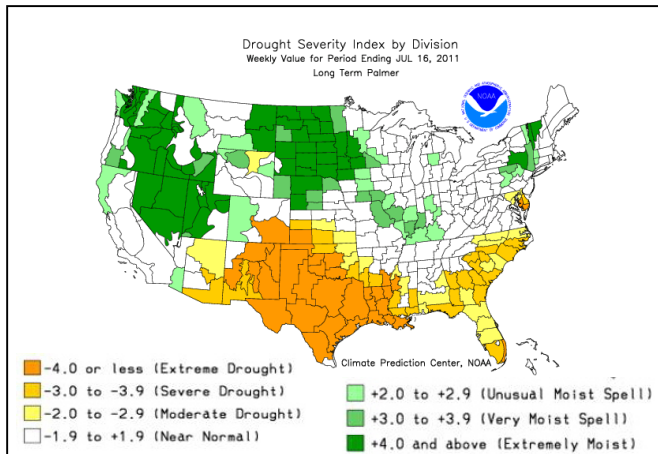


# The Sackcloth Times

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## THE FIRES, FLOODS, AND ECONOMIC INSTABILITY OF 2011

by Paula Leanes

The map above shows, as of July 16, what parts of the country are in extreme moisture (flooding) and what parts are extremely dry (fire risk or on fire). Some of the words we've seen over and over again in news stories to describe this year's weather are "unprecedented," "historic," "record-breaking," "deadly," "biblical," "extreme," "devastating," "severe," and "remarkable" - to name a few.

While all this goes on, at the same time, we see economic problems in the U.S. that either mirror the Great Depression or are worse than they were at that time. Every day, more major companies announce large layoffs. More of the population stands in line for hand-outs from their already-bankrupt states. As this goes to print, the government is bickering back and forth about whether or not to give themselves another credit card with another 2 TRILLION dollar limit. Since President Obama has promised to veto anything that comes across not allowing this 2 TRILLION dollar credit card, we know the nation is about to be yet deeper in debt very soon. Our wicked politicians do not want to stop frivolously pouring tax dollars into their tricks and schemes against the American people—this is why they will "raise the debt ceiling." Obama wants to make sure the U.S. goes under for good. This, too, is why they will "raise the debt ceiling." A nation in unconquerable debt can no longer be sovereign.

And yet while all *that* goes on, it must share top

story status with Hollywood whores that have the most "bikini ready" bodies and the fascinating x-ray of "reality TV" airhead Kim Kardashian's rear end (after all, she had to prove to the world she does not have implants).

The seals of Revelation—and the wrath of God within them—continue to be opened, but by all means, let's keep up to date with which "celebrities" are going to attend the upcoming Marine Ball, how the latest Harry Potter flick is off the charts breaking records, and who's breaking up with whom in Hollywood.

The value system of this country is why we are having these drastic floods and fires and economic destruction in the first place. We have ignored God and His Kingdom, and we have focused on ourselves and our nation's petty obsessions with various types of vanity.

The following scriptures from Haggai explain what is happening to us at this very moment:

*4Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?*

*5Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.*

*6Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.*

*7Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.*

*8Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.*

*9Ye looked for much, and, lo it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.*

*10Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit.*

*11And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands.*

- Haggai 1:4-11

We have built up our own houses—many took vast

amounts of money out of their homes during the escalation of home prices in the 90's, and early 2000's, and have since seen their property values decline to where their mortgage balance is higher than their property is worth.

We have served mammon and not God. We went for the cash machine instead of listening for the voice of the Spirit of God. If more had sought God and heeded His warnings, there would have been fewer in serious debt today.

When things are good, people forget God. His own people get slack. God has been calling His people to a new dimension in these last of the last days, telling us to GET READY, there is a storm coming. How many have listened? Now we are a chastised Church and America is a forgotten nation.

Fires in the southern states have broken records this year, and we are not even halfway through fire season. Every year the fires increase. CNN reported on June 22: "The Wallow fire in east central Arizona is one of 58 large wildfires burning in the United States, from Alaska to Florida, according to the National Interagency Coordination Center. All told, the fires have burned 2,166 square miles or 1.4 million acres -- nearly the size of Delaware."

