



**SUNDAY & THEM THAT
DWELL ON THE EARTH**



REVIEW

Revelation 13

- Sea Beast = Papacy
- Land Beast = USA
- Image to/of the Beast
- Mark of the Beast

But in the very act of enforcing a religious duty by secular power, the churches would themselves form **an image to the beast; hence the enforcement of Sundaykeeping** in the United States would be an enforcement of the worship of the beast and his image.

GC 448.3

As men then reject the institution which God has declared to be the sign of His authority, and honor in its stead that which Rome has chosen as the token of her supremacy, they will thereby accept the sign of allegiance to Rome—“the mark of the beast.” **And it is not until the issue is thus plainly set before the people, and they are brought to choose between the commandments of God and the commandments of men, that those who continue in transgression will receive “the mark of the beast.”**

GC 449.1



REVIEW

Revelation 13

- **Image to/of the Beast**
 - Sunday Law
- **Mark of the Beast**
 - Sunday observance in rejection of Sabbath

Who is Responsible for the Sunday Law?

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And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to **them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast**, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image **of** the beast, that the image **of** the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image **of** the beast should be killed.

Revelation 13:14-15

Who is Responsible for the Sunday Law?

“Saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast.” Here is clearly presented a form of government in which **the legislative power rests with the people**, a most striking evidence that the United States is the nation denoted in the prophecy.

GC 442.3

Who is Responsible for the Sunday Law?

Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, **in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance.** Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected.

GC 592.3

The Sunday Law will be a point of
unprecedented unity.

The Sunday Law Unifies

Satan will excite indignation against the humble minority who conscientiously refuse to accept popular customs and traditions. **Men of position and reputation will join with the lawless and the vile** to take counsel against the people of God. Wealth, genius, education, will **combine** to cover them with contempt. **Persecuting rulers, ministers, and church members will conspire against them...**To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law.

The Sunday Law Unifies

Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in **this union** a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.

GC 588.3



HISTORY REPEATS

The First Sunday Law

In the early part of the fourth century the emperor Constantine issued a decree making Sunday a public festival throughout the Roman Empire. The day of the sun was revered by his pagan subjects and was honored by Christians; **it was the emperor's policy to unite the conflicting interests of heathenism and Christianity.** [GC 53.1]

Satan's strategy will be decentralized,
grassroots, and viral.

Pay attention to the crowd.

The Sunday Law Comes in Phases

4 Phases of the Sunday Law

1. **No Work Sundays** - Image to the Beast Set Up
 2. **Enforced Sunday Worship but Sabbath Worship Still Permitted** - Image of the Beast Lives and Speaks, Mark of the Beast begins
 3. **Sabbath Worship Forbidden** - No Buying or Selling, Whole World Follows
 4. **Death Penalty**
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The light given me by the Lord at a time when we were expecting just such a crisis as you seem to be approaching, was that when the people were moved by a power from beneath to enforce Sunday observance, **Seventh-day Adventists were to show their wisdom by refraining from their ordinary work on that day, devoting it to missionary effort.**

9T 232.2

To defy the Sunday laws will but strengthen in their persecution the religious zealots who are seeking to enforce them. Give them no occasion to call you lawbreakers. If they are left to rein up men who fear neither God nor man, the reining up will soon lose its novelty for them, and they will see that it is not consistent nor convenient for them to be strict in regard to the observance of Sunday.

9T 232.2

Keep right on with your missionary work, with your Bibles in your hands, and the enemy will see that he has worsted his own cause. **One does not receive the mark of the beast because he shows that he realizes the wisdom of keeping the peace by refraining from work that gives offense, doing at the same time a work of the highest importance.**

9T 232.2



If the camel's nose is under the tent, the rest of the stinky camel will follow!

Windtoons.com

ENTERING WEDGE

The initial Sunday Law need not be explicitly religious.

Unwitting Sunday Advocates

The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and **many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the undercurrent is tending...** They are working in blindness.—The Review and Herald Extra, December 11, 1888.

LDE 125.3

There are many, **even of those engaged in this movement for Sunday enforcement, who are blinded to the results which will follow this action. They do not see that they are striking directly against religious liberty.** There are many who have never understood the claims of the Bible Sabbath and the false foundation upon which the Sunday institution rests....

LDE 126.1

The Blair Sunday Rest Bill

- Pretext: *"The 'Civil Sabbath'--preservation of Sunday as a day of rest for civil, rather than religious, purposes."*
 - **The Christian Lobby**
 - Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), the National Reform Association (NRA)
 - **Labor Unions & Workingmen**
 - The Knights of Labor, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Railroad Managers, State Unions
 - Bethany Rupert, JD; *The Sunday Rest Bill and the Battle to Keep the Civil Sabbath*, (<https://scholarship.shu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1084&context=shlj>)
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What are people saying about Sunday today?

