

Abraham Lincoln: Second Inaugural Address

Abraham Lincoln

Why does Lincoln name slavery as the cause of war and then refuse to claim that God simply favors one side?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The cause and the shared Bible
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Second Inaugural Address - third paragraph
START	All knew that this interest was, somehow, the cause of the war.
END	The Almighty has His own purposes.
PASSAGE ID	sec-lin2-03

THE MOVE

Move from historical cause to moral uncertainty

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Lincoln names slavery as the cause of war, then complicates any easy claim that God simply endorses the Union. Both sides pray and read the same Bible, while divine purpose remains beyond complete human knowledge.

MARK

Underline the sentence identifying slavery as the cause of the war. Circle references to shared religious language or prayer. Star the point where Lincoln limits what either side can confidently claim about God's purposes.

NOTICE

- What historical cause does Lincoln state with unusual directness?
- What religious practices do the opposing sides share?
- Why does naming the cause of war not lead Lincoln to claim simple moral certainty about divine favor?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does Lincoln name slavery as the cause of war and then refuse to claim that God simply favors one side? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does Lincoln name slavery as the cause of war and then refuse to claim that God simply favors one side? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Lincoln names slavery directly as the war's cause but resists converting that historical clarity into a claim that God simply endorses the Union. Shared Bible and prayer lead him toward humility about divine purpose.
EVIDENCE	Use the sentence naming slavery, the shared religious practices, and the statement limiting human certainty about God's purposes.
WATCH FOR	Do not confuse moral uncertainty about Providence with uncertainty about slavery's historical role in causing the war.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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Why does Lincoln name slavery as the cause of war and then refuse to claim that God simply favors one side?

START ANCHOR	All knew that this interest was, somehow, the cause of the war.
END ANCHOR	The Almighty has His own purposes.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Underline the sentence identifying slavery as the cause of the war. Circle references to shared religious language or prayer. Star the point where Lincoln limits what either side can confidently claim about God's purposes.
2. **NOTICE** - What historical cause does Lincoln state with unusual directness? What religious practices do the opposing sides share? Why does naming the cause of war not lead Lincoln to claim simple moral certainty about divine favor?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: Why does Lincoln name slavery as the cause of war and then refuse to claim that God simply favors one side?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.