MARTIN LUTHER KING’S NAME

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Fun fact: Did you know that Martin Luther King’s first two names weren’t “Martin Luther”?

“Dr. King’s given name was actually Michael, after his father, the Rev. Michael King Sr. In 1934, after King Sr. attended an international Baptist conference in Germany where he became inspired by the teachings of 16th-century religious thinker Martin Luther, he changed both his name and his son’s. At the time, [the younger] King was already 5 years old, so he remained “Mike” to his closest friends and family for the rest of his