Is broad support actually possible?

“The right to disconnect and the need for a European weekly common day of rest”

The webinar followed-up from the Alliance’s recent activities on the Right to Disconnect and aimed to raise awareness on the need to establish at the EU level a **weekly common day of rest for all EU citizens...**

The speakers agreed on the necessity to introduce a right to disconnect in times of increasing blurring of boundaries in order to avoid “**new forms of slavery...**”

Participants, through their questions, also highlighted the **economic desirability of synchronised free time**, stressing that many workers appear to have **lower stress levels**, are generally **happier**, and are able to recover better during common time off with **families and friends and communities** so that, in the long-run, they are **performing better at work and less often ill or absent.**

Roman Catholic Br. Michael Valenzuela

This pandemic is the first calamity of global magnitude to have shaken the world this badly since the Second World War...A friend drew my attention today to reports that due to less travel and public activity there is a lot less trash accumulating on streets, a lot less polluting in the air and water and that for these few days, as the engines of manufacturing grind to a halt, the earth is getting the first real chance for rest and renewal that it has not had in decades.

- March 19, 2020 <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/03/19/2001944/search-better-world>

Roman Catholic Br. Michael Valenzuela

So maybe one way to look at the current crisis is to **see it as the planet's desperate demand for a Sabbath**, a cessation from **unbridled consumerism and the parasitic activity** that work becomes when the pursuit of profit becomes its primary goal. Pope Francis has warned us that the global economy as it operates today often ends up generating profits **at the expense of planet and the poor.**

- March 19, 2020 <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/03/19/2001944/search-better-world>

Laudato Si

Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath, is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world...It protects human action from becoming empty activism; it also **prevents that unfettered greed and sense of isolation** which make us seek personal gain to the detriment of all else...And so the day of rest, centred on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and **motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor.**

- Pope Francis, May 2015 (https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

A radical environmental proposal: A day of rest

Last week as environmentalists around the world celebrated Earth Day, I was intrigued by the potential of **a biblical solution to the problem of air pollution: a day of rest.**

The concept of a day of rest is nothing new to people of faith. We are familiar with God's six days of creation...Likewise, we know our Heavenly Father established the seventh day as a time of rest.

- The Message, May 1, 2020 (<https://baptistmessage.com/a-radical-environmental-proposal-a-day-of-rest/>)

A radical environmental proposal: A day of rest

So, what if a lockdown on major activity was sustainable for a time each year – **just not all at one time?**

Imagine the possible ecological improvements if there was an annual pause of **52 days** as compared to the two weeks of inactivity measured for the study; and, instead of 52 days straight, **what if the interruption was only one day each week?** Could something as simple as observing one day of rest for every six days of work make a difference in air quality and thus reduce the dire ecological impacts from pollution that many scientists predict for our world?

- The Message, May 1, 2020 (<https://baptistmessage.com/a-radical-environmental-proposal-a-day-of-rest/>)

Oct. 4, 2021: Pope Francis and 40 faith leaders call for urgent action to combat climate change.



**Climate
Sunday**



**Green
Sabbath
Project**

“Bring back the blue laws.”

Acknowledging the rewards of the Sabbath are **not limited only to Christians** like Pope Francis, who in a 2018 interview declared: “One day of the week. That’s the least! Out of gratitude, to worship God, to spend time with the family, to play, to do all of these things. We are not machines.” Jay Lefkowitz, a lawyer in New York City, in a May 7 op-ed for The Washington Post argues that the Jewish Sabbath observance brings healthy separation and balance. He explains:

- Crisis Magazine, June 17, 2020 (<https://www.crisismagazine.com/2020/bring-back-the-blue-laws>)

“Bring back the blue laws.”

*when Jews sanctify the Sabbath and keep it holy, they are making a conscious act of separation. At its most elementary, Shabbat is about separating the profane from the sacred; the workweek from the Sabbath... Shabbat is about **balance** or, to use a modern word, **mindfulness**... We can't recharge ourselves via a USB port.*

This aligns with other movements that appreciate the need to “**disconnect**,” such as **digital minimalism** or “**secular monkhood**,” a phrase coined in a March First Things essay by Andrew Taggart.

- Crisis Magazine, June 17, 2020 (<https://www.crisismagazine.com/2020/bring-back-the-blue-laws>)

“Bring back the blue laws.”

