



"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®.

### **DEALING WITH A FLOOD OF DESTRUCTION**

Powerful storms struck vast areas of America over the past week. A years-long drought in some areas was broken by weather systems that brought both torrential rains and tornadoes. Waist-deep hail fell in Denver. In the Midwest and South, extensive flooding destroyed thousands of homes and businesses. Texans suffered the loss of 10,000 automobiles. In a jab at the idea of such disasters being an "act of God," a satirical website claimed in jest that U.S. Senator Ted Cruz had blamed the flooding in Texas on Native-American rain dances.

### **CALLING FOR A FLOOD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

The prophet Amos wasn't attempting to be humorous when he warned Israel to prepare for calamity. God was displeased with the immorality and injustice that was rampant in the prosperous but godless nation. He called for a figurative "flood" of justice and righteousness to sweep over the country, destroying the immorality practiced by kings, religious leaders, and common citizens alike.

1. Do you think God is sending America a message with the extreme weather we are experiencing? Why or why not?
2. What aspects of American life do you believe might warrant God's judgment? What modern parallels do you see to the evils Amos described in Israel?
3. Describe the changes one would see in a culture if "justice rolled on like a river and righteousness like a never-failing stream."
4. What positive steps can individual Christians take to change the moral climate of America?
5. How can your church facilitate a more just society in your community?

—Charles R. Boatman

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