Weather patterns are nowhere near normal in this country anymore. On June 11, 4.5" hail fell near Beaver, Oklahoma. Hail is another phenomenon that appears to be on the increase during thunderstorms. In Revelation 16, we read about the 7 plagues to come upon the earth during the Great Tribulation. Hailstones "the size of a talent" - anywhere from 75-100 pounds, depending on interpretation - will fall upon men.

As of this writing, 72% of Texas, 12% of Florida, 48% of New Mexico, 43% of Oklahoma, 9% of Kansas, 64% of Louisiana, 8% of Mississippi, 36% of Georgia, 9% of Alabama, and 5% of Arizona are considered to be in "exceptional drought." Phoenix is currently going through a second major dust storm this month.

Some states that experienced major flooding in 2011 include: North Dakota, South Dakota, Missouri, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Iowa. These are just a few, and it's not over yet.

In addition to destroying people's homes and communities, both drought and flooding destroy crops and drive up the cost of food, leaving less money in the wallet of average Americans.

As we take a peek around the globe, we see flooding and/or drought conditions in most other nations as well. Spring brought torrential rains and deadly flooding to China in June, and Australia and Brazil have also been badly hit with floods, to name just a few.

Maybe we can't change what comes upon another

nation, and perhaps even our own, but as individual Christians, now is the time more than ever to get serious with God. We should have put Him first all along. But if at any time we have been guilty of wealth-building or focusing on petty entertainments of the world, in place of seeking God's direction in our lives, we must repent and give Him our hearts, minds and ears. Nothing should come before Him. There is no compromising before God. Dire times are upon all nations, and we need to be able to hear His voice. He needs to know who is truly His and also who it is that will not heed His voice.

We have been told if we seek first the Kingdom, He will give us all things we need and desire freely. Matthew 6:33 tells us, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Psalm 37:19 promises that those who seek Him first, "shall not be ashamed in the evil time, And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied."



## STILL

by Lawrence Peter Medici

God still heals the broken heart,  
And promised He will never part,  
In any storm, we'll see His will  
And hear Him say, "I love you still."

When Satan tries to steal our song  
And everything seems to go wrong,  
Jesus loves you, have no doubt,  
Just praise His Name, He'll bring you out.

God still loves us when we fail  
In sickness, temptation, even jail.  
This is a war, it's not a game -  
We have the victory, in Jesus' name!

If this is the last poem I write,  
I know, by grace, I fought this fight,  
And found my peace, no more to roam.  
Still, someday, we all go Home.

*(The above poem was written by Lawrence Peter Medici while undergoing chemo treatment for cancer, in prison.)*

*A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny..... (Revelation 6:6)*

### EUROPEAN PUBLIC DEBT AT A GLANCE

<http://globalpublicsquare.blogs.cnn.com>  
June 16, 2011

Fourteen out of 27 countries in the European Union had public debt exceeding 60% of their gross domestic product at the end of 2010, according to official statistics.

The report by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, showed that the ratio of government debt to GDP across all 27 member states increased from 74.4% in 2009 to 80.0% in 2010.

For the 17 euro zone countries, the debt is even higher, increasing from 79.3% in 2009 to 85.1% last year.

Topping the European debt league is Greece with 142.8% government debt to GDP ratio, followed by Italy (119.0%), Belgium (96.8%) Ireland (96.2%), Portugal (93.0%), Germany (83.2%), France (81.7%) Hungary (80.2%) and the United Kingdom (80.0%).

The lowest government debt to GDP ratios were recorded in Estonia (6.6%), Bulgaria (16.2%) and Luxembourg (18.4%), according to the Eurostat report.

Under the Stability and Growth Pact, agreed when the euro began in 1999, member states are supposed to ensure their debt does not exceed 60% of their GDP.

*(Important note: U.S. debt is 95% of its GDP, up from 51% in 1988.)*

\* \* \*

*Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. (Leviticus 18:22)*

### CALIFORNIA GOV SIGNS LANDMARK LAW TO TEACH GAY HISTORY [www.foxnews.com](http://www.foxnews.com), July 14, 2011

California has become the first state in the nation to require public schools to add lessons about gay history to social studies classes, after Gov. Jerry Brown (D) signed the landmark bill on Thursday.