America, for the sake of its own **emotional and spiritual welfare—**
for the sake of its own sanity—needs to restore the blue laws.

To preempt accusations of “theocracy,” I am not advocating mandatory church-going (though it wouldn’t be the worst idea), but rather simple restrictions on which businesses remain open on Sunday.

- Crisis Magazine, June 17, 2020 (<https://www.crisismagazine.com/2020/bring-back-the-blue-laws>)

Andrew Sullivan, Political Commentator on Secular Culture in America

We used to have [religion] as part of our inheritance. And we thought “Ugh, fuddy-duddy Christianity, we don’t need it anymore.” But we take it away and suddenly... we only realize what we had until it was gone. And that’s my concern, which is why I honestly believe—and I don’t know if this will sound cheesy or pious—but **I do actually think that the only real long-term project to rescue liberalism is a revival of Christianity.**

- Megyn Kelly Show, Episode 142, August 9, 2021 (https://open.spotify.com/episode/0rjefTRqgKjWf2rQAA3FKI?si=-xLYUiroTta3PpKObXELtw&dl_branch=1)

Andrew Sullivan, Political Commentator on Secular Culture in America

Our lives are full of choices, and that's almost the definition of freedom. We choose everything. And that's wonderful in so many ways... but at some point, we also want not to choose. **We need as humans to just obey and to submit in some way.** And the safest, best, and psychologically and spiritually most productive way of doing that is going to a church in silence and kneeling and accepting that you're not everything, that there is something greater than you, and something that you're now required to do because you're just a human being at that service. "Stand up now, kneel down, bow your head."

- Megyn Kelly Show, Episode 142, August 9, 2021 (https://open.spotify.com/episode/0rjefTRqgKjWf2rQAA3FKI?si=-xLYUiroTta3PpKObXELtw&dl_branch=1)

Andrew Sullivan, Political Commentator on Secular Culture in America

That's what having Sunday—the Sabbath—did, which is also gone. We had a whole day where shops weren't open, where choice ended, where you actually had a day of quiet and rest.

- Megyn Kelly Show, Episode 142, August 9, 2021 (https://open.spotify.com/episode/0rjefTRqgKjWf2rQAA3FKI?si=-xLYUiroTta3PpKObXELtw&dl_branch=1)

What are people saying about Sunday?

- Moral, social, emotional, and spiritual renewal
 - Solution to the moral decline of society
 - Strengthen families and communities
 - Proper work-life balance
 - Opportunity to “disconnect”
 - Mindfulness, Digital Minimalism
 - Secular spirituality
 - Improve health by reducing stress, anxiety, and depression
 - Social justice and human rights
 - Prevent “modern slavery” or economic exploitation of the poor
 - Reduction of consumerism and greed
 - The remedy to save secular liberalism
 - Provide human need of transcendence
 - Save the planet and environment
 - For the common good
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Imagine if advocates from a host of swirling ideologies today could agree upon even one point of convergence—a single proposition that could address each issue respectively: a weekly, universally respected day of rest. Even the wholly unreligious could appreciate some societally sacred time set apart for workers to cease from daily labor, a time for families to reconnect, a time for the environment to rest from exploitation, a time free from the pressures of commercial enterprise, and a time for traditional religious folk to worship their God. I believe in the not-so-distant future that Sunday will become regarded as a miracle elixir for what ails us—a panacea to our economic, environmental, psychological, and spiritual ills.

Sunday Law Doesn't Stay Mild

As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes **more bold and decided**, the law will be invoked against commandment keepers.

They will be threatened with fines and imprisonment, and some will be offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith.

GC 607.1

How should we
respond?

God's Solution: Revelation 14

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to **preach unto them that dwell on the earth,** and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people...

Revelation 14:6

And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, **If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God..**

Revelation 14:9-10

God's Solution

- Preach the Three Angels' Messages to **them that dwell on the earth!**
 - Satan's strategy is to influence the grassroots. God's strategy is to counteract that influence with the Everlasting Gospel.
 - *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. Matthew 24:14*
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The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances. The warnings that worldly conformity has silenced or withheld must be given under the fiercest opposition from enemies of the faith.

5T 463.2

**The Work is Not
in Vain**

In vision I saw two armies in terrible conflict. One army was led by banners bearing the world's insignia; the other was led by the bloodstained banner of Prince Immanuel. Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust as company after company from the Lord's army joined the foe and **tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-keeping people of God.**

8T 41.1

Reaching Them That Dwell on the Earth

Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. **By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given... Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.**

GC 612.1

**Who will go to save
them that dwell on
the earth?**



**SUNDAY & THEM THAT
DWELL ON THE EARTH**