

**The War
Between the States**
was
God's judgment
upon both North and South
for
the national sin
of
American chattel slavery

"If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of **God**, must needs come,... and that **He gives** **to both North and South this terrible war**, as the woe due to those by whom the offense came,... 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 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.' " President Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865 (at the end of the war)