

## **The Religion of Abraham Lincoln**

Through the years I have often read about the character and integrity of Abraham Lincoln, our 16<sup>th</sup> president. In many books found in Christian bookstores we read that Lincoln was a Believer who accepted the Bible as the Word of God. But there is one point that is not often found in these popular writings ... Abraham Lincoln believed in the ultimate salvation of all men!

I just finished reading "The Almost Chosen People" by William J. Wolf (Doubleday & Company Inc, 1959) which is a study of the religion of Lincoln. I strongly recommend this book, and would like to share a few quotations.

One of Lincoln's associates, Mentor Graham, tells of Lincoln: "He took the passage, 'As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive,' and followed up with the proposition that whatever the breach or injury of Adam's transgressions to the human race was, which no doubt was very great, was made just and right by the atonement of Christ." (page 47)

Another associate, Isaac Cogdal, tells of a discussion on religion in Lincoln's office in 1859: "Lincoln expressed himself in about these words: He did not nor could not believe in the endless punishment of any one of the human race. He understood punishment for sin to be a Bible doctrine; that the punishment was parental in its object, aim, and design, and intended for the good of the offender; hence it must cease when justice is satisfied. He added that all that was lost by the transgression of Adam was made good by the atonement: all that was lost by the fall was made good by the sacrifice." (page 104)

Jonathan Harnett also described a discussion that took place in Lincoln's office in 1858: "Lincoln ... closed up with the restitution of all things to God, as the doctrine taught in the scriptures ... He did not pretend to know just when that event would be consummated, but that it would be the ultimate result, that Christ must reign supreme, high over all, The Saviour of all; and the supreme Ruler, he could not be with one out of the fold; all must come in, with his understanding of the doctrine taught in the scriptures." (pages 105-6)

Lincoln often referred to 1 Corinthians 15 to support his view of universal salvation.

Lincoln never joined a church, although he did occasionally attend, especially in his later years. He was disturbed by the many divisions within the church, and the various creeds propounded by many different denominations. But he very clearly was a Believer, and knew the Bible better than any other president and many in the clergy of his day.

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## VCR Tapes From Jean Douglas

I'm not sure if all of you are aware of the wonderful ministry of Jean Douglas from Oakwood, Georgia. For those of you not able to attend the Concordant Bible Conferences held in various parts of the country throughout the year, I encourage you to get a list of the available VCR tapes from Jean. He does a great job recording these conferences very professionally, and has copies available from many of these conferences going back even a few years. Contact Jean at [perfectgraceministries@yahoo.com](mailto:perfectgraceministries@yahoo.com) to request a list of the tapes he has available.

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## A Few Words About My Book

My objective in writing, "At the End of the Ages ... the Abolition of Hell" was not to make money, or to become an author. I grew up in the Methodist Church. I moved to Wilmore, Kentucky in 1992 to earn my Master of Divinity degree at Asbury Theological Seminary to become a pastor. From 1993 to 2002 I served as a bi-vocational pastor within the United Methodist and then the Free Methodist Church. Since stepping down as pastor in May 2002 because of my views on "biblical universalism" I have had many opportunities to talk with pastors and others within the church concerning these views. But it is not easy to fully explain all of the evidence that has caused me to believe that God will ultimately save all.

So I wrote my book which is intended to be a basic, easy to read, easy to understand overview of the evidence in support of "biblical universalism."

The monies I receive from the book's sale help to defray the cost of publishing, and the funds also enable me to give copies of the book away as opportunities arise. My hope is that you will also purchase copies to give away to those in your circle of influence, as you proclaim the correct gospel (evangel) ... the good news that God is working toward the consummation, when every knee will bow and when all rebellion is gone, and when God becomes All in all once every lost sheep is safely within the fold.

"At the End of the Ages" can be ordered from most major bookstores, including Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble (ISBN 1-4107-1259-1) and it can also be ordered direct from the publisher, via our web site: [www.graceevangel.org](http://www.graceevangel.org)

As you share the wonderful gospel in your area, I have two brochures in Microsoft Word format that you might find helpful, and I would be happy to e-mail you copies upon request. Drop me a note at [bobevely@juno.com](mailto:bobevely@juno.com)

- Bob Evely -