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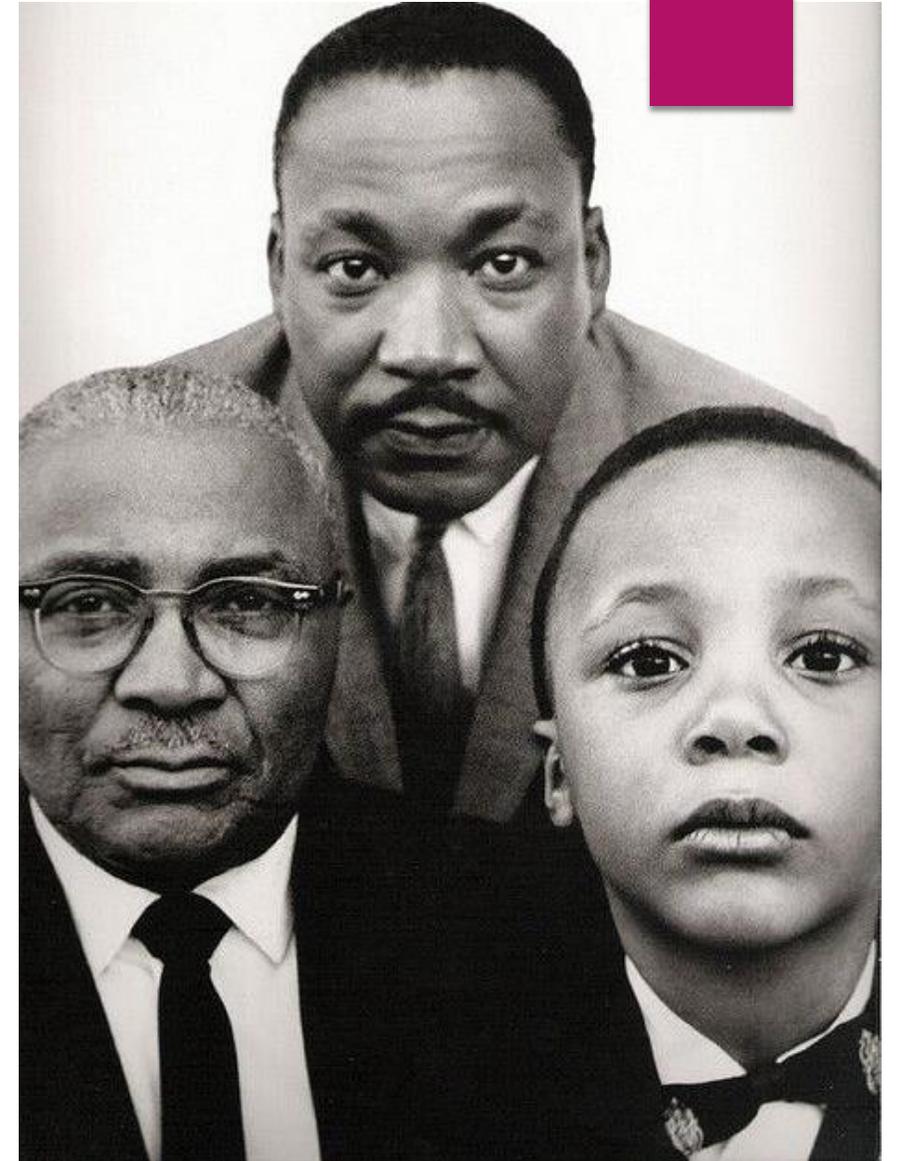
# Facts you may not have known about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Source:

<https://www.history.com/news/10-things-you-may-not-know-about-martin-luther-king-jr>

