Roe v. Wade:

A Constitutional Monstrosity

Why We should have <u>Never</u> Called such Oath Breaking the "Law of the Land"

"Ignore *Roe*!" was an Abolitionist battle cry until the Supreme Court overturned it. We know it is biblical to ignore such a moral abomination. But how many of us can explain why there is *another* biblical reason to ignore *Roe* embedded in each ruler's Oath of Office? Let us follow three logical steps:

- 1) All government officials of every branch of government and at the federal, state, and local levels are constitutionally mandated to swear to support the Constitution;¹
- 2) Roe v. Wade violates the Constitution;²
- 3) Therefore, any official who supports *Roe v. Wade* violates that Oath, committing a grave sin against God, even if he doesn't believe in God.

Too many see the Constitution as a relic of the past and Oaths of Office as mere formalities. This should concern every thoughtful Christian, regardless of one's stand on Abolitionism.

¹ "The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution" (Article 6, Paragraph 3)

² See my "We should have Defied *Roe v. Wade* All Along http://scragged.com/articles/we-should-have-defied-roe-v-wade-all-along

I'm tired of hearing that the Constitution is a "living document", meaning its original intent can be twisted to conform to modern realities. Why don't we say the Constitution is not "living" unless it is obeyed?

If we would talk of an oath³ to defend the Constitution, let us consider Noah Webster's definition of the word in his famous 1828 dictionary:

A solemn affirmation or declaration, made with an appeal to God for the truth of what is affirmed. The appeal to God in an oath implies that the person imprecates his vengeance and renounces his favor if the declaration is false, or if the declaration is a promise, the person invokes the vengeance of God if he should fail to fulfill it. A false oath is called perjury.⁴

The Oath taker calls on God to witness the Oath and to judge if he proves false to what he *declares* or *promises*. Thus, when George Washington took his first Presidential Oath of Office and promised to support and defend the Constitution, he added the words "so help me God" to the constitutionally prescribed Oath. Small wonder that George Washington took his Oath with his left hand on a Bible, a custom that continues to this day.

An Oath of Office, then, is a solemn promise to one's superiors, peers, and inferiors. It is especially meaningful to those who will be ruled because the office holder has power to do them great harm. The Bible therefore considers office holders to be making a covenant with those who will be ruled. Office holders should think long and hard about how that Bible on which the Oath is sworn views covenant breakers. Abortion Abolitionists need to admonish them that one of the seven

³ An Oath is made to man while a Vow is made to God. That is why a wedding couple often makes their promises twice; they vow to God and make oaths to each other.

⁴ http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/Oath

great woes our Lord pronounced upon the Pharisees was prevarication when taking oaths:

Woe to you, blind guides, who say... 'Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.' Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift?

Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.⁵

By this logic, he who swears on the Bible swears according to what is written in the Bible. What does the Bible say about covenant making and breaking?

God made one of the best-known biblical covenants when He promised to give the Land of Promise to Abram and through him his descendants. After Abram cut some animals in half, God symbolically passed between the pieces in the form of a smoking fire pot and flaming torch (Genesis 15:17).

One scholar comments:

The animal-division symbolizes a "pledge to the death" at the point of covenant commitment. The dismembered animals represent the curse that the covenant-maker calls down upon himself if he should violate the commitment which he has made.⁶

The author continues by referencing Jeremiah 34:8-20. The prophet told those who broke a covenant they had made when they passed

⁵ Matthew 23:16-22

⁶ O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants* (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1980), p. 10

between the parts of a calf that "their dead bodies shall be food for the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth" (vv. 18, 20).

Moreover, God wiped out three royal dynasties for covenant breaking (Jeroboam, Baasha, and Ahab): "I will cut off from (Jeroboam) every last male in Israel, bond or free...He who is of (Jeroboam) who dies in the city the dogs shall eat, and he who dies in the open field the birds of the air shall eat" (1 Kings 14:10, 11, 16:4, 21:21, 24).

God is not mocked. We need to warn our office holders not to play fast and loose with the Oath of Office. Otherwise, they deserve to be eaten by jackals and vultures.

How does this apply to Abolitionism? I have explained elsewhere⁷ that *Roe v. Wade* is a constitutional monstrosity. Suffice it to say here that:

- 1) The Constitution empowers the courts to <u>decide cases</u>, <u>not</u> to be an unelected oligarchy with final interpretive authority over the Constitution.⁸ I don't think it's possible to win the battle of ideas if we don't firmly grasp this fact.
- 2) The Constitution delegates to the Federal Government *limited,* enumerated powers, among which abortion is conspicuously absent. Roe v. Wade therefore was a power grab against the States. Abortion's foes must STOP going to the Supreme Court hat in hand begging it to return its stolen power; States need to take it back without asking permission. If you have power over a burglar, will you ask him politely to return your stolen goods? Of course not!
- 3) The Constitution delegates *all* legislative power to Congress, not to the courts.¹⁰

⁷ See my "The Roe v. Wade Emperor has no Constitutional Clothes with link

⁸ Article 3

⁹ Article 1, Section 8; Tenth Amendment

¹⁰ Article 1. Section 1

When Moses sent twelve spies to check out the land, the giants, the Anakim in the land intimidated ten of them, and their cowardice spread through the camp like wildfire. Those who hate abortion must STOP looking at *Roe v. Wade* and the Supreme Court as if they are some Anakim that is strong enough to keep the murder mills open even in the most "pro-life" States and we are helpless to stop it.

Finally, we need to know how to persuade any legislator willing to listen that failure to attack *Roe v. Wade* with the full intention of nullifying it is actually *breaking* one's Oath of Office.

John E. Taylor 2022

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¹¹ Numbers 13, 14:1-38