The Democratic-majority Legislature passed the bill last week on a largely party-line vote.

The bill has drawn criticism from some churches and conservative groups that argue such instruction would expose students to a subject that some parents find objectionable.

Democratic state Sen. Mark Leno of San

Francisco, the bill's author, has said that teaching gay history in public schools will teach students to be more accepting of gays and lesbians.

The state will now draw up guidelines for the districts, and educators will decide who deserves inclusion in the curriculum.

Supporters suggest slain San Francisco politician Harvey Milk would be an appropriate choice. Leno contends Milk's fight for civil rights is as worthy of class study as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s. He adds this kind of "inclusive curriculum" will help protect students who may look, or act, differently.

But critics don't buy the anti-bullying argument, and say SB 48 hijacks history class to promote a gay agenda.

"In the past, history taught about what people did, what they accomplished," says Brad Dacus, head of the Pacific Justice Institute. "It didn't focus on their sexuality and what they did in the bedroom. Yet that is what this legislation will impose on every public school in the state of California dealing with heterosexuality, homosexual role models, transgender role models, all the way down to the kindergarten level."

Dacus adds, "It's California tax dollars from parents who are paying for this kind of indoctrination that's being put into public schools. That demeans them, their family, and their relationships."

\* \* \*

*15Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see **greater abominations** than these.*

*16And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they **worshipped the sun toward the east.***

(Ezekiel 8:15,16, bold added)

### YOGA IN TIMES SQUARE TO MARK SUMMER SOLSTICE [www.ibtimes.com](http://www.ibtimes.com), June 22, 2011

Thousands of yoga enthusiasts stretched their arms in a busy hotspot marking the summer solstice at a free long day in the middle of Times Square, Manhattan in New York

A large exercise class was held by yoga instructor Bikram, with participants coming from all over the world who had gathered to celebrate summer solstice, the longest day of the year and the start of summer.

Tim Tompkins of the Times Square Alliance said: "We're trying to create a little ocean or perhaps just a little lake or just a drop of serenity in the midst of all

this madness. It's an attempt, on the longest day of the year, when the sun is shining brightest, to tap into that energy and have it help carry us through the rest of the year."

The event organizers had also streamed it live on their website for the people who could not attend the yoga session.

Summer solstice comes from the Latin meaning the 'sun stands still' and is the day when the sun appears to stop moving north - and starts heading south again.

\* \* \*

*After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.*

(Daniel 7:7 re: global takeover / beast world government on the horizon)

**AGRICULTURAL FUTURES MARKETS  
NEED GLOBAL REGULATION,  
FRANCE'S SARKOZY SAYS  
www.bloomberg.com, June 16, 2011**

Agricultural futures markets need global regulation because price swings are damaging producers and consumers, French President Nicolas Sarkozy said, a week before G-20 ministers meet to discuss global food supply.

France, which heads the Group of 20 nations this year, will propose a market-information system similar to what already exists in oil, Sarkozy told a conference of farm groups in Paris today. The G-20 members account for 70 percent of agricultural land and 80 percent of world food trade, he said. Their farm ministers meet in Paris on June 22.

Global food prices monitored by the United Nations rose to a record in February and the World Bank estimates the increase contributed to 44 million people falling into poverty in the past year. Rising costs are stoking inflation worldwide, spurring central banks from China to the euro region to increase interest rates, potentially curbing economic expansion.

"We have to regulate the financial futures markets for agricultural commodities," Sarkozy told the conference. "If we wait, we'll do nothing. And we can't permit ourselves the luxury of not doing anything."

\* \* \*

*28Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted,*

*they builded;*

*29But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.*

*30Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.*

(Luke 17:28-30)

**UN COUNCIL PASSES  
GAY RIGHTS RESOLUTION  
www.cnn.com, June 17, 2011**

In what the U.S. State Department is calling a "historic step," the U.N. Human Rights Council passed a resolution Friday supporting equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation.

The resolution, introduced by South Africa, is the first-ever U.N. resolution on the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons.

It passed with 23 votes in favor, 19 opposed and three abstentions amid strong criticism of South Africa by some African nations.

