



“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®.

### **ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE**

World leaders met in Paris recently to agree on ways to reduce the emissions of so-called greenhouse gases. Climate scientists point to some current computer models and predict that these heat-trapping gases will cause a rise in the temperature of earth’s atmosphere. Others argue that any effect humans have on global climate is minimal compared to the economic consequences of many proposed strategies for curtailing greenhouse gas emissions.

Our descendants will live with the results of this debate. If those consequences are significant, they may ask, “How did this happen?”

### **ACKNOWLEDGING THE PAST**

God told Moses that his descendants would also have questions about events of their past. Specific observances were commanded for the Israelites to teach their children about God’s actions in their nation’s history. Consecration of first-born males to God was a way for each generation of Israelites to acknowledge God’s ownership of all that they enjoyed.

1. Consider ways our lives today are different than they were in our grandparents’ days. Choose one difference (positive or negative) and imagine how our grandparents would explain why that change happened.
2. What events in Israel’s history did consecration of the firstborn commemorate? How did the elements of that celebration compare to the magnitude of the event celebrated?
3. The exodus from Egypt occurred about 14 centuries before the birth of Jesus. What do we learn about the character of Mary and Joseph from the fact that they still honored an event that happened that long ago?
4. The birth of Jesus occurred about 21 centuries ago. How can we ensure that our celebration of that historic event this week will truly honor the birth of God’s Son?

—Charles R. Boatman

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