

June Edition: Abraham Lincoln's God-Given Dream:
How it applies to our politically divided nation in



Abraham Lincoln's God-Given Dream:
How it applies to our politically divided nation in the 21st century



Abraham Lincoln's God-given Dream

Today, President Abraham Lincoln would likely deem our country to be in the midst of a cultural and moral Civil War. Verbal warfare pulls hard on the fabric of our flag. We must take Abraham Lincoln's God-given dream into the 21st century and encourage unity yet without unethical compromise. With love of God and neighbor, there can be true freedom for all. That was Abraham Lincoln's God-given dream.

Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan both possessed the winning qualities of personable warmth and delightful, disarming senses of humor. Yet, most important of all, they possessed hope in God and the prioritization of freedom for all so that human beings could live in peace, hope, and love of neighbor rather than hateful disunion.

It is easy for us to think of Abraham Lincoln because we recently enjoyed a special trip to Springfield, Illinois where the Lincoln's called home from 1844-1861. We felt the significance of his life and death as we visited the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, toured his actual home, and paid respects at his tomb. We couldn't help but further appreciate the legacy of this great yet humble president who lived a life of faith.

The timeliness of one recent discovery caught our attention: After missing for 150 years, one of Abraham Lincoln's Bibles suddenly made an appearance as the family of one of Lincoln's friends donated the Bible to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Museum.

The Discovery of Lincoln's Bible

The recently donated Bible was presented to President Lincoln at a fundraiser in Philadelphia in 1864. The hospital that treated soldiers injured during the Civil War presented him with the Bible. And Lincoln cherished it.

After President Lincoln's death, his widow (Mary Todd Lincoln) reportedly gave the Bible as a gift to a family friend, Rev. Noyes Miner. The Bible was a Milner family heirloom until they donated it to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Museum.

President Abraham Lincoln once said about the Bible, "In regard to this Great Book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Saviour gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it."

President Lincoln's Faith

President Lincoln's faith continues to fascinate scholars. One fact is known: 1862 brought a dramatic turning point. With the Civil War in full force, deep personal tragedy hit hard when Lincoln's beloved little boy (Willie) suddenly died of typhoid fever.

President Lincoln sought comfort in Christ and he turned to the Scriptures. He admitted, "My own wisdom seemed insufficient.. I was driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I have nowhere else to go."

Historical records reveal that Lincoln often mentioned God in speeches and letters. In his Second Inaugural Address, he featured Biblical themes. Rev. Noyes Miner once wrote that Lincoln "believed not only in the overwhelming Providence of God, but in the divinity of the Sacred Scriptures." He also shared that that Mary Todd Lincoln once told him at that Lincoln was planning a post-White House visit to Jerusalem to "see the places hallowed by the footsteps of the Saviour."

Indeed, President Lincoln was a man of deep faith, character, determination, and courage. He led the way to a Biblical form of unity and ensured freedom for all. In his humility and bravery to apply Biblical principles, Lincoln's life points us to Christ.

May we all actively advance Abraham Lincoln's God-given dream of uncompromising, Christian values in the public square. Loving God and neighbor includes promoting true freedom for all.

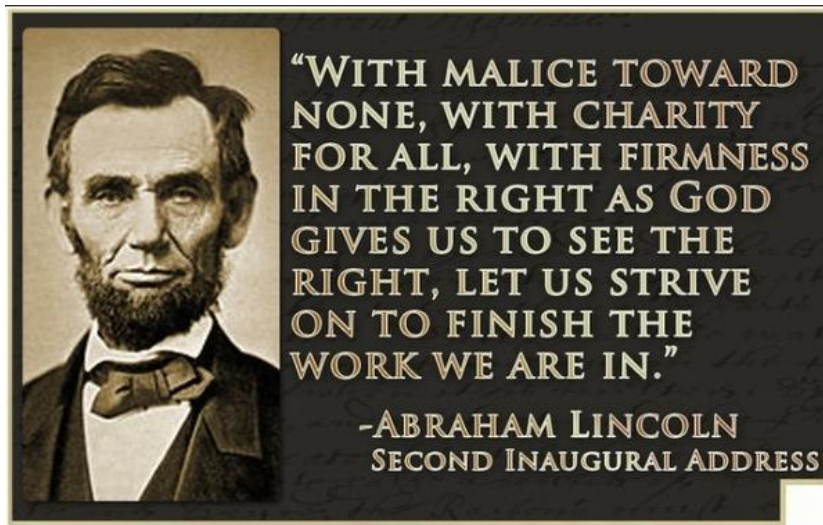
In our video, we pose the question. Does Abraham Lincoln's dream live on? We believe it does because God remains on the throne. Let us pray and actively live out Biblical principles in the public square. When people love God and neighbor, hatred disappears and the fabric of a nation remains intact. It is only then that every unborn American of every race is given a birthday instead of being killed in what is known as abortion.