Suzanne Nossel, deputy assistant secretary of state for international organizations, told CNN, "It really is a key part in setting a new norm that gay rights are human rights and that that has to be accepted globally."

"It talks about the violence and discrimination that people of LGBT persuasion experience around the world," she said, "and that those issues ... need to be taken seriously. It calls for reporting on what's going on, where people are being discriminated against, the violence that is taking place, and it really puts the issue squarely on the U.N.'s agenda going forward."

Divided opinion continues among some countries about whether the time has come to take up gay rights in the U.N. forum, Nossel said, "so this resolution is really significant as far as gaining widespread support for doing just that."

The State Department lobbied intensively for the resolution, and Nossel said the United States was pleased to see African leadership, from South Africa in particular, as well as strong support from South America, Colombia and Brazil.

The resolution also will commission the first-ever

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U.N. report on the challenges that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people face around the globe. Nossel said the Obama administration hopes it will “open a broader international discussion on how to best promote and protect the human rights of LGBT persons.”

\* \* \*

**THE OBEDIENT CHURCH  
MUST REPENT  
by Christopher Dart**

This regards the Laodicean Church.

In prayer, the Lord told me He wanted me to write on the obedient Church as Daniel, Job and Noah (notably righteous men).

Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, [were] in it, [as] I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall [but] deliver their own souls by their righteousness (Ez. 14.20).

Certainly those saints have been made spotless by the blood of the Lamb and being drawn near to the Son. Clearly, their sins and curse was nailed to the cross. They understand Christ has done all to gain their entrance into the Kingdom. He is our Redeemer. We essentially have only His righteousness, which is infinitely sufficient.

Though the churches now slumber with their synthetic gospel, the time is short. The obedient Church must, as Ezra, Nehemiah and Daniel repent for the church as we hereby identify ourselves (I speak of a slumbering Church and an alert Church).

Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father’s house have sinned (Ne. 1.6).

And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over [our] head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens (Ez. 9.6).

O Lord, righteousness [belongeth] unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, [that are] near, and [that are] far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee (Da. 9.7).

All of these men, who seemed to have no reason to repent, did repent for the Church since the Church had no power to repent for herself.

\* \* \*

**THE OLD CROSS & THE NEW  
by A.W. Tozer  
(From *Man, the Dwelling Place of God*, 1966)**

All unannounced and mostly undetected there has come in modern times a new cross into popular evangelical circles. It is like the old cross, but different: the likenesses are superficial; the differences, fundamental. From this new cross has sprung a new philosophy of the Christian life, and from that new philosophy has come a new evangelical technique—a new type of meeting and a new kind of preaching. This new evangelism employs the same language as the old, but its content is not the same and its emphasis not as before.

The old cross would have no truck with the world. For Adam’s proud flesh it meant the end of the journey. It carried into effect the sentence imposed by the law of Sinai. The new cross is not opposed to the human race; rather, it is a friendly pal and, if understood aright, it is the source of oceans of good clean fun and innocent enjoyment. It lets Adam live without interference. His life motivation is unchanged; he still lives for his own pleasure, only now he takes delight in singing choruses and watching religious movies instead of singing bawdy songs and drinking hard liquor. The accent is still on enjoyment, though the fun is now on a higher plane morally if not intellectually.

The new cross encourages a new and entirely different evangelistic approach. The evangelist does not demand abnegation of the old life before a new life can be received. He preaches not contrasts but similarities. He seeks to key into public interest by showing that Christianity makes no unpleasant demands; rather, it offers the same thing the world does, only on a higher level. Whatever the sin-mad world happens to be clamoring after at the moment is cleverly shown to be the very thing the gospel offers, only the religious product is better.

The new cross does not slay the sinner, it redirects him. It gears him into a cleaner and a jollier way of living and saves his self-respect. To the self-assertive it says, “Come and assert yourself for Christ.” To the egotist it says, “Come and do your boasting in the Lord.” To the thrill-seeker it says, “Come and enjoy the thrill of Christian fellowship.”

