

High Time to Wake Up!

Mentone December 5, 2020 Romans 13:11; I Thessalonians 5:6, 7

Sleep can be a blessing

The word "sleep" in Greek (Acts 20:9) is *'ypnos*, the source of our word _____.
The miracle of sleep: the ability of the body to "shut down" for restoration, repair, organization. "Rapid Eye Movement" (REM) sleep is important, when dreams occur.

Scriptures which mention the benefit of physical sleep. "I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD _____ me." Psalm 3:5. "I will both lie down in _____, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety." Psalm 4:8. "It is vain for you to rise up early; to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for so He gives His _____ sleep." Psalm 127:2. "When you lie down, you will not be _____; yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet." Proverbs 3:24. "The sleep of a _____ man is sweet, whether he eats little or much; but the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep." Ecc. 5:12." "After this I awoke and looked around, and my sleep was _____ to me." Jeremiah 31:26.

The "Sleep" of Death

"Sleep" in Scripture is used _____ times as a metaphor of death; the gentle repose, timeless unconsciousness of the sleep of death. "So man lies down and does not _____. Till the heavens are no more, they will _____ awake nor be roused from their sleep." Job 14:12. "'Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.' Then Jesus said to them plainly, 'Lazarus is _____.'" John 11:11, 14.

Physical sleep in the Bible in a positive setting

Genesis 2:21. _____ was put to sleep as God created _____.
Genesis 15:12. _____ put to sleep as God pronounced His covenant.
Genesis 28:11. Jacob slept and had a dream, the _____ between earth and heaven.
Many times dreams and visions were given during sleep. Genesis 28:11; Jacob. Genesis 41:5; Pharaoh. I Samuel 3:3; Samuel. Daniel 2:1; Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel 7:1; 8:18.

Physical sleep in the Bible in a negative setting

In the sense of _____ that leads to _____. Proverbs 6:9, 10
In the sense of not being "awake" to know and respond appropriately to God's plan.
"Sleeping saints": When God's people were sleeping and it turned out bad.
Matthew 13:25. "While men _____" the enemy sowed "_____."
I Kings 3:20. When the woman slept, a "_____ _____" was stolen
Genesis 19:32, 33, 34. When _____ slept, events took place that changed history.
Jonah 1:5. _____ was asleep in a ship, when he should have been doing God's work.
Judges 16:14, 19, 20. It was when _____ fell asleep that his hair was cut.
Luke 9:32. The disciples fell asleep at Jesus' _____.
Matthew 26:45. The disciples fell asleep in _____ when Jesus asked them to pray.
Acts 20:9. Eutychus fell asleep during _____ sermon and fell out of the window.
Matthew 25. The ten virgins were all sleeping as the _____ was on his way.

It is "high time to awake!" Romans 13:11; I Thessalonians 5:6-8

Do we see evidence that we are near the end? What have SDA's been proclaiming for 175 years? That earth is a _____, that there is an enemy, he is out to attack God and destroy people. He deceives and leads people to _____ God. There was an opportunity to express loyalty to God in _____ by obeying His commandment, and there will be one _____ opportunity to express loyalty to God by obeying His commandments.

The Three Angels' Messages constitute God's _____ to Planet Earth, warning that, through the Church, the system of the historical papacy (not individual Catholics), Satan has attempted to change God's law, attacking two very important commandments, the worship of images (let your mind go to Revelation's "image of the beast") and the true Sabbath. Most Christians are ***not aware*** of this attack, or of the importance of this issue.

Today, we see in our wonderful country a moral "slide," a sign that we are near the end. Three of the Ten Commandments are being assaulted. The _____ commandment, "Thou shalt not murder," is being violated by abortion. The courts of our country have ruled that it's okay to end life when it is viable. This is murder. The _____ commandment, defining principles of intimacy and marriage has been attacked. The courts of our land have ruled that "marriage" can be expanded beyond the lines that God put in place.

Not yet, but someday soon a counterfeit _____ commandment, a "copy" or "image" of the genuine will be mandated. Do we see signs of this happening now? Is it possible that "climate change" could become a springboard to institute a "pause," a rest day for the benefit of family, workers and society? Should we be surprised if Satan would promote such legislation that would have the appearance of something that would be good?

Pope Francis promoted such a perspective in his encyclical *Laudato si'*, given in May of 2015, in which he strongly promoted Sunday-keeping as a way to _____ and preserve the _____. Paragraph 236. He argues that this cannot be the objective of countries working independently, but that the _____ world must work together to bring about a satisfactory resolution. "A _____ consensus is essential for confronting the deeper problems, which cannot be resolved by unilateral actions on the part of individual countries." Paragraph 164. Doesn't that sound like Revelation 13?

Others, from non-Catholic backgrounds support that same concept. Joseph Tortelli in the article *If History Rhymes*, published on April 1, 2020, in *newbostonpost.com* argues for the benefits of a national Sunday rest day, as do Mark Buchanan, in his book *The Rest of God; Restoring Your Soul by Restoring Sabbath*, Terry Chapman in his book *Sabbath Pause*, Jesse Bazan in his article *Seven Ways to Refresh Your Sabbath*. *USCatholic.org.*, Sharon Ayala in her article *Losing Sabbath*, of Point Loma Nazarene University. *Pointloma.edu* and many others.

Now is the time, now is the day of salvation! It's "_____ _____" to wake up!