Lincoln would nod in agreement: Let every American baby be born, every family be given freedom, and every woman be given respect and care so that Americans can live and live well.

God bless you,
Carrie Stoelting and Stacie Stoelting
Sisters and Founders of Unite the USA

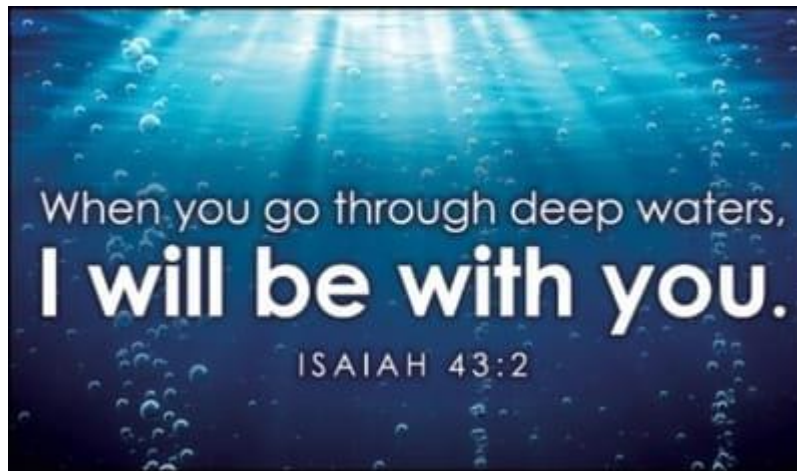


Featured Quote



"With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in."
-President Abraham Lincoln

This Month's Bible Verse



"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you." Isaiah 43:2

President Lincoln's Biography from the White House

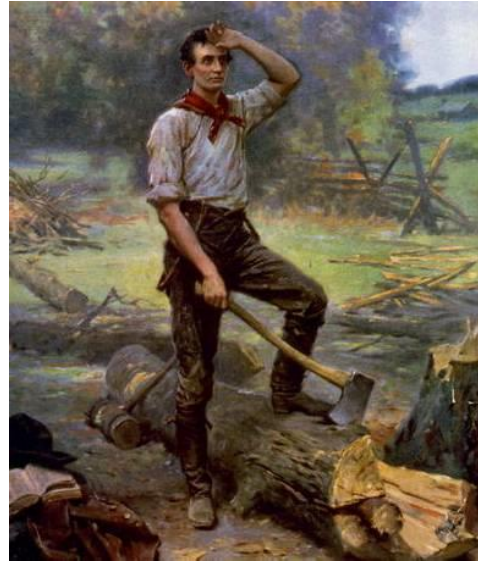


Lincoln warned the South in his Inaugural Address: ***"In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The government will not assail you.... You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to preserve, protect and defend it."***

Lincoln thought secession illegal, and was willing to use force to defend Federal law and the Union. When Confederate batteries fired on Fort Sumter and forced its surrender, he called on the states for 75,000 volunteers. Four more slave states joined the Confederacy but four remained within the Union. The Civil War had begun.

The son of a Kentucky frontiersman, Lincoln had to struggle for a living and for learning. Five months before receiving his party's nomination for President, he sketched his life:

"I was born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families-second families, perhaps I should say. My mother, who died in my tenth year, was of a family of the name of Hanks.... My father ... removed from Kentucky to ... Indiana, in my eighth year.... It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up.... Of course when I came of age I did not know much. Still somehow, I could read, write, and cipher ... but that was all."



Lincoln made extraordinary efforts to attain knowledge while working on a farm, splitting rails for fences, and keeping store at New Salem, Illinois. He was a captain in the Black Hawk War, spent eight years in the Illinois legislature, and rode the circuit of courts for many years. His law partner said of him, "His ambition was a little engine that knew no rest."



President Lincoln with his son Tad

Douglas he gained a national reputation that won him the Republican nomination for President in 1860.

He married Mary Todd, and they had four boys, only one of whom lived to maturity. In 1858 Lincoln ran against Stephen A. Douglas for Senator. He lost the election, but in debating with

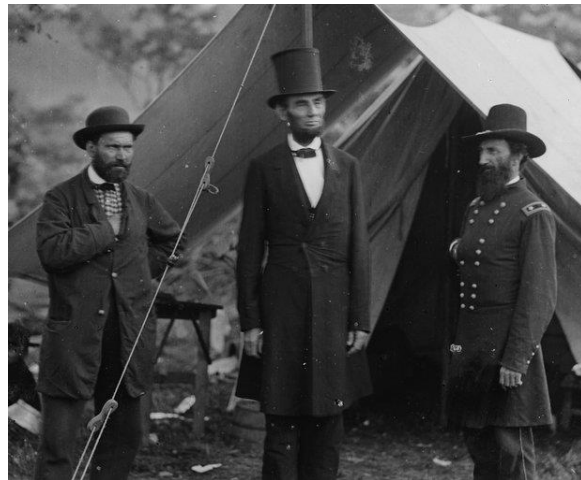
As President, he built the Republican Party into a strong national organization. Further, he rallied most of the northern Democrats to the Union cause. On January 1, 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation that declared forever free those slaves within the Confederacy.

