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At the end of the Civil War, United States President Abraham Lincoln delivered a speech to the nation. In his speech, he utilizes rhetorical strategies in order to contemplate the effects of the Civil War and offer his vision for the future of the nation.

Abraham Lincoln tells of the beginnings of the Civil War. He stresses the fact that neither the north nor the south wanted to use a war to solve their problems. He says that one side would rather have a war than let the whole nation survive and that the other side would accept war rather than let it perish. This statement verifies either side's dominating force over the other. When the war started, neither side expected it to last so long. Lincoln uses these examples to express that both sides with their different lives and incentives were still one and the same.

Although the war might have hindered others' beliefs, Lincoln remained steadfast and reminded the nation that the north and the south still had much in common. Both sides prayed to the same God and seemed to have no answer. Both prayed for the power to overthrow the other, yet the war still did not end.

Lincoln says, "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." Lincoln regards slavery as an offense and reminds the nation about the evils of slavery. He believes the war came about because the Almighty God took offense to slavery. Although the nation wishes it to end, God will see that bloodshed from the past be repaid in full at the present.

Lincoln sees fit to remind the nation that it has no hatred towards anyone, but he wishes to restore the nation and require peace and rest for the weary.