

MESSAGE: "A LITTLE BACKWARD"

1 PETER 5:5-11



Backwards Day established
1961.

King Hezekiah was struggling with the message God had given him. Isaiah had communicated that God intended for him to die of the illness he was struggling with. Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and begged God for more time. God granted his request. Hezekiah requested a sign. Isaiah offer him a sign of either moving the sun-dial ahead or back 10 degrees. Hezekiah asked that the sundial moved back. In order to move forward in life we must at times move a little backward in life. When we do not have a clear picture of the past we often fail to understand the events of the present and the likely direction for the future.

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Today is "Backwards Day", this has been a popular holiday since its modern inception in 1961 by 2 young women milking cows on the Miller family farm. The 2 young ladies, Megan Emily Scott and Sarah Nicole Miller, dreamt up silly rules to guide the day. The idea quickly took off and a year later the 1st official "Backwards Day" was born. Many cultures have had backwards days in their calendars. The Greeks had a "Kronos" day in the mid-summer when people switched roles in society. Kronos was the god of time. The Romans beginning in mid-December to January 1 had what was called "Saturnalia" [Saturn was the Roman equivalent of Kronos].



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5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “god resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” [Proverbs 3:34]

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

7 casting all your care upon him, for he cares for you.

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the Devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

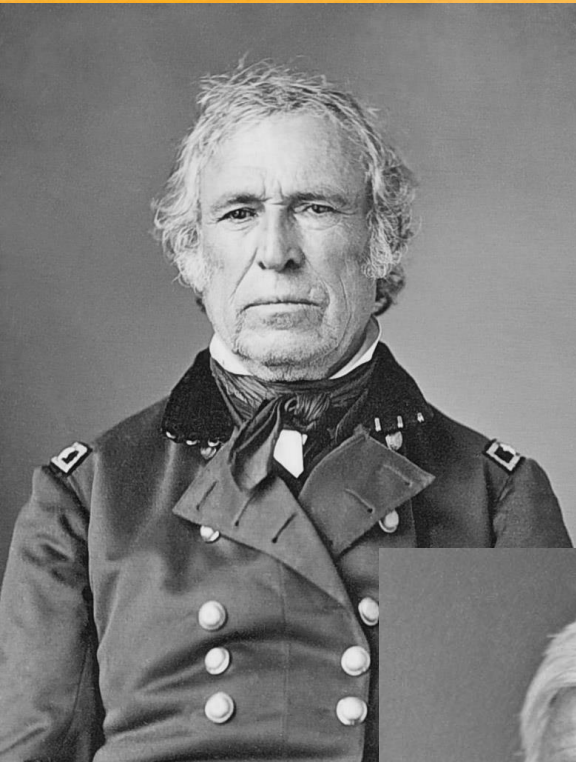
10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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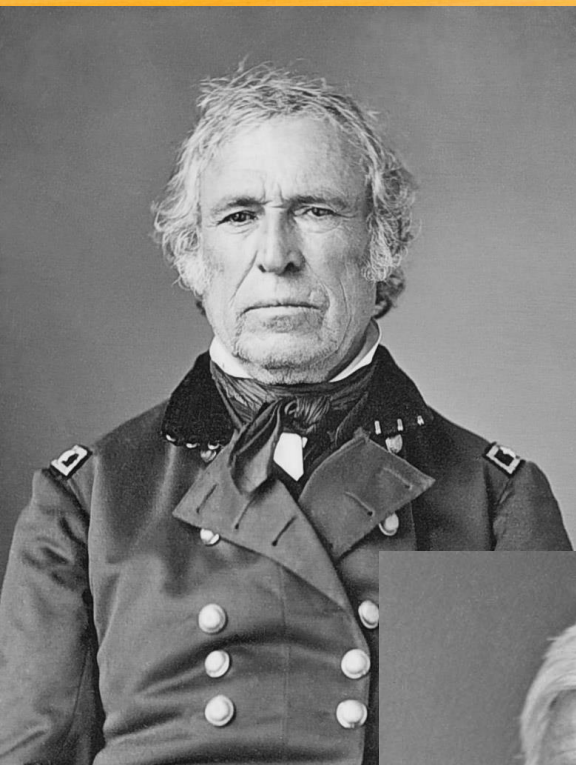
1 PETER 5:5-11

