

UNIT 2

FROM CANE RIDGE TO THE CIVIL WAR

I/ Post the Revolutionary War

A. The “Spirit” of Freedom

B. The African American Experience

What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer; a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim.... You boast of your love of liberty, your superior civilization and your pure Christianity, while the whole political power of the nation... is solemnly pledged to support and perpetuate the enslavement of three millions of your countrymen.... You can bare your bosom to the storm of British artillery to throw off a three-penny tax on tea; and yet wring the last hard-earned farthing from the grasp of the black laborers of your country. You profess to believe "that, of one blood, God made all nations of men to dwell on the face of all the earth" [Acts 17:26], and hath commanded all men, everywhere, to love one another; yet you notoriously hate (and glory in your hatred) all men whose skins are not colored like your own.... The existence of slavery in this country brands your republicanism as a sham, your humanity as a base pretense, and your Christianity as a lie.

—Frederick Douglass, 1852

II/ The Second Great Awakening

**Denomination Shares of Religious Adherents:
The United States 1776 and 1850**

1776

(1) Congregationalist	20.4%
(2) Presbyterians	19.0%
(3) Baptists	16.9%
(4) Episcopalians	15.7%
(5) Methodists	2.5%
(6) Roman Catholics	1.8%

1850

(1) Methodists	34.2%
(2) Baptists	20.5%
(3) Roman Catholics	13.9%
(4) Presbyterians	11.6%
(5) Congregationalists	4.0%
(6) Episcopalians	3.5%

III/ The Civil War

Julia Ward Howe (1862)

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
 With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
 As he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free!
 While God is marching on.
 Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
 Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
 Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
 While God is marching on.

Henry Timrod (1861)

And what if, mad with wrongs themselves have wrought,
 In their own treachery caught,
 By their own fears made bold,
 And leagued with him of old,
 Who long since in the limits of the North
 Set up his evil throne, and warred with God-
 What if, both mad and blinded in their rage,
 Our foes should fling us down their mortal gage,
 And with a hostile step profane our sod!
 We shall not shrink, my brothers, but go forth
 To meet them, marshalled by the Lord of Hosts....

George Duffield (1858)

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
 ye soldiers of the cross;
 lift high His royal banner,
 it must not suffer loss.
 From vict'ry unto vict'ry
 His army shall He lead,
 till ev'ry foe is vanquished,
 and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
 the trumpet call obey;
 forth to the mighty conflict,
 in this His glorious day.
 Ye that are brave now serve him
 against unnumbered foes;
 let courage rise with danger,
 and strength to strength oppose.

“Every Southern planter is not more truly a slave-holder than Abraham. And the Southern master, by divine authority, may today, consider his slaves part of his social and religious family, just as Abraham did.”
—Rev. Frederick Ross, Huntsville, AL

“The principles laid down by the Saviour and his Apostles as such as are opposed to Slavery, and if carried out would secure its universal abolition.” —Rev. Albert Barnes, Philadelphia, PA

“I charge the whole guilt of this war upon the ambitious, educated, plotting political leaders in the South...A day will come when...these guiltiest and most remorseless traitors...shall be whirled aloft and plunged downward forever and ever in an endless retribution.”
—Rev. Henry Ward Beecher

“Both North and South read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God’s assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men’s faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes.”
—Abraham Lincoln, 1865

III/ Lessons for Today