

- **Numbers 2:29:** "Then the tribe of Naphtali: and the captain of the children of Naphtali shall be Ahira the son of Enan."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, the tribes that

camped under the **standard** of Dan were to go forth last (behind the tribes that encamped under the standards of Judah, Reuben, and Ephraim).

- **Numbers 2:31:** "All they that were numbered in the camp of Dan were an hundred thousand and fifty and seven thousand and six hundred. They shall go hindmost with their standards."
- **Numbers 10:25:** "And the standard of the camp of the children of Dan set forward, which was the rereward of all the camps throughout their hosts: and over his host was Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai."

The tribes that camped under the **standard** of Dan contained 157,600 men.

- **Numbers 2:31:** "All they that were numbered in the camp of Dan were an hundred thousand and fifty and seven thousand and six hundred. They shall go hindmost with their standards."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, they camped around their assigned **standard**.

- **Numbers 2:34:** "And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses: so they pitched by their standards, and so they set forward, every one after their families, according to the house of their fathers."

In the days of Ruth, there was apparently a **standard** speech that people gave whenever someone was redeemed by a near kinsman.

- **Ruth 4:11:** "And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem:"

It seems it wasn't a **standard** practice for the judges of Israel to take people's children and make them their personal servants. (That was something new and oppressive that kings would do.)

- **1 Samuel 8:11:** "And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots."

It seems it wasn't a **standard** practice for the judges of Israel to have their own army. (That was something new and oppressive that kings would do.)

- **1 Samuel 8:11-12:** "And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots. And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots."

It seems it wasn't a **standard** practice for the judges of Israel to take people's children and use them to harvest their crops. (That was something new and oppressive that kings would do.)

- **1 Samuel 8:12:** "And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots."

It seems it wasn't a **standard** practice for the judges of Israel to have their own personal chefs and bakers. (That was something new and oppressive that kings would do.)

- **1 Samuel 8:13:** "And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers."

It seems it wasn't a **standard** practice for the judges of Israel to take people's best fields, oliveyards, and vineyards and give them to others. (That was something new and oppressive that kings would do.)

- **1 Samuel 8:14:** "And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants."

It seems it wasn't a **standard** practice for the judges of Israel to tax people and give the money to others. (That was something new and oppressive that kings would do.)

- **1 Samuel 8:15:** "And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants."

It seems it wasn't a **standard** practice for the judges of Israel to take away people's servants for himself. (That was something new and oppressive that kings would do.)

- **1 Samuel 8:16:** "And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work."

It seems it wasn't a **standard** practice for the judges of Israel to take away people's livestock for himself. (That was something new and oppressive that kings would do.)

- **1 Samuel 8:16-17:** "And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work. He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants."

As soon as the lad took Jonathan's equipment into the city, David and Jonathan kissed one another. (In ancient times this was considered to be a **standard** greeting.)

- **1 Samuel 20:41:** "And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded."

It seems that when David spared Saul, it wasn't because of some deeply held principle (even though that was what he claimed). David didn't apply that same **standard** to Nabal when he committed a much less serious offense. Instead David was ready to kill Nabal on the spot just because he insulted him (which is far less serious than the *mass murder and genocide* that Saul was guilty of committing.)

- **1 Samuel 25:10, 13:** "And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? and who is the son of

Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master. ... And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff."

All right and true **standards** of judgment are the work of God.

- **Proverbs 16:11:** "A just weight and balance are the LORD's: all the weights of the bag are his work."

Children must be held to the **standard** of God's law, just like everyone else.

- **Proverbs 20:11:** "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right."

We must not use a false **standard** to defraud one another.

- **Proverbs 20:23:** "Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good."

Don't be overky righteous. (This seems to be talking about going beyond the **standard** of righteousness that God has set.)

- **Ecclesiastes 7:16:** "Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself ?"

God said that the mighty Assyrian and his army would faint

and fall, the way that a **standard** bearer in an army faints.

- **Isaiah 10:12, 18:** "Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks. ... And shall consume the glory of his forest, and of his fruitful field, both soul and body: and they shall be as when a standard-bearer fainteth."

God said that the Messiah would stand for an ensign (a flag or **standard**) of the people.

- **Isaiah 11:10:** "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious."

God said that one day He was going to set up His **standard** to the Gentiles (and as a result, they would bring the Jews back to the promised land).

- **Isaiah 49:22:** "Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders."

God said that when the enemy invades like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord would lift up a **standard** against him. (This seems to be talking about the tribulation era.)

- **Isaiah 59:19:** "So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him."

God commanded that a **standard** be lifted up for the people. (This seems to be talking about the end times.)

- **Isaiah 62:10:** "Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people."

God commanded the Jews to proclaim that a **standard** was to be set toward Zion. (This seems to be prophecy about the destruction of Jerusalem at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar.)

- **Jeremiah 4:6:** "Set up the standard toward Zion: retire, stay not: for I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruction."

Jeremiah asked how long he would see the **standard**. (This seems to refer to war.)