General Zachary Taylor was the last Whig candidate elected as President of the USA in 1848. His nomination was opposed by much of the Whig party because he was slave owner. But because he was a war hero he was considered a better choice than Clay who was seen as pro-slavery. Taylor wanted to bring California into the union as a state without passing through the status of a territory. California would come in as a free state and this was opposed by a great many of the slave-holding states. Henry Clay was opposed to bringing California in unless they passed the "Fugitive Slave Law".



Presidents
Zachary
Taylor,
1849-50.

Millard
Fillmore
1850-53



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Zachary
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Series: New Year

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1 PETER 5:5-11

Taylor was deeply opposed to Clay's Compromise Bill of 1850. He saw it as likely ending the Whig Party. He died of food poisoning in July of 1850 before Congress voted on the Compromise. Fillmore upon assuming office immediately replaced Taylor's cabinet and signed the Compromise of 1850 with its Fugitive Slave Law. Fillmore hoped that California would strengthen the Whig party. In mass the Abolitionists abandoned the party and joined the "Free Soil Party" which would become the "Republican Party". What Fillmore failed to understand was that the moral issue of slavery was a make or brake issue for people.

Philippians 2:1-5

Garrison COG - Jan. 31, 2021

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5

1 Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

3 *Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,...

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1 PETER 5:5-11

Janus the
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god of
doorways,
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voyages.



When I began this series on January 3rd I spoke about indecision. Janus the Roman god with 2 faces was apart of my message. Janus by virtue of his face facing forward and backward could see both future and past. This could make him indecisive. When Kronos [Saturn in Rome] the god of time was kicked out of Greece by his son the sky god Zeus [Jupiter] he came to Italy. Janus the demi-god was ruling there and invited Saturn to settle in Italy. Saturn was so grateful that he gave Janus the ability to see the past and future. His arrival in Italy was celebrated in late December and involved backwards events, it is fitting that January should end with a backwards day.

Series: New Year

Garrison COG - Jan. 31, 2021

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In Greece Kronos had a day in late summer dedicated to him on which everything was turned backwards.

The Saturnalia eventually would the final 2 weeks of December until January 1. It was a festival filled with Topsy Turvey customs and quite a bit of debauchery.

Christians faced an uncomfortable relationship with the pagan culture that accepted the debauchery. Roman immorality included sexual license, abortion, infanticide, blood sports and violence. As Christians moved out of Jewish culture into Roman culture the clash of cultures became more pronounced.

1 PETER 5:16-19 [JANUARY 3]

5 PRINCIPLES FOR CHRISTIANS WHEN THEY MUST MAKE DIFFICULT DECISIONS:

1. IF YOU HAVE DETERMINED TO LIVE LIKE A CHRISTIAN AND SUFFER BECAUSE OF THIS DECISION DO NOT BE ASHAMED.
2. GLORIFY GOD IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES. HE IS ULTIMATELY THE ONE WE MUST PLEASE.
3. WE KNOW THAT SUFFERING OFTEN FIRST FALLS ON THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIE'S DOORSTEP TO WINNOW AND PURIFY THE HEARTS OF GOD'S PEOPLE.
4. WE ALSO KNOW THAT GOD'S JUDGEMENT WILL BE EXTREMELY SEVERE ON A CULTURE THAT DOES EVIL AND ALLOWS INJUSTICE TO PREVAIL.
5. WHEN WE SUFFER ACCORDING TO GOD'S PURPOSE WE SHOULD COMMIT OURSELVES TO HIM BY DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD.

