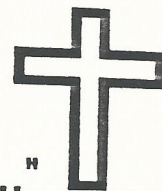


# Columbia Christians For Life



P.O. Box 50358, Columbia, S.C. 29250 (803) 765-0916 Proverbs 31:8  
"Speak Up For Those Who Cannot Speak For Themselves..."

August 28, 1998

Opinion Editorial - Article

"Civil War God's Judgement on North and South"

This article is written in response to Albert Roten's August 5th article on "States Rights." I appreciate Mr. Roten's interest in history, and his effort to communicate facts to readers.

However, to end his characterization of Lincoln's position with a statement from August 1862, just 16 months into the war, is to shortchange the reader from learning the greater depth of understanding which President Lincoln had of **God's purposes** in bringing about "this terrible war" which He (God) gave "to both North and South" "as the woe due to those by whom the offense came" [i.e., American chattel slavery, which was man-stealing, a capital offense under Mosaic law (Exodus 21:16)], by the end of the war.

The words just quoted are part of President Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, given March 4, 1865, almost four years into America's most costly war (over 600,000 American dead, the majority of whom were Northerners), a little over a month before Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. Is it not possible that after four tragic years of countryman slaying countryman, that Abraham Lincoln might have come to a different understanding and perspective concerning the cause and duration of the War Between the States?

Indeed, on March 4, 1865, President Lincoln went on to say:

"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 bondman'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.'"

Pro-lifers, pay attention! President Lincoln was addressing the biblical principle of blood recompensation: **blood for blood**. America stands poised in 1998 to reap the same judgment, i.e., the massive bloodshed of its citizens, for the holocaust of surgical and chemical abortion.

God spoke this to Moses in Numbers 35:33 - "So you shall not pollute the land in which you are; for blood pollutes the land, **and no expiation can be made for the land for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it.**"

This judgment from God came to pass upon the sons of America in the War Between the States. The blood of the sons of Americans was shed on the battlefields of Virginia, and Pennsylvania, Georgia, and South Carolina, **as blood recompensation for unjustly shedding the blood of African slaves**. The inhumane treatment during the ocean voyage, or "middle passage" from Africa to the Americas, with human beings of black skin crammed like sardines into the hold of slave ships, and the many deaths from disease and other causes, is only one of several examples of the unjust shedding of the blood of these African men and women. According to Gustavus Vasa, who was shipped as an African slave to "the New World" in 1756, describing the on-ship conditions: "The stench of the hold while we were on the coast, was so intolerably loathsome, that it was dangerous to remain there for any time,...it became absolutely pestilential. The closeness of the place, and the heat of the climate, to the number in the ship, which was so crowded that each had scarcely room to turn himself, almost suffocated us... The shrieks of the women, and the groans of the dying, rendered the whole scene of horror almost inconceivable."

And so it is today, the bloodshed of Americans **today** may be required of God for the shedding of 40 million babies surgically, and likely many more than that chemically, by abortion. Those that use the IUD, Norplant, Depo-Provera, and birth control pills are **adding to the blood judgment** of this nation. Whether it be from Chinese nuclear missiles, or occupation by United Nations troops, America in 1998 is at risk of reaping the same type of judgment of blood recompensation from God that America, both North and South, reaped 1861-1865, potentially millions of casualties. Consider this statement of principle from American Life League, a national pro-life organization: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that every human life is created equal, **that this nation may pay with the blood of its citizens for every drop of blood drawn by the curette**, and that its **survival** depends upon securing for the preborn the guarantee of being born as honored

citizens of a country that practices, under God, liberty and justice for all (note: the curette is an abortionist's instrument of death to murder pre-born boys and girls in the wombs of their mothers).

So, my question is this ? **Where are the Christians ?** Where are first and foremost the pastors, preaching righteousness from the pulpit and in the marketplace, and leading by example in this key battle for the survival of our nation ? Most are AWOL. Where are the statesmen in political office fearlessly introducing and fighting for biblically-based pro-life legislation, without "exceptions" and compromises ? Very few and far between. Where are the individual lay Christians coming out to work in the crisis pregnancy centers, or out to the streets outside the baby-killing centers to cry out to God in prayer for deliverance from this curse and judgment upon our nation ? More are needed. What about financial support ? More is needed. Why are churches building more buildings instead of pouring major funding into the battle for the lives of the unborn - to fund more full-time workers, supplies, facilities, and other pro-life needs ?

