



"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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LITTLE REASON TO REJOICE

There is little reason to rejoice in Iraq and Syria these days, where Islamic State terrorists control large areas and continue their murderous executions. But change may be in the air. Some Arab nations now recognize that the terrorists' barbarity threatens Islam's reputation in the world. Consequently, five Arab countries are cooperating in air strikes against ISIS (also known as ISIL) forces. France, with one of Europe's largest Muslim populations, was the scene last week of Muslims demonstrating against the ISIS.

BUT THERE IS YET A SOURCE OF JOY

The political and economic situation for Judea in Habakkuk's time gave no reason for rejoicing. None of the normal signs of peace and prosperity were evident. Nevertheless, the prophet's trust in the Lord caused him to rejoice because he knew that God controlled the future. Blessings would come when the nation returned to righteousness.

1. What does a country say about itself when it looks for security first in political treaties, military action, and diplomatic efforts rather than to God?
2. How should Christians react to secular solutions proposed for problems that are essentially spiritual in nature?
3. Should Christians find joy in the fact that Muslims are now expressing anger over Islamic extremism? Why, or why not?
4. Where do you find joy?
5. What causes your level of joy to go up and down? Why?

—Charles R. Boatman

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