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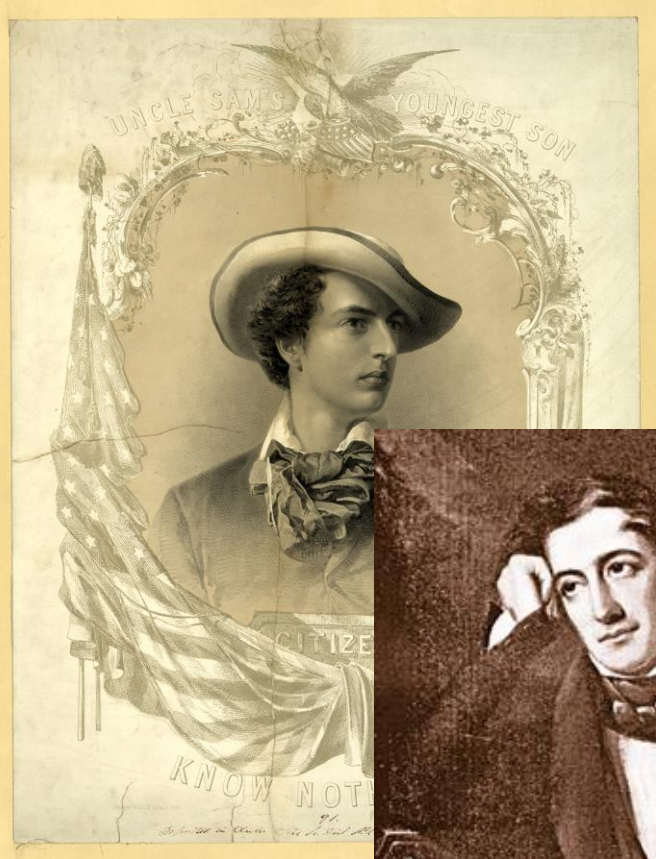
1 PETER 5:5-11

Beginning in the 1820s America began to industrialize. Large industry developed a skilled labor base in the large cities. Many of the industries wanted to keep wages low so they lobbied for liberal immigration laws and looked seriously at hiring slave labor from southern planters. With the unrest in German provinces and Poland and the famine in Ireland by the 1840's there was an overwhelming wave of immigration that depressed wages and drove up land prices. This led to the establishment of a Nativist secret organization in New York in 1840. It was virulent anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic and ambivalent toward slavery. This secret organization in 1842 ran its 1st candidates for office.

Citizen "Know Nothing" the nephew of Uncle Sam based on Lewis C. Levin, leader of the Know Nothing Party.

Series: New Year

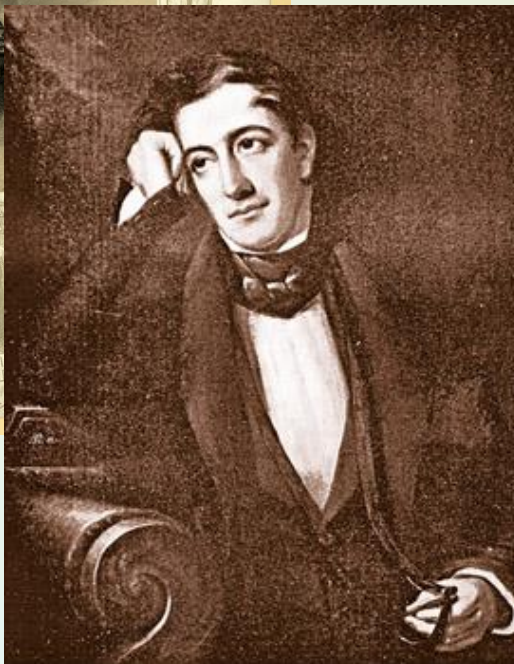

Garrison COG - Jan. 31, 2021



MESSAGE: "A LITTLE BACKWARD"

1 PETER 5:5-11

By 1844 they had developed a strong following in the northeastern cities. Lewis Levin was born in South Carolina to a Jewish family. He was a bit of an opportunist and con-man. He moved to Philadelphia and promoted Temperance though he seems to have been addicted to opium. He latched onto the Nativist movement and became one of its primary advocates. In 1844 he led marches and rallies in Irish neighborhoods around Philadelphia. These led to fights with the Irish and eventually riots. During the riots 3 Catholic churches were burned and over 20 Irish settlers were burned out of their homes. The riots took place in April and July.