- **Jeremiah 4:21:** "How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet?"

In ancient times, when a king died it was a **standard** practice to lament his death and burn odors in his honor.

- **Jeremiah 34:5:** "But thou shalt die in peace: and with the burnings of thy fathers, the former kings which were before thee, so shall they burn odours for thee; and they will lament thee, saying, Ah lord! for I have pronounced the word, saith the LORD."

When God spoke against Babylon, He commanded that a

standard be set up which declared that Merodach (a false god of the Babylonians) was broken in pieces, Bel (another false god) was confounded, and Babylon was conquered. (In other words, the false gods of Babylon wouldn't be able to save the city.)

- **Jeremiah 50:2:** "Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces."

When God spoke against Babylon, He commanded them to set up their **standard** upon the walls of Babylon (because war was coming).

- **Jeremiah 51:12:** "Set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong, set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes: for the LORD hath both devised and done that which he spake against the inhabitants of Babylon."

When God spoke against Babylon, He commanded that a **standard** be set up in the land. (It seems He was calling nations to come and fight against Babylon.)

- **Jeremiah 51:27:** "Set ye up a standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against her, call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashchenaz; appoint a captain against her; cause the horses to come up as the rough caterpillers."

Listing the abominations that a nation is committing is an act of judgment. It holds them to a **standard** and lists the ways they've fallen short of it.

- **Ezekiel 23:36:** "The LORD said moreover unto me; Son of man, wilt thou judge Aholah and Aholibah? yea, declare unto them their abominations;"

The cubits that were used to measure the millennial temple were "great" cubits (not **standard** cubits). It seems these were the size of a standard cubit (which was 18 inches), plus the width of a hand breadth.

- **Ezekiel 41:8:** "I saw also the height of the house round about: the foundations of the side chambers were a full reed of six great cubits."
- **Ezekiel 43:13:** "And these are the measures of the altar after the cubits: The cubit is a cubit and an hand breadth; even the bottom shall be a cubit, and the breadth a cubit, and the border thereof by the edge thereof round about shall be a span: and this shall be the higher place of the altar."

God said He was going to set a plumbline in the midst of Israel. (This meant He was going to hold Israel accountable to His **standard**.)

- **Amos 7:8:** "And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the LORD, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more:"

God expects us to do more than what the wicked are doing. He

requires us to go beyond the very low **standard** of behavior that they've set.

- **Matthew 5:46-47:** "For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?"

It was **standard** practice for Jews to bring their firstborn sons to the temple and offer a sacrifice for them (which was what the Mosaic Law required).

- **Luke 2:22:** "And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;"

It was **standard** practice in ancient times for soldiers to carry out crucifixions.

- **John 19:23:** "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout."

It was **standard** practice in ancient times for soldiers to take the garments of the people they crucified.

- **John 19:23:** "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout."

It was **standard** practice in ancient times for people to bribe

the governor.

- **Acts 24:26:** "He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him."

The Romans had a higher legal **standard** than the Jews.

- **Acts 25:16:** "To whom I answered, It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers face to face, and have licence to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him."

It was **standard** practice that when a prisoner was sent to Caesar, a document was also sent which listed the charges against him.

- **Acts 25:27:** "For it seemeth to me unreasonable to send a prisoner, and not withal to signify the crimes laid against him."

Paul had a set of **standard** teachings that he taught to the churches.

- **1 Corinthians 4:17:** "For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church."

Our **standard** needs to be higher than just asking whether something is evil. The question is whether it's a good thing to

do. (If it's not edifying then we shouldn't be doing it, even if it's not a sin.)

- **1 Corinthians 6:12:** "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."
- **1 Corinthians 10:23:** "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not."

The **standard** that we live by must not be determined by other people. (We must measure ourselves against the Word of God, not those who are around us.)

- **2 Corinthians 10:12:** "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

We must not live by our own standard. (We must measure ourselves against the Word of God, not by what we think is right.)

- **2 Corinthians 10:12:** "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

The apostles didn't tell the church that as long as people didn't compromise the doctrines of salvation they were fine. Instead the **standard** was to be blameless and without

offense in God's sight. This means churches (and Christians) are required to observe and obey *everything* and leave nothing out. God requires us to be spotless.

- **Ephesians 5:27:** "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."
- **Philippians 1:10:** "That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ."
- **Philippians 2:15:** "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"
- **1 Timothy 6:14:** "That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:"
- **James 1:27:** "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

God holds church leaders to a very high **standard**. He requires them to be blameless.

- **1 Timothy 3:2:** "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;"
- **1 Timothy 3:10:** "And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless."

If a man's wife doesn't live up to the **standard** of being blameless then he can't serve as a deacon.

- **1 Timothy 3:11:** "Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things."

Paul expected his letter to Timothy to be the **standard** set of teachings that were taught to other Christians.

- **1 Timothy 4:6:** "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained."

The new Jerusalem was measured by a golden reed (a fixed **standard**).

- **Revelation 21:15:** "And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof."