

Martin Luther King Jr. Chronology

1929 – Born on at noon on January 15, 1929.

- Parents: The Reverend and Mrs. Martin Luther King, Sr.
- Home: 501 Auburn Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, Ga.

1944 – Graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and was admitted to Morehouse College at age 15.

1948 – Graduates from Morehouse College and enters Crozer Theological Seminary.

- Ordained to the Baptist ministry, Feb. 25, 1948, at age 19.

1951 – Enters Boston University for graduate studies.

1953 – Marries Coretta Scott and settles in Montgomery, Ala.

1955 – Received Doctorate of Philosophy in Systematic Theology from Boston University, Boston, Mass. on June 5, 1955.

- Dissertation Title: "A Comparison of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Wiseman".
- Joins the bus boycott after Rosa Parks was arrested on Dec. 1. On Dec. 5, he is elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, making him the official spokesman for the boycott.

1956 – On November 13, the Supreme Court rules that bus segregation is illegal, ensuring victory for the boycott.

1957 – King forms the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to fight segregation and achieve civil rights. On May 17, Dr. King speaks to a crowd of 15,000 in Washington, D.C.



1958 – The U.S. Congress passed the first Civil Rights Act since reconstruction. King's first book, "Stride Toward Freedom", is published.

- On a speaking tour, Martin Luther King, Jr. is nearly killed when stabbed by an assailant in Harlem. Met with President Dwight D. Eisenhower, along with Roy Wilkins, A. Philip Randolph, and Lester Grange on problems affecting black Americans.

1959 – Visited India to study Mohandas Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence.

- Resigns from pastoring the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church to concentrate on civil rights full time. He moved to Atlanta to direct the activities of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

1960 – Becomes co-pastor with his father at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

- Lunch counter sit-ins began in Greensboro, N.C. In Atlanta, King is arrested during a sit-in waiting to be served at a restaurant.
- He is sentenced to four months in jail, but after intervention by John Kennedy and Robert Kennedy, he is released.
- Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee founded to coordinate protests at Shaw University, Raleigh, N.C.



1961 – In November, the Interstate Commerce Commission bans segregation in interstate travel due to work of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Riders.

- Congress on Racial Equality (CORE) began first Freedom Ride through the South, in a Greyhound bus, after the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed segregation in interstate transportation.

1962 – During the unsuccessful Albany, Ga. movement, King is arrested on July 27 and jailed.



1963 – On Good Friday, April 12, King is arrested with Ralph Abernathy by Police Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor for demonstrating without a permit.

- On April 13, the Birmingham campaign is launched. This would prove to be the turning point in the war to end segregation in the South.
- During the eleven days he spent in jail, MLK writes his famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
- On May 10, the Birmingham agreement is announced. The stores, restaurants, and schools will be desegregated, hiring of blacks implemented, and charges dropped.
- On June 23, MLK leads 125,000 people on a Freedom Walk in Detroit.

• The March on Washington held Aug. 28 is the largest civil rights demonstration in history with nearly 250,000 people in attendance. At the march, King makes his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

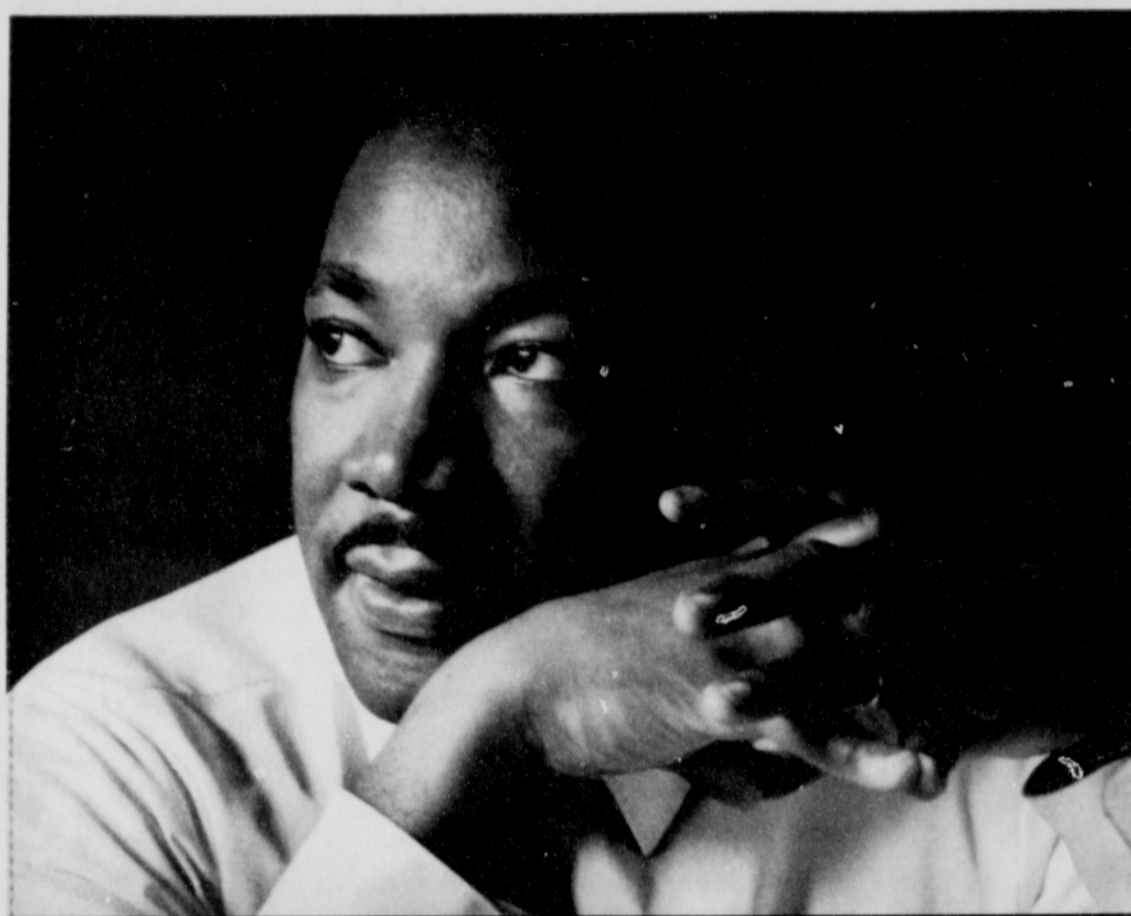
- On Nov. 22, President Kennedy is assassinated.

1964 – On Jan. 3, King appears on the cover of Time magazine as its Man of the Year.

- King attends the signing ceremony of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 at the White House on July 2.
- During the summer, King experiences his first hurtful rejection by black people when he is stoned by Black Muslims in Harlem.
- King is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on



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His voice has
not faded.
His light has
not dimmed.

Martin Luther King, Jr. stood up for the dignity of each individual and demonstrated the power of many individuals working together.

He spoke to our better selves with words of hope and encouragement.

When the journey was hard, he led us further down the road and invited all to join in.

Many years ago, this one man brightened the future for generations to come. His message still calls out to us, and his actions live on.

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