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Series: New Year

Garrison COG - Jan. 31, 2021

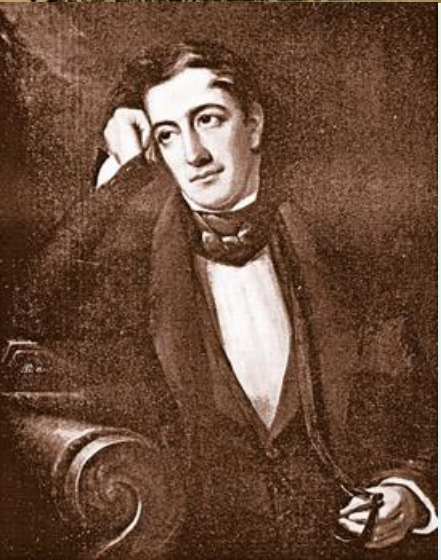
MESSAGE: "A LITTLE BACKWARD"

1 PETER 5:5-11

Levin using his oratory skills ran a successful campaign for the US House of Representatives. He would serve 3 terms. Many of the Whigs who were disenchanted with the failure to the Whig Party to address their concerns about immigration, low wages and high land prices drifted to the "Know Nothings". The abolitionist however formed the Republican Party following the Compromise of 1850.

One of the most dangerous aspects of our human nature is our ability to get sidetracked by our passions. The other is that we begin to align "right and wrong" with our personal biases.

Ephesians 4:25-32



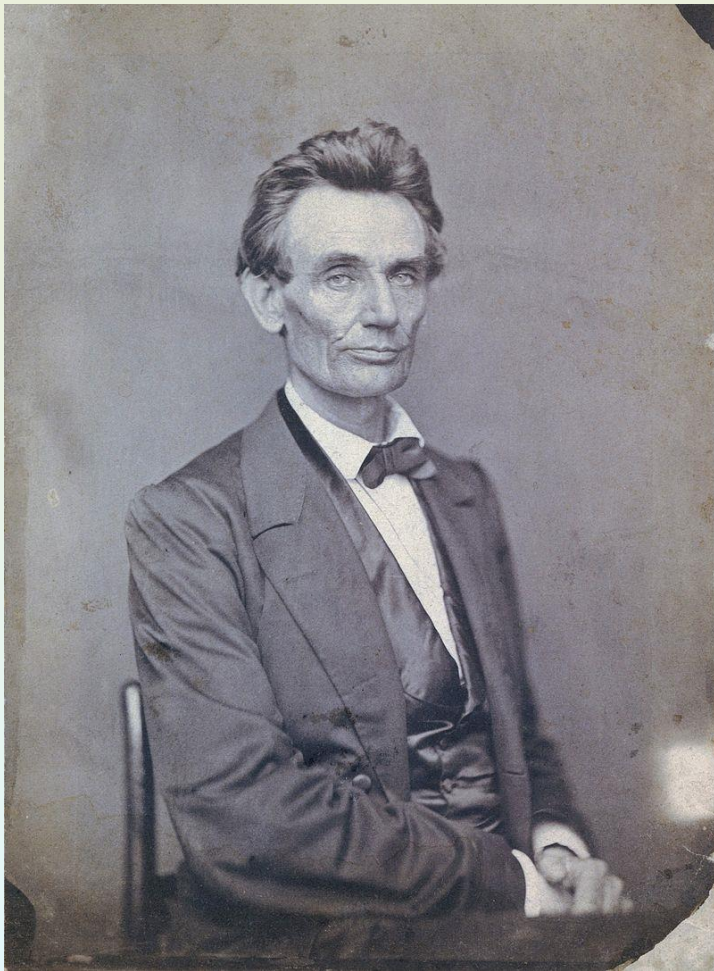
St. Augustine
Catholic
church burning
in July of 1844.
Levin used the
unrest to win a
seat in
Congress

