



"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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DEATH FROM ABOVE

From a window high in the Mandalay Bay hotel last Sunday evening came burst after burst of death and destruction. A lone gunman, in a well-planned attack, fired on a country music festival, killing nearly sixty concert-goers and wounding over five hundred more. The violence reignited the perennial American debate over terrorism, guns, mental illness, and whether there is any way we can prevent such evil acts.

LIFE FROM ABOVE

As Moses prepared to ascend Mt. Sinai, thunder, lightning, fire, smoke, and loud trumpet blasts accompanied God's presence on the mountain. God told Moses to warn the priests and people not to ascend the mountain, or else death would come from on high. However, God's purpose was to bring life, not death. On the mountain, God would give Moses the commandments which, if Israel followed them, would bring both spiritual and physical life to the nation.

1. Does Las Vegas's reputation as "Sin City" have anything to do with the shooter choosing it as a venue for his actions? Explain.
2. To what extent do you think the violence in our culture is the result of our nation turning away from God's commands? Explain.
3. Why was God so concerned that not even the priests of Israel should approach the mountain?
4. How can we translate God's demand for reverence into our lives? . . . into the public life of our nation?
5. Is there anything in modern church life that doesn't show proper reverence for God? How would you correct the problem?

—Charles R. Boatman

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