

Abraham Lincoln delivered his Second Inaugural Address on March 4, 1865, four years to the day after his First Inaugural Address. By that time, the war was finally winding down and would formally end a little over a month later on April 9, with Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox Court House. Five days later, on the evening of April 14, President Lincoln and his wife attended a performance of *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theatre in Washington. During the play, John Wilkes Booth, an actor and Confederate sympathizer, stepped into the president's theatre box and shot him in the back of the head. Lincoln died the next morning. In his second inaugural address, only six weeks before his death, Lincoln had reflected on the war and tried to set the tone for putting the country back together again.

Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address (Multiple-choice Included)
(delivered on March 4, 1865)

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.

1. Which word *best* describes how the first paragraph presents information?
 - a. causally
 - b. sequentially
 - c. comparatively
 - d. nonsensically

2. How were the Union (northern) forces doing at this point in the war?
 - a. They were clearly losing.
 - b. They were clearly winning.
 - c. They needed more manpower and materials.
 - d. They needed better generals.

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.

3. Which statement is true based on the second paragraph?
- The war came because both sides had a cause for which they were willing to fight.
 - Four years earlier no one had any idea a civil war was coming.
 - Both sides had been ready and eager to go to war.
 - Lincoln's first inaugural address had explained his war plans.

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."

4. Who had known that slavery had in some way caused the war?
- the politicians
 - the educated
 - the generals
 - everyone

5. While southerners had wanted to extend slavery, President Lincoln's goal had been to _____.
- abolish it completely within the United States
 - prevent it from spreading into new places
 - outlaw the slave trade among southern states
 - stop the importation of slaves from Africa
6. Had either side expected the war to be so long and so large?
- The South had but the North hadn't.
 - The North had but the South hadn't.
 - Both sides had.
 - Neither side had.
7. Had either side expected slavery to end as a result of the war?
- The South had but the North hadn't.
 - The North had but the South hadn't.
 - Both sides had.
 - Neither side had.
8. Which word best describes Lincoln's personal opinion about slavery?
- moral
 - legitimate
 - wrong
 - biblical
9. What did Lincoln say about God in relation to the war?
- The prayers of the North were being fully answered.
 - God was especially punishing the South because of slavery.
 - The war had caused Lincoln to criticize God's judgments.
 - Perhaps God was using the war to end slavery, and our nation was being punished for having had slavery.

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.

10. Based on the final paragraph, what was not a step Lincoln wanted to take?
- To bring the war to a successful conclusion.
 - To punish the South for causing the war.
 - To care for the soldiers and for the families of those who died.
 - To do what was needed to achieve a peace that would last.