EPHESIANS 4:25-32

25 Therefore, putting away lying, “let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another. 26 “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, **27 nor give place to the devil.** 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as god in christ forgave you.

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In 1856 the Democrats had a weak candidate in James Buchanan who was chosen because he was not President Franklin Peirce. The Republicans nominated military hero and explorer John Fremont.

It was likely that Fremont would win over Buchanan until the Know Nothing Party nominated former President Fillmore as their candidate. Fillmore was not a member of the party but he accepted the nomination and it split the former Whig vote allowing Buchanan to be elected.

The Democrats tried to paint the Republicans as "Know Nothings who were anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant. Levin had not expected for the Know Nothing Party to win but he hoped to destroy the Republican Party. As a result James Buchanan won.

Abraham Lincoln in 1860

Series: New Year

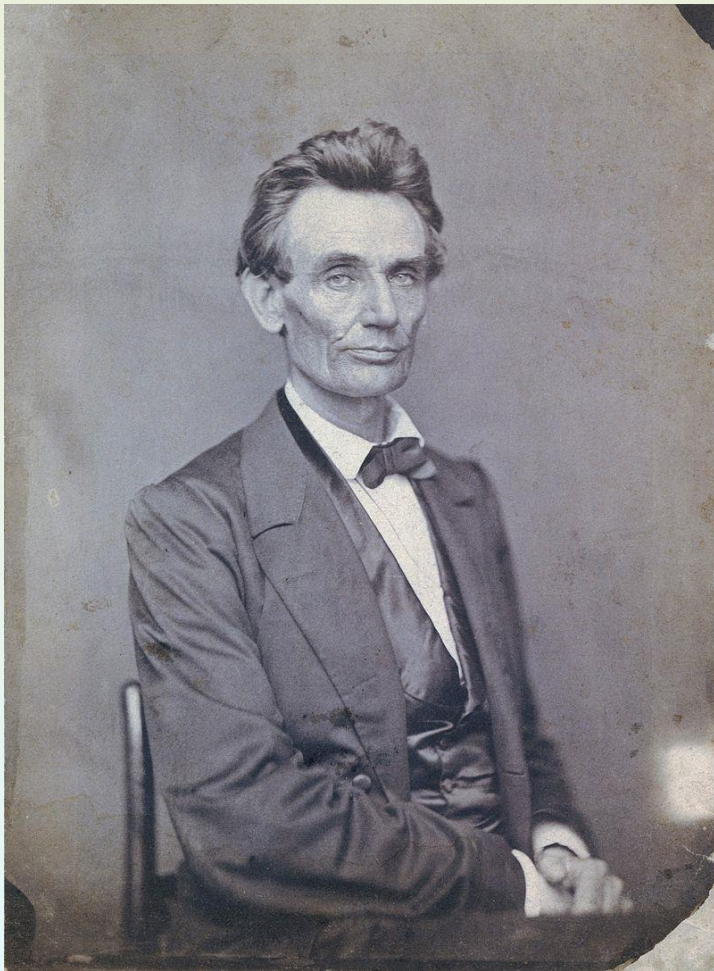
Garrison COG - Jan. 31, 2021

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Lincoln in 1855 wrote to a friend about his disgust with the Know Nothing Party.

