



"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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PROMISES, PROMISES

The 2018 midterm elections have come and gone. Americans decided to give Democrats control of the House of Representatives as Republicans retained a majority in the Senate. Shifts in power took place all down the line through state and local elections. Numerous ballot measures required citizens to evaluate issues which would affect them in the near future. Party affiliation determined the votes of many, but the promises of candidates and proponents of referendum issues were a major factor for many voters. For the next two years, we will live with the consequences of those promises and our decisions about them.

A QUESTION OF KEEPING THEM

As we all know, campaign promises are not always kept. We also know that we don't always keep the promises we make to God in times of stress or distress. Jacob's dream caused him to promise allegiance to God if he were blessed by God. To help him remember the experience, he built an altar at that place.

1. Why do so many people place little trust in political promises? Why are such promises made, and why are so many of them broken?
2. Describe the turmoil occurring in Jacob's life that preceded his encounter with God in this text. Why do so many people promise faithfulness to God in times of great emotion and not so much when life is going smoothly?
3. Have you ever had a spiritual awakening such as Jacob experienced? What was your reaction to it? How did it change your life? What steps did you take to help you remember that experience?

—Charles R. Boatman

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