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# The Adia Times

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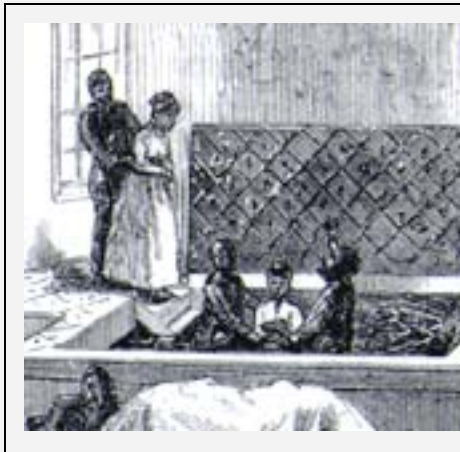
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## Black Freedom: Starting in Church

Nadia Green

For many years Blacks were trying to obtain freedom. They were disregarded by the Government and even the people around them. One of the only places that Blacks could consider home was church. Not just any church, but their own. A church named "First African Baptist Church" was founded in 1848, which is located in Richmond, Virginia. Many black slaves, along with free blacks worshipped in a biracial congregation that was usually controlled by White people. The Black members were forced to sit in the back or even in the galleries during the services. Once they were emancipated Blacks started to create their own churches. Blacks didn't just create a church, they created a place of worship. In the churches there are housed schools, social events, political gatherings, and fraternal societies. One of the best accomplishments during the Reconstruction era for Blacks was building churches. Blacks have found a way to have freedom and they started with church. They didn't want to be confined in one area, and have to follow certain rules to worship the same deity as everyone else. This was a step forward in the Black community and in them gaining their freedom on step at a time.



Baptismal ceremony at the First African Baptist Church in Richmond.



### "Reconstruction," 1867

Allegory depicting the rebuilding of the Union, with the figure of Christ saying "Do to others as you would have others do to you."

## Religion and Reconstruction

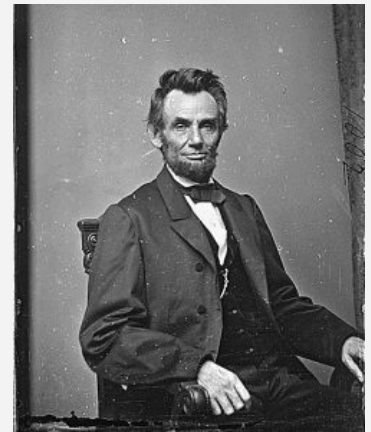
Nadia Green

Religion impacted Reconstruction more than people know. Christians were one of the main people that didn't agree with slavery. The war was an example of how churches said that the Union was going to suffer for their sins. When they kept losing the battles, it was said that God would punish the North and would not allow them to win until they took the steps to end slavery. Many of them called it sin, because they believed that God was at work and the Union was altering his plans. There were many biblical characters that were used in saying that slavery was wrong. For instance a sermon from the bible called jeremiad was a prophet from the Old Testament. It said "that threatened people with judgment unless they renounced their sins; or alternately the jeremiad took some current disaster, interpreted it as a punishment sent by God, and then asked for what sin the penalty had been imposed." The defeat of the Union Armies was a punishment. The churches used sin and punishment to convince the people that slavery should be abolished and proved that with events in the Bible. Due to the fact that many people had a strong faith, it was conflicting ideas.

## Lincoln's Involvement

Nadia Green

Former President Abraham Lincoln was an inspiration to many people throughout his election. He is known for abolishing slavery, but was it him alone? It is said that Religious groups were one of the main factors. A source quotes "Without the evolution of the churches' opinions that served as both support and goad to Lincoln's own transformation, it is unlikely that the president could have proceeded as he did." Without the help and persistence from those around him, the change that happened more of likely wouldn't have happened without the help from the Religious community.



**"Without the evolution of the churches' opinions, . . . it is unlikely that the president could have proceeded as he did."**

Abraham Lincoln, c. 1861-1865



This sketch, entitled "A Nickel for Daddy" portrays a poor African American father in the South during 1873. The little girl is pleading for money on behalf of her father who appears to be aging, tired, and in need of money presumably to feed his family.

## Reconstruction in Alabama

Nadia Green

At the end of the Civil War there has been many tragedies. Many people have been placed in hunger and poverty. These people had to suffer and starve, all while not having a mean of income. This caused little children to have to beg and try to find ways to support their families. This made children grow up faster than they needed to. There weren't all bad things that happened in Alabama. Reconstruction brought better improvements for the education of African Americans. Even though there were big loses, there were also gains that benefited everyone.

