

Is America on the Verge of a 5th Great Awakening?

On Monday Jan. 20, Donald J. Trump was sworn in as the 47th president of the United States. Two Bibles, both held by his wife, Melania Trump, were used in the ceremony.

One Bible was owned by Abraham Lincoln, and the other was given to the president by his late mother. This Bible has an incredible story of spiritual awakening behind it. With his right hand raised, Trump repeated the following words after Chief Justice John Roberts:

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"I, Donald J. Trump, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, so help me God."

It is clear that the Founding Fathers saw the Constitution as a sacred document. That is why George Washington took the first oath of office with his hand on a Bible, solemnly swearing to protect and defend the Constitution. Although not in the Constitution itself, Washington is said to have added the words, "So help me God."

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Indeed, many of those who were part of the Constitutional Convention saw God's hand in the formulation of the Constitution. James Madison, the Constitution's chief architect, declared,

"It is impossible for the man of pious reflection not to perceive in it a finger of that Almighty hand which has been so frequently and signally extended to our relief in critical stages of the Revolution" (Hyatt, *"1726: The Year that Defined America,"* 127).

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