



“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®  
or Standard Lesson Quarterly®.

### **FLEEING SLAVERY**

Last Sunday marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The trickle of daring escapes during the wall’s 28-year history became a mighty flood of those enjoying safe and free passage when the wall came down. The economic slavery of communism in East Berlin was no more! Perhaps more than any other, this event marked the end of the Cold War. Axel Klausmeier, Director of the Berlin Wall Memorial, said that the wall’s fall was “a point of no return . . . from there, things headed toward a whole new world order.” German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who lived much of her life behind the wall, said, “That changed my life.”

### **FINDING FREEDOM**

In Ezekiel’s vision, the water that flowed from the temple began as a mere trickle. The tiny stream grew into an ever-deepening river, surging eastward until it became so great that no one could cross it. Most significantly, it became a life-giving flood that turned even the salty waters of the Dead Sea pure. This powerful image symbolizes the life-giving freedom of the spirit we find in the new covenant Jesus brought into being.

1. Is there such a thing as “too much freedom”? Why, or why not?
2. How do we get people to realize that spiritual freedom in Christ is the most important thing?
3. In what surprising ways have you experienced God’s life-giving water bringing you freedom?
4. How do you typically respond when God’s blessings flow over you?
5. How would you explain to a non-believer what Ezekiel’s vision symbolizes?

—Charles R. Boatman

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