

American Rhetoric

Lincoln's Second Inaugural

Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death
Patrick Henry

Ain't I a Woman?
Sojourner Truth

A House Divided
Abraham Lincoln

The Gettysburg Address
Abraham Lincoln

The Second Inaugural
Abraham Lincoln

Cross of Gold
William Jennings Bryan

The Man in the Arena
Theodore Roosevelt

The Only Thing We Have to Fear
Franklin Roosevelt

A Date Which Will Live in Infamy
Franklin Roosevelt

Old Soldiers Never Die
Douglas MacArthur

Inaugural Address
John Kennedy

Ich Bin Ein Berliner
John Kennedy

The Ballot or the Bullet
Malcolm X

I Have a Dream
Martin Luther King, Jr.

A Time for Choosing
Ronald Reagan

Tear Down this Wall
Ronald Reagan

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 by 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."

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.

