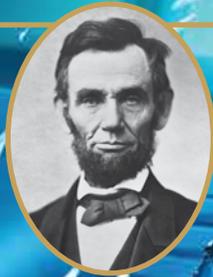


THE LEAGUE AND THE LANTERN

The Words
of Abraham
Lincoln And
The Bible



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We hope your family has enjoyed reading *The League And The Lantern* as much as we enjoyed creating this fun blend of history and imagination. Some of the real-life elements included in the book are the words of Abraham Lincoln from several of his legendary speeches. As one of the greatest communicators our country has ever known, Abraham Lincoln had a gift for choosing just the right words during some of the most critical points moments in our nation's history. What you might not know, however, is that the Bible was often Lincoln's source of words and ideas. In this discussion guide, we look at how Lincoln's reading of the Bible influenced two of his most famous speeches and how those speeches are woven into *The League And The Lantern*.

There's no wrong way to use this guide. You can start with revisiting the passages in the book that include references to Lincoln's words, with actually reading the Lincoln speeches (which are available online), or begin by looking at the scriptures that served as the original inspiration for his famous speeches. Whichever way you choose, we hope you'll end with a family discussion on what these words mean to each of us today.



The House Divided Speech



This file comes from the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) or Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS). These are programs of the National Park Service established for the purpose of documenting historic places. Records consist of measured drawings, archival photographs, and written reports.

Referenced in *The League And The Lantern* Chapters 17, 38 & 39

On June 16, 1858, the nation was increasingly swirling with heated arguments about slavery. 1,000 delegates gathered in the statehouse in Springfield, Illinois for the Republican State Convention and chose Abraham Lincoln as their candidate for senate. Sometime around 8:00 that night, Lincoln took the floor in the Hall of Representatives and delivered one of the most famous speeches of all time: his "House Divided" speech. Only a few seconds into his speech, Lincoln said:

We are now far into the fifth year, since a policy was initiated, with the avowed object, and confident promise, of putting an end to slavery agitation. Under the operation of that policy, that agitation

has not only, not ceased, but has constantly augmented. In my opinion, it will not cease, until a crisis shall have been reached, and passed. "A house divided against itself cannot stand." I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free.

While Lincoln's application of this phrase to the issue of slavery was unique, he was borrowing words from the Bible.

Matthew 12:25

And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

Mark 3:25

And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

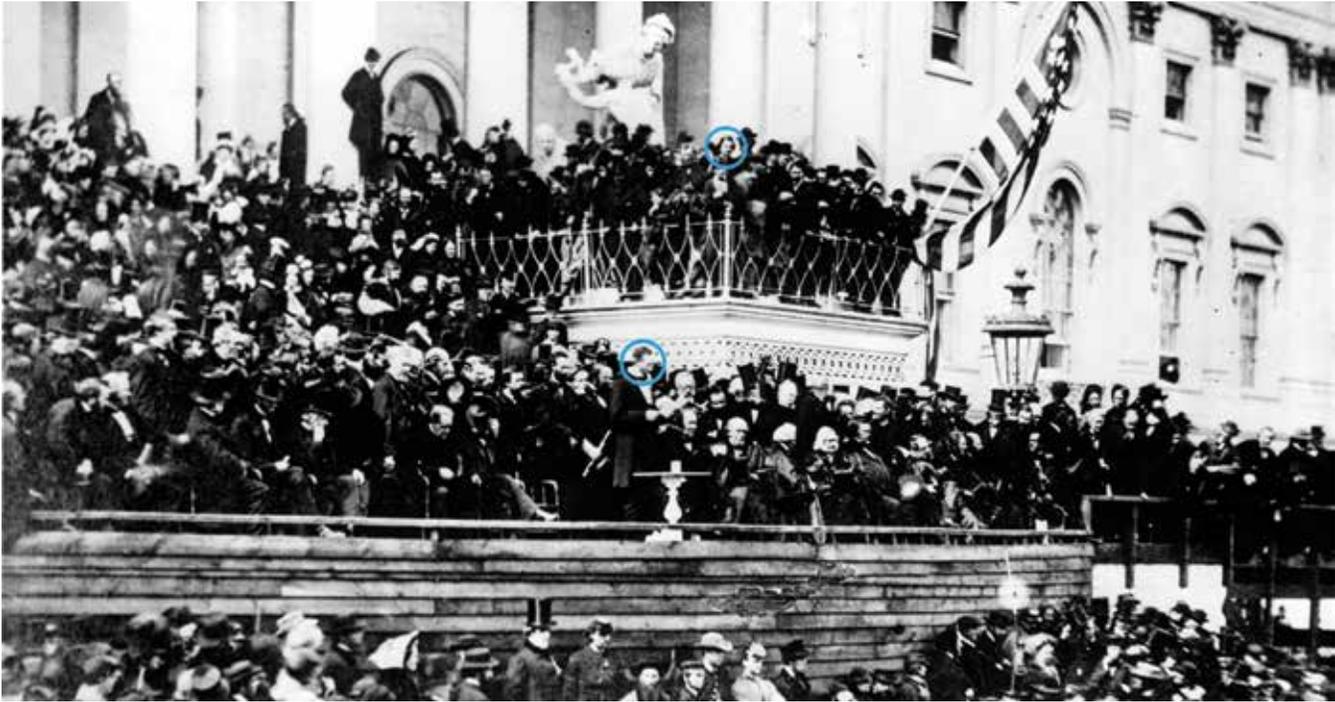
Luke 11:17

But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth.

Questions for discussion:

- 1) Why do you think Lincoln would quote from these scriptures in a speech about slavery?
- 2) Did his prediction come true? If so, how?
- 3) How might these words still apply today?

Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address



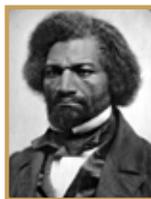
Referenced in The League And The Lantern Chapters 12, 41 and 43

On March 4, 1865, Union forces were on the brink of final victory, on the verge of closing out a brutal civil war that had left much mourning and regret. It was this still very divided and wounded country that President Abraham Lincoln had been reelected to lead. It was on this miserable, muddy, windy day that President Lincoln rose to deliver his 2nd inaugural address. It was not a speech that bragged or gloated about a Union victory. Instead, Lincoln delivered a powerful message that grieved for the fallen and called for compassion, forgiveness and mercy for all. The speech only took about 6 minutes and was less than 701 words, but these would become some of the most remarkable words in all of U.S. history. One of the individuals listening to the president's words of mercy, forgiveness and compassion was a man named John Wilkes Booth and several of his accomplices. The very men who would carry out the plot to assassinate President

Lincoln only 41 days later. (You can see both President Lincoln and Booth's grainy images circled in the photo above.)

While it was the opening words of the House Divided speech that became legendary, this time it was the President's closing words that were etched into history:

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.



Frederick Douglass

This time, President Lincoln quoted from scripture four separate times and repeatedly drew on themes and language from the Bible. In fact, he focused so heavily on Biblical scripture that former slave and legendary abolitionist Frederick Douglass said the speech "sounded more like a sermon than a state paper" and called it "a sacred effort."

Among Lincoln's final words, some of the Bible verses woven into his speech were:

1 Peter 2:1

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

James 1:27

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Questions for discussion:

- 1) Why do you think President Lincoln would quote from this particular scripture in this speech?
- 2) What might "laying aside malice" look like in our own lives?
- 3) What might "charity for all" and caring for widows and orphans look like today? What can we do as part of that?