

## **WILL YOU TAKE THE OATH?**

What's hotter than the Fourth of July? Seething righteous indignation of millions of average American patriots against all enemies, foreign and domestic? Where do YOU stand on the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States of America? How shall our constitutional republic stand? Perhaps like it began, by oaths and actions of citizens and soldiers? What if all citizens of voting age made such a declaration (like Confirmation)?

**1- We are a nation of laws.** We've previously traced the divine institution of government as laid out from Genesis to Revelation. Mankind was created by God for "self-government" as each person is accountable for every thought, word, deed, before the all-knowing Creator. By living in right relationship with God, you will live in right relationship with every other person as your neighbor. In "family government" the father and mother train children in proper thinking and behavior, respective to God and others, according to God's written-down revelation (Deut 6-7). In "church government" like-minded people organize to worship and serve God according to the Bible. Similar principles extend to "civil government" which God ordained for limited governance and jurisdiction to provide structure for societal interaction. The USA expressly builds on these.

**2- Who are law-breakers?** In the American experiment the people uniquely covenant together to further the God-given rights of every human being, "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" through constitutional government of the people, by the people, and for the people, expressed through three branches of government, legislative, executive, judicial (Isaiah 33:5,22). Enemies of God-given rights demand that "they" declare and bestow your rights as they see fit. They utilize insurrection, sedition, treason, propaganda, division, chaos, and control to pursue their ends. For some, their ideology demands it. Many are miseducated or disinformed, and illogical. Some are simply paid to wreak havoc by those who deliberately seek to destroy America. "Freedom freeloaders" reject "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all."

**3- Oath of Naturalization:** "I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."

**4- Armed Forces Oath:** "I, (NAME), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God." (National Guard adds State and Governor).

**5- The Patriot Oath:** A new generation of "digital warriors" on social media includes people of many social descriptions. These digital soldier patriots declare: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God. Where we go one we go all (WWG1WGA)." God holds His people accountable for the light of the nations.

**4- The Warrior's Armor** (Ephesians 6:10-18): "Put on the whole armor of God, to stand against the spiritual forces of evil, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer." And YOU, what now? ☐