

CALIFORNIA BURNING

MODERN DAY SODOM AND GOMORRAH JUDGMENT OR JUST A COINCIDENCE?

By Pastor Kevin Lea – July 2, 2008

Today, 680 square miles of California have been burned with hundreds of the still uncontained fires adding to this total. Most of these fires started as a result of an unprecedented lightning storm that occurred during the weekend of June 21st. That was the first weekend after California started conducting same sex marriage ceremonies as a result of a State Supreme Court ruling in May declaring that laws prohibiting same sex marriage were unconstitutional (see article below).

The news media reports these fires as a random act of Mother Nature. But what if they are not? In Genesis 19 we see the wrath of God being poured upon the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah in the form of fire that completely destroyed them. Prior to their destruction, God sent two angels to rescue Abraham's nephew (Lot) and his family. At night, the homosexuals of the city came to Lot's house with the intent to rape the angels (who appeared as men – Genesis 19). The angels prevented the assault by blinding the homosexual mob thus allowing Lot, his wife, and two daughters to escape the city. When Lot and his two daughters were at a safe distance, the judgment of God fell on the cities and they were destroyed forever.

Gen 19:24 Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. 25 So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. 27 And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. 28 Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and **behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.**

Some of the news coverage has emphasized how the smoke of these California fires can be easily seen from space and cover nearly all of northern California from San Francisco to the border with Oregon (see satellite photo below). If Abraham were to be interviewed by the news media, I doubt he would call it an act of Mother Nature. Instead he would remind us of why the smoke rose from the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and then chastise us for not learning from history.

Nearly everyone would agree that: 5,000 lightning strikes in a weekend, causing over 1,000 fires, that have burned hundreds of square miles, and produced smoke covering nearly half of the state, is an unprecedented tragedy. Some want to blow it off as coincidence, others may take pause and wonder why this and so many other calamities are coming upon our nation. Those who have read Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26 will see that these things could certainly be the beginnings of God's judgment falling on a rebellious nation. I encourage the reader to join me in removing "Mother Nature" from our vocabulary and replacing it with "time to repent while there is still time."

Wedding bells chime for California same-sex couples

June 16, 2008 --SAN FRANCISCO, California (CNN) –

California officials began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples Monday evening after a state Supreme Court ruling legalizing the ceremonies took effect.



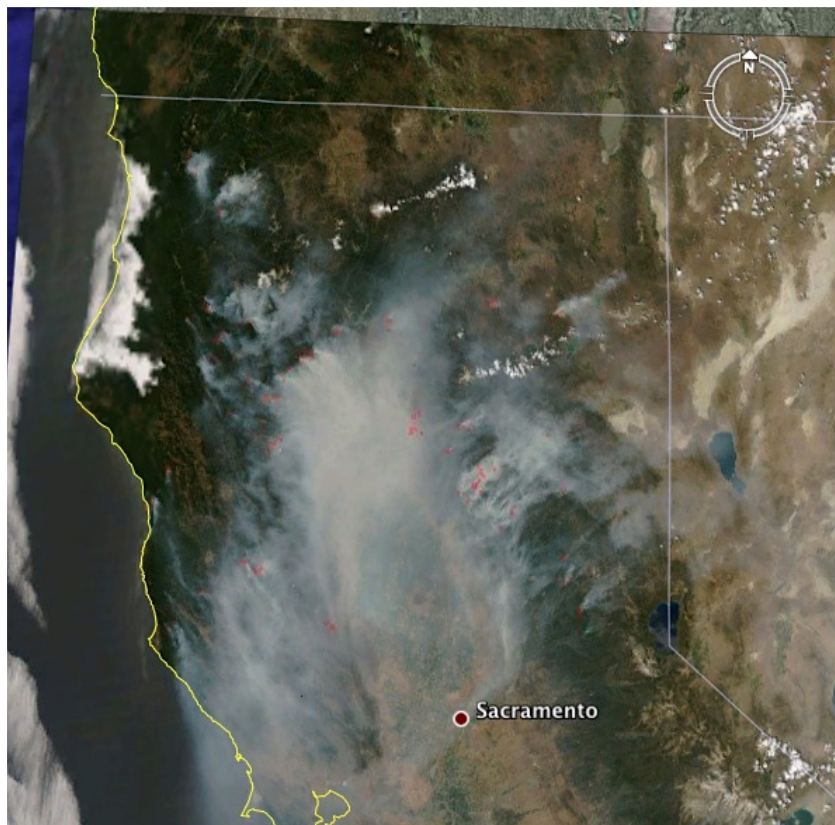
Phyllis Lyon, right, kisses Del Martin after being married by Mayor Gavin Newsom in San Francisco on Monday.

The May 15 ruling took effect at 5:01 p.m. (8:01 p.m. ET) Monday. Gay and lesbian couples had lined up for hours outside county clerk's offices in anticipation of the decision coming into force.

Lesbian rights activists Del Martin, 87, and Phyllis Lyon, 84, were the first same-sex couple to receive a marriage license in San Francisco on Monday, with Mayor Gavin Newsom presiding over their wedding ceremony. ----article continues

Lightning sparks 800-plus fires in California

Source: Copyright 2008, Associated Press, Date: **June 24, 2008**, Byline: Marcus Wohlsen



Fire crews joined aircraft from neighboring states Tuesday to battle hundreds of lightning-caused wildfires across Northern California.

One of the fires started by weekend thunderstorms had already blackened more than 10,000 acres — nearly 16 square miles — in a rural area of Lake County, about 120 miles north of San

Francisco. No homes had been destroyed, but officials said voluntary evacuations were in place for residents of 36 homes.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he was told late Sunday evening that the state had 520 fires, and he found it "quite shocking" that by Monday morning the number had risen above 700.

Moments later, a top state fire official standing at Schwarzenegger's side offered a grim update. The figure was actually 842 fires [later increased to over 1,000], said Del Walters, assistant regional chief of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. All but a couple were in the northern part of the state.

"This is an unprecedented lightning storm in California, that it lasted as long as it did, 5,000 to 6,000 lightning strikes," Walters said. "We are finding fires all the time." ----
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