January 15, 1929: Born Michael King in Atlanta, Georgia. (His father changed their names to "Martin Luther" in 1934 following a trip to Germany.)

1944: Won a high school speech competition in Dublin, Georgia, with "The Negro and the Constitution."

September 1944: Attends Morehouse College in Atlanta, majoring in sociology, at the age of 15.

February 1956: Dr. King was giving a speech in Nashville, Tennessee, when he was indicted for anti-boycott laws in Alabama.

April 15, 1960: King delivers the keynote speech at the founding of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which organized sit-ins and freedom rides.

February 1957: Helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), a church-based civil rights organization.

May 1957: At the "Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom" in Washington, D.C., King gives his first national address.

October 25, 1960: King was sent to Reidsville Prison in Tennessee, when he was indicted for anti-boycott laws in Alabama.

April 4, 1967: Dr. King delivers "Beyond Vietnam" speech to more than 250,000 at the "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom." (Not mentioned in the text.)

February 28, 1965: Dr. King delivers "I have a Dream" speech to more than 250,000 at the "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom" at the Lincoln Memorial.

September 19, 1954: King becomes pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

March 18, 1968: Delivers speech to 15,000 in the Church of God in Christ's Mason Temple in Memphis, Tennessee. Over 50,000 people surrounded the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta for his funeral on April 9.