Lincoln never let the world forget that the Civil War involved an even larger issue. This he stated most movingly in dedicating the military cemetery at Gettysburg: ***"that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain-that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom-and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."***

Lincoln won re-election in 1864, as Union military triumphs heralded an end to the war. In his planning for peace, the President was flexible and generous, encouraging Southerners to lay down their arms and join speedily in reunion.

The spirit that guided him was clearly that of his Second Inaugural Address, now inscribed on one wall of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C.: ***"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds.... "***

On Good Friday, April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theatre in Washington by John Wilkes Booth, an actor, who somehow thought he was helping the South. The opposite was the result, for with Lincoln's death, the possibility of peace with magnanimity died.



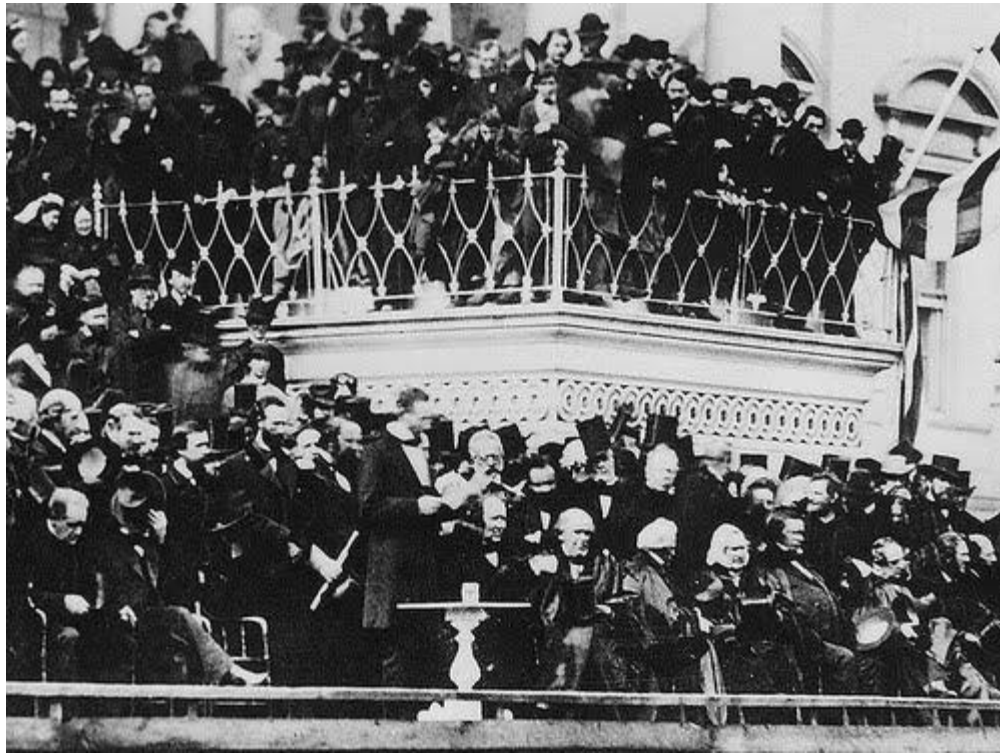
Allan Pinkerton, President Lincoln, and Major General John A. McClernand (Antietam, Maryland on Oct. 3, 1862)

Abraham Lincoln: A Life of Resilience



Here's a short inspirational video showing highlights of Abraham Lincoln's life and emphasizing how he was an overcomer.

Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address



Fellow-Countrymen:

At this second appearing to take the oath of the Presidential office there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then, a statement somewhat in detail of a course to be pursued seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention and engrosses the energies of the nation, little that is new could be presented. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself, and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it, all sought to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to saving the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to destroy it without war-seeking to dissolve the Union and divide effects by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let it perish, and the war came.

One-eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew

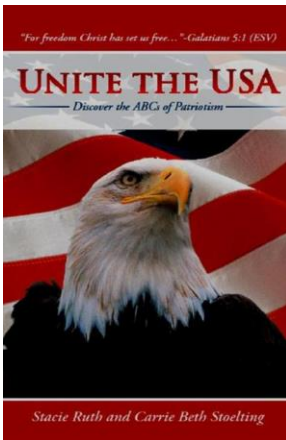
that this interest was somehow the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union even by war, while the Government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease with or even before the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offenses; for it must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh." If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

President Abraham Lincoln

Delivered on Saturday, March 4, 1865

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