God's purposes are higher than man's. It does not matter if Abraham Lincoln went to war in his own mind because he thought he was trying to preserve the Union, irrespective of the effect on slavery. It does not matter if Southerners thought they were going to war for "state's rights," or to "protect their way of life" (which included American chattel slavery). God is Sovereign, and He is able to use the motivations of men to accomplish **His** purposes, and **then still** judge the combatants on either or both sides for their own sinful behavior. Men are not in control. God is.

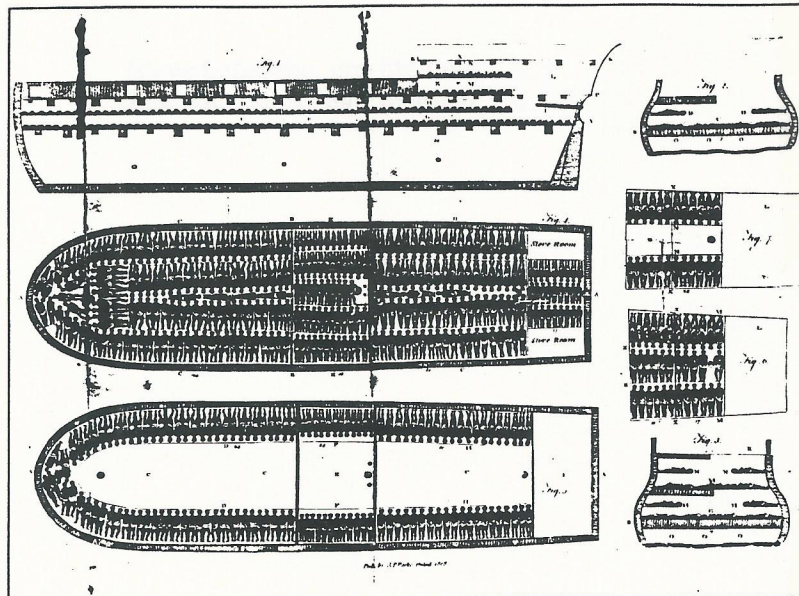
There are several biblical examples of this. God used King Nebuchadnezzar (Jeremiah 25:9) of pagan Babylon to judge God's people in Judah for their wickedness, including the innocent blood which Judah's king, Manasseh, shed in Jerusalem (II Kings 24:1-4). God used Assyria to judge Israel, and then He judged Assyria (Isaiah 10:1-34). God set the enemies of God's people against one another when King Jehoshaphat and Judah cried out to God, and obeyed the word God spoke through the prophet Jahaziel (II Chronicles 20:22,23). The enemy armies that had come out to fight Israel, were instead turned on one another, and God destroyed three enemy armies.

My point is this: The motivations and intents of men are **not** determinate in setting the course of history and events, **God is Sovereign**. I agree with President Lincoln, the War Between Brothers was a divinely orchestrated judgment upon a nation that for almost 250 years had shed innocent blood. This nation paid dearly. And because there have not been eyes to see what Lincoln saw 133 years ago, we continue to suffer from the sins of our forefathers. The debate over the Confederate battle flag flying over the S.C. State House is only one of the more visible manifestations of the spiritual and soulish strongholds which **still** hold this state in bondage. I do not support the flying of that historical flag over the S.C. State House. We must repent, where repentance has not already occurred (such as the repentance in 1995 of the Southern Baptist Convention, which was formed in 1845 as a result of a slavery-related dispute). As a nation, North and South, as state governments, cities, religious denominations, families, and individuals, we have not fully repented of our **national, corporate sin of American chattel slavery** (although at least we've discontinued the practice), **and neither have we repented of our ongoing national, corporate sin of in-utero child-murder by surgical and chemical means.**

Judgment is coming, Church (I Peter 4:17), judgments upon wealth and blood. If you will repent, let your repentance bear fruit with deeds of righteousness (Matt. 3:8; Luke 3:8; Acts 26:20).

Steve Lefemine, pro-life missionary  
director, Columbia Christians For Life

From: A Nation is Born,  
Rebellion and Independence  
in America (1700-1820),  
p. 12; Raymond Bial



This illustration shows how slaves were packed into ships for their long journey to the New World (Library of Congress).