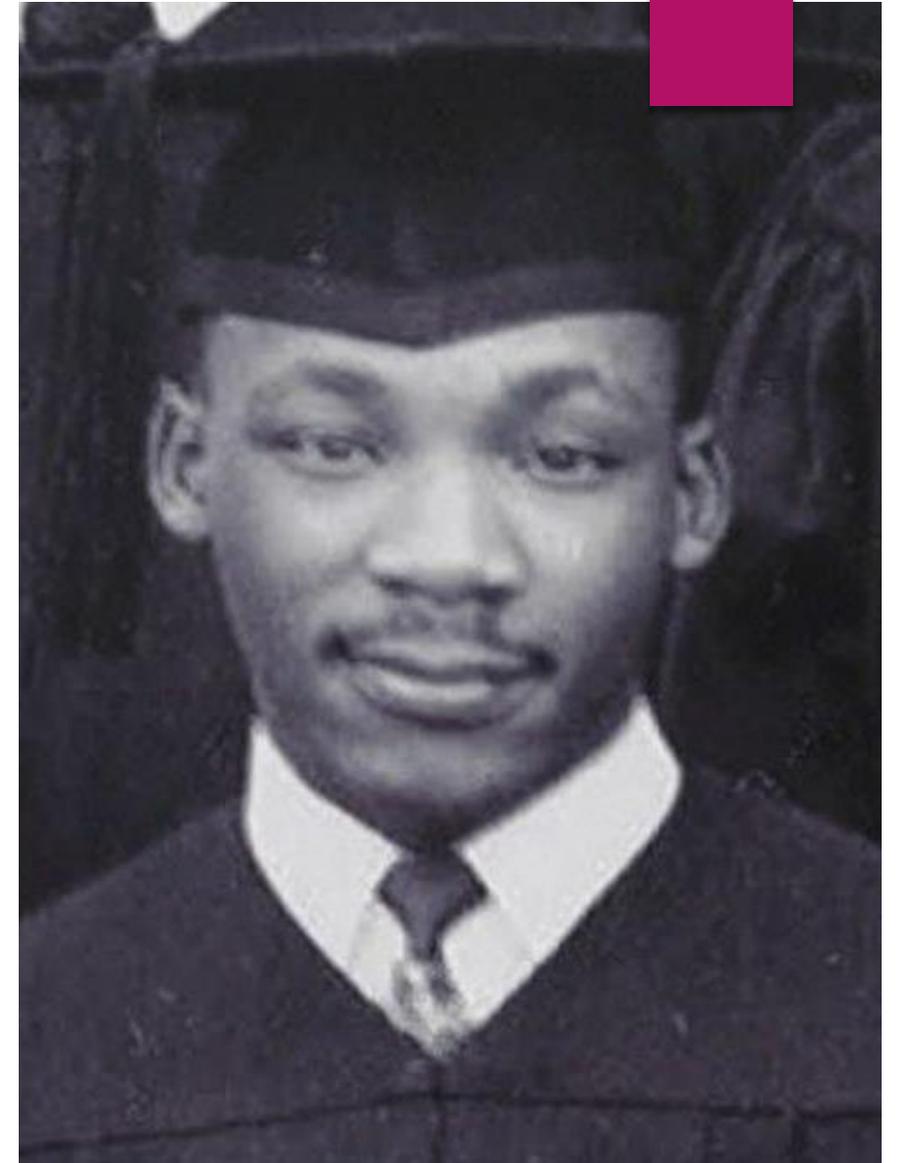
# Dr King's birth name was Michael, not Martin

- ▶ The civil rights leader was born Michael King Jr. on January 15, 1929.
- ▶ In 1934, his father, traveled to Germany and became inspired by the Protestant Reformation leader Martin Luther.
- ▶ As a result, King Sr. changed his own and his 5-year-old son's name.