The Christian message is slanted in the direction of the current vogue in order to make it acceptable to the public. The philosophy back of this kind of thing may be sincere but its sincerity does not save it from being false. It is false because it is blind. It misses completely the whole meaning of the cross. The old cross is a symbol of death. It stands for the abrupt, violent end of a human being. The man in Roman times who took up his cross and started down the road had already said good-by to his friends. He was not coming

back. He was going out to have it ended.

The cross made no compromise, modified nothing, spared nothing; it slew all of the man, completely and for good. It did not try to keep on good terms with its victim. It struck cruel and hard, and when it had finished its work, the man was no more. The race of Adam is under death sentence. There is no commutation and no escape.

God cannot approve any of the fruits of sin, however innocent they may appear or beautiful to the eyes of men. God salvages the individual by liquidating him and then raising him again to newness of life. That evangelism which draws friendly parallels between the ways of God and the ways of men is false to the Bible and cruel to the souls of its hearers.

The faith of Christ does not parallel the world, it intersects it. In coming to Christ we do not bring our old life up onto a higher plane; we leave it at the cross. The corn of wheat must fall into the ground and die. We who preach the gospel must not think of ourselves as public relations agents sent to establish good will between Christ and the world. We must not imagine ourselves commissioned to make Christ acceptable to big business, the press, the world of sports or modern education. We are not diplomats but prophets, and our message is not a compromise but an ultimatum.

God offers life, but not an improved old life. The life He offers is life out of death. It stands always on the far side of the cross. Whoever would possess it must pass under the rod. He must repudiate himself and concur in God's just sentence against him. What does this mean to the individual, the condemned man who would find life in Christ Jesus? How can this theology be translated into life?

Simply, he must repent and believe. He must forsake his sins and then go on to forsake himself. Let him cover nothing, defend nothing, excuse nothing. Let him not seek to make terms with God, but let him bow his head before the stroke of God's stern displeasure and acknowledge himself worthy to die. Having done this let him gaze with simple trust upon the risen Savior, and from Him will come life and rebirth and cleansing and power.

The cross that ended the earthly life of Jesus now puts an end to the sinner; and the power that raised Christ from the dead now raises him to a new life along with Christ. To any who may object to this or count it merely a narrow and private view of truth, let me say God has set His hallmark of approval upon this message from Paul's day to the present. Whether stated in these exact words or not, this has been the content of all preaching that has brought life and power to the world through the centuries. The mystics, the reformers, the revivalists have put their emphasis here, and signs and wonders and mighty operations of

the Holy Ghost gave witness to God's approval. Dare we, the heirs of such a legacy of power, tamper with the truth? Dare we with our stubby pencils erase the lines of the blueprint or alter the pattern shown us in the Mount?

May God forbid. Let us preach the old cross and we will know the old power.

\* \* \*

*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (Isaiah 5:20)*

**OBAMA SUPPORTS BILL TO REPEAL  
FEDERAL GAY MARRIAGE BAN  
Fox News, July 19, 2011**

As a leading Senate Democrat prepares for hearings this week on repealing the federal law that defines marriage as between a man and a woman, the White House on Tuesday threw its support to overturning the Defense of Marriage Act.

The Obama administration has already said it won't defend the Defense of Marriage Act in court because it concludes it's unconstitutional. President Obama is "proud to support" the Respect for Marriage Act, legislation by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., to overturn the 15-year-old law.

"The president has long called for a legislative repeal of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, which continues to have a real impact on the lives of real people, our families, friends and neighbors," Carney said in his daily briefing with reporters.

Feinstein, who is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is hosting the hearing, said she is under no illusion that overturning the ban will be easy, but she does think the public is ready for a change.

"I think eyes have opened. More and more people across this land know people who are gay, who want to have a lasting relationship, who look at marriage as an economic agreement as well as an emotional agreement," said Feinstein.

So far six states have passed legislation allowing gay marriage within their states, but the federal ban prevents same-sex couples from applying for citizenship benefits, filing federal taxes together or claiming deductions that married people receive, receiving spousal benefits under Social Security and taking unpaid leave for certain family and medical reasons.

The Defense of Marriage Act passed both chambers of Congress by overwhelming margins and was signed into law by President Bill Clinton. Feinstein was one of 14 senators to oppose the legislation.

"Believe me, we will continue this effort until the battle is won," said Feinstein.