



"And now I am no more in the world,
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®
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VISION NEEDED

At the moment, leaders of the Western world seem to lack a clear vision of how they should deal with a multitude of threats. No long-term solution has yet been found for the Israeli-Hamas conflict. Last week, Russian troops and armaments entered Ukraine. Islamic State rebels continue to wreak havoc in Iraq and Syria. Americans are now joining ISIS as *jihad* fighters, and last week one of them was killed in Syria. On Monday, British Prime Minister David Cameron warned of a similar situation developing in England.

VISION PROVIDED

The prophet Jeremiah spoke specifically of one of today's "hot spots" (Jerusalem), although he was talking about another time in history. He was turning a spotlight of calm assurance on a situation in which people and their leaders were in the dark about what the future would bring. The vision God offered through Jeremiah offered far more hope than any human leader could.

1. Do you find any assurance about today's events in any of the political or media voices vying for your attention? Why or why not?
2. Were God's words through Jeremiah only for ancient times, or can we expect a future fulfillment, as some Christians believe? Explain the reasons for your belief.
3. What message of hope for our current life circumstances do you find in Jeremiah's prophecy? Explain.
4. In what ways have you seen God restoring and rebuilding life situations that sin has broken and destroyed?
5. What role do you think God expects us to play in bringing back to God people whose sin has placed them in spiritual "exile?"

—Charles R. Boatman

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