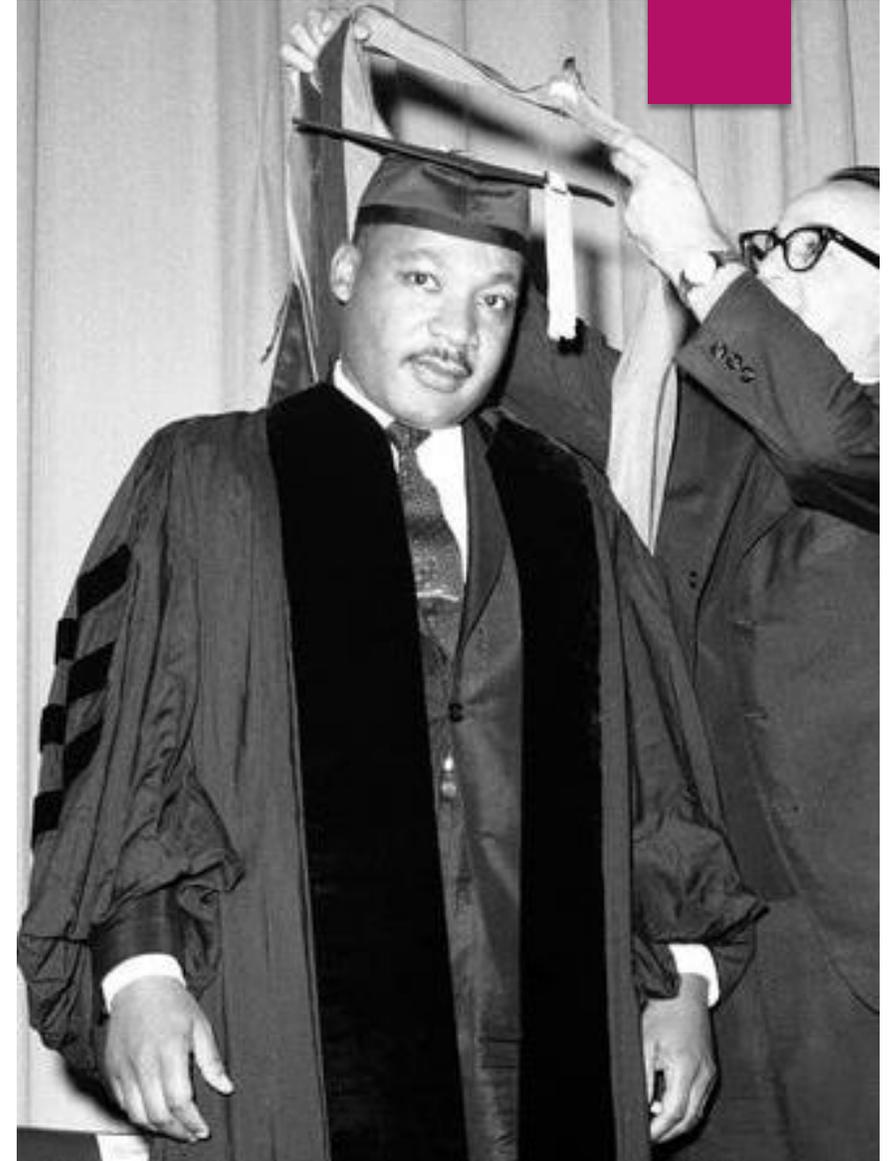
# King entered college at the age of 15

- ▶ King skipped grades 9 and 12 and enrolled in 1944 at Morehouse College.
- ▶ Morehouse president Benjamin E. Mays, a noted theologian, convinced King to follow his father's vocation.
- ▶ King was ordained before graduating college with a degree in sociology.



# King received his doctorate in systematic theology

- ▶ King received his Ph.D. degree in 1955 from Boston University.
- ▶ The title of his dissertation was “A Comparison of the Conceptions of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman.”



# King's 'I Have a Dream' speech was not his first at the Lincoln Memorial

- ▶ On May 17, 1957, King spoke at the Memorial during the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom.
- ▶ Before a crowd of 15,000 to 30,000, King delivered his first national address on the topic of voting rights.
- ▶ His speech, “give us the ballot,” drew strong reviews and positioned him at the forefront of the civil rights leadership.



# King narrowly escaped an assassination attempt a decade before his death

- ▶ On September 20, 1958, King was approached by Izola Ware Curry.
- ▶ Curry plunged a seven-inch letter opener into King's chest alongside his aorta.
- ▶ Surgeons told King that just one sneeze could have punctured the aorta and killed him.
- ▶ From his hospital bed King issued a statement affirming his nonviolent principles and saying he felt no ill will toward his mentally ill attacker.



# King's last public speech foretold his death

King had come to Memphis in April 1968 to support the strike of the city's Black garbage workers



