



The March on Washington

By Brother Robert Stephens

Day 6
February 28, 2023

Scriptures for Mediation

And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, *and* the mighty men of valor. You shall march around the city, all *you* men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

Joshua 6:2-4

Critical Race Facts!

When eleven Southern states seceded from the Union to form the Confederate States of America, sparking the Civil War in 1861, they made no secret of their ultimate aim: to preserve the institution of slavery. As Confederate Vice-President Alexander H. Stephens explained, the ideological "cornerstone" of the new nation they sought to form was that "the negro is not equal to the white man" and "slavery subordination to the superior race is his natural and moral condition."

Prayer:

Lord, you have given me a voice. Thank You. Help me not to only depend on the voice that you have given me, but help me to know and understand the strength that comes with our collective voices. In Jesus Name, Amen.

The March on Washington was known as the "Great March on Washington." It was held in Washington, D. C. on August 28, 1963. The purpose for this march was to bring about civil and economic rights of African Americans. There were two men who organized the "March." They were A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin. They built an alliance of civil rights, labor, and religious organizations that came together under the banner of jobs and freedom. The "March" concluded at the front on the Lincoln Memorial where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made his famous and what came to be his final speech, "I Have a Dream." This "March" was one of the largest political rallies for human rights in the United States.

The March on Washington was not the first planned march. During the 20th century, civil rights organizers began to develop ideas for a march on Washington, D. C. to seek justice. After gathering many Black protestors, A. Philip Randolph was able to get President Franklin D. Roosevelt to issue an Executive Order. He did so on June 25, 1941. The order established the Committee on Fair Employment Practices and banned discrimination against workers in defense industries and government and establishing the Fair Employment Practice Committee to investigate charges of racial discrimination. In return, Randolph called off the planned march.

The 1963 march was part of the rapidly expanding Civil Rights Movement., which involved demonstrations and nonviolent actions across the United states. This is where many other civil rights organizations came together, such as the National Association for the Advancement of Color People (NAACP) and the Southern Leadership Conference. Many white and black people came together because of the urgency for change in the nation.

The March on Washington is credited with helping to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It came after the Selma Voting Rights Movement. National media coverage contributed to the passage of the Voting Rights of 1965, that same year.

Question to Ponder

Have you ever participated in a march or protest? What was nature of the protest? What were the lessons learned? How do you continue to allow your voice to be heard?