"Our progress in degeneracy appears to me to be pretty rapid. As a nation, we began by declaring that "all men are created equal." We now practically read it "all men are created equal, except negroes" When the Know-Nothings get control, it will read "all men are created equal, except negroes, and foreigners, and Catholics." When it comes to this I should prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretence of loving liberty—to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy." -- *Letter to Joshua Speed Aug. 24, 1855*



Abraham Lincoln in 1860

Series: New Year

James 5:6-10

Garrison COG - Jan. 31, 2021



JAMES 5:6-10

6 BUT HE GIVES MORE GRACE. THEREFORE HE SAYS: "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

7 THEREFORE SUBMIT TO GOD. RESIST THE DEVIL AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU.

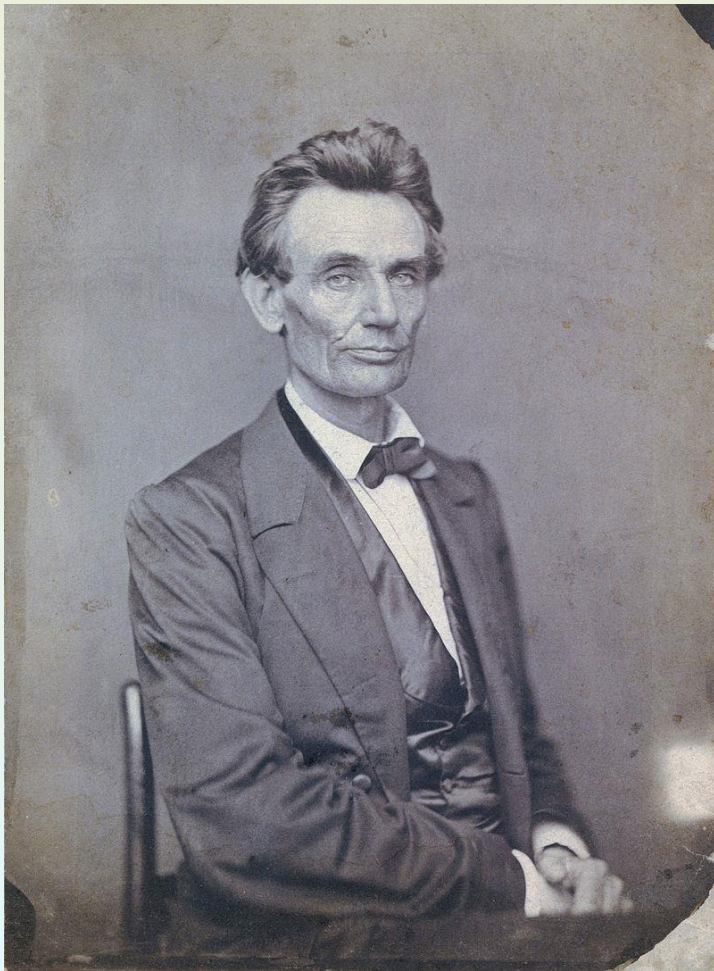
8 DRAW NEAR TO GOD AND HE WILL DRAW NEAR TO YOU. CLEANSE *YOUR* HANDS, *YOU* SINNERS; AND PURIFY *YOUR* HEARTS, *YOU* DOUBLE-MINDED.

9 LAMENT AND MOURN AND WEEP! LET YOUR LAUGHTER BE TURNED TO MOURNING AND *YOUR* JOY TO GLOOM.

10 HUMBLE YOURSELVES IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD, AND HE WILL LIFT YOU UP.

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The Dred Scott Decision of the Supreme Court in 1857 completely shattered the Know Nothing coalition. By 1859 they had disappeared.

Lewis Levin after the election of 1856 spun out of control and eventually ended his life in 1860 in a mental hospital. It is believed that his use of opium led to his insanity.

James Buchanan has the present distinction of being America's worst President. He illegally interfered with Supreme Court cases; bribed members of Congress and Officials; intentionally interfered with Federal forces in Kansas Territory in favor of pro-slavery activists. He failed to reinforce Fort Sumpter when the Confederacy declared secession during his final days in office.

Abraham Lincoln in 1860

Series: New Year

Garrison COG - Jan. 31, 2021

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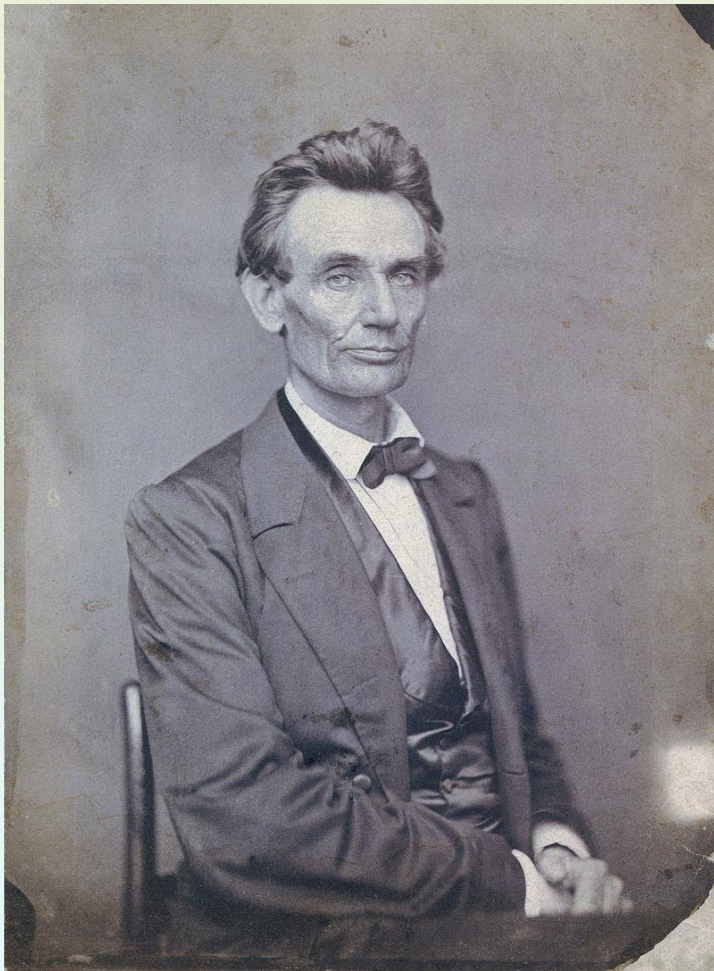
Ultimately Buchanan's biggest mistake was not understanding that the moral issue of slavery was not going away, it had to be solved - Abraham Lincoln had stated it this way in 1854:

If A. can prove, however conclusively, that he may, of right, enslave B. -- why may not B. snatch the same argument, and prove equally, that he may enslave A?

You say A. is white, and B. is black. It is color, then; the lighter, having the right to enslave the darker? Take care. By this rule, you are to be slave to the first man you meet, with a fairer skin than your own.

You do not mean color exactly?--You mean the whites are intellectually the superiors of the blacks, and, therefore have the right to enslave them? Take care again. By this rule, you are to be slave to the first man you meet, with an intellect superior to your own.

But, say you, it is a question of interest; and, if you can make it your interest, you have the right to enslave another. Very well. And if he can make it his interest, he has the right to enslave you.



Abraham Lincoln in 1860

EPHESIANS 6:10-18

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints —

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Backwards Day
established 1961.

7 Things To Get Right in the New Year:

1. Show a sense of respect for what has happened in the past.
2. Be humble about your own place in the world.
3. Give your troubles to God and trust He has your best interest at heart.
4. Be serious and on guard for there is a real Devil and real evil in the world and they will destroy you if they can.
5. Resist the Devil and evil with steadfast faith knowing you are not in this alone.
6. Endure suffering with confidence in God's promise of grace.
7. Let God work to perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you.