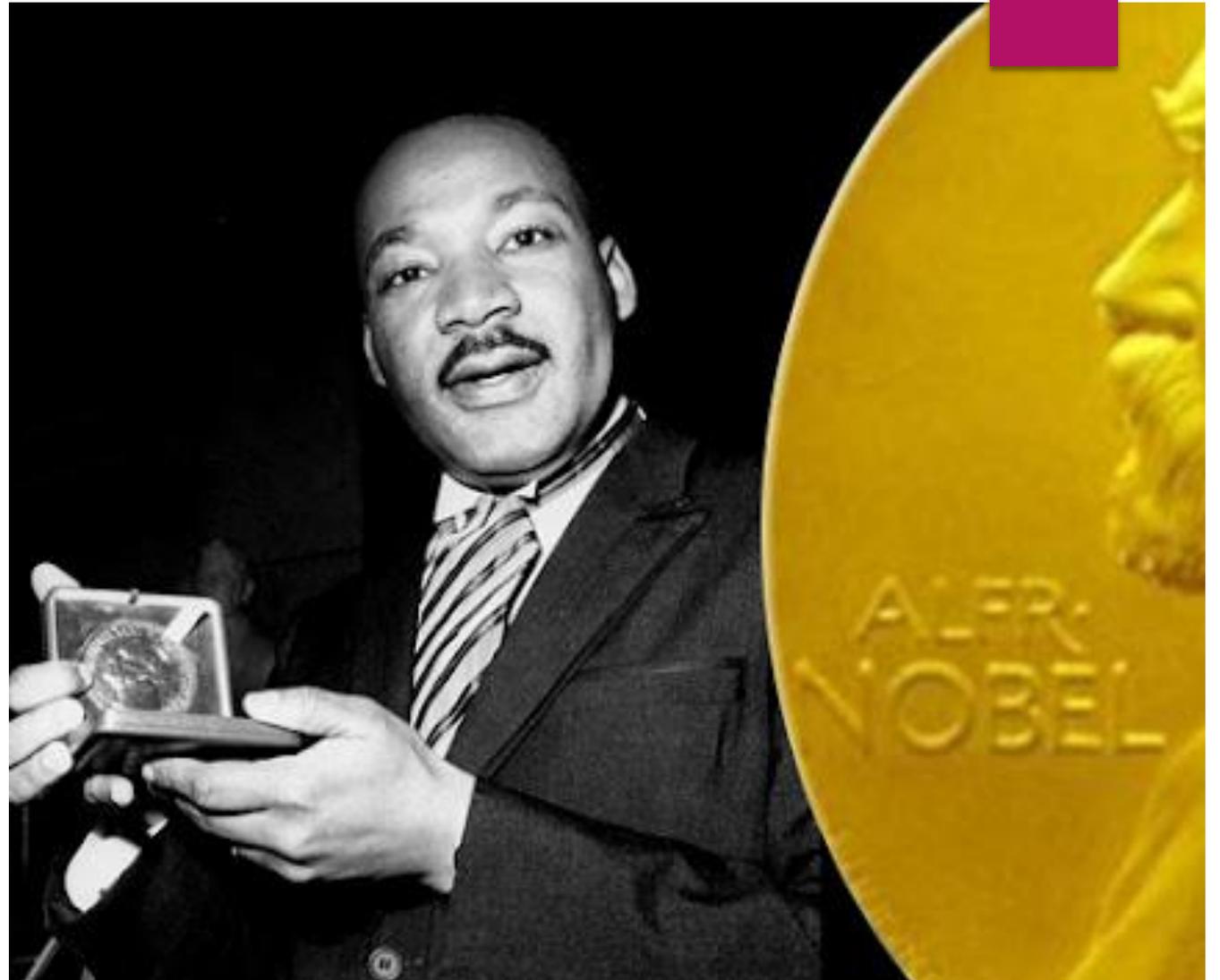
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On the night before his assassination, he told an audience:

- “Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place ....
- I’ve seen the Promised Land ....
- And I’m happy tonight. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.”

## Dr King was the youngest person at the time to receive a Nobel Peace Prize

- ▶ Prize awarded for combating racial inequality through nonviolence.
- ▶ He was just 35 years old.
- ▶ His prize included a check for \$54,123.00 which he donated to:
  - ▶ Congress on Racial Equality (CORE)
  - ▶ NAACP
  - ▶ National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and others.



# Dr King is the only non-president to have a national holiday in his name

- ▶ In 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill establishing a nationally celebrated holiday in remembrance of Dr King.
- ▶ MLK holiday was first celebrated in 1986 on the third Monday in January.



Dr King was awarded 20 Honorary Degrees and was named Man of the Year by Time magazine.

- ▶ Dr King received degrees from colleges & universities across the US and around the world.
- ▶ In 1963, he became the first African American to be named Time magazine “Man of the Year”. The tribute included:
  - ▶ His photograph on the cover
  - ▶ A seven-page article
  - ▶ Photos of memorable moments of Dr. King’s career.



# There are approximately 900 streets named after MLK in the United States

- ▶ After his assassination, cities across the nation began naming and renaming streets in his honor.
- ▶ Countries such as Italy and Israel named streets in his honor.
- ▶ The number of streets increases every year, with 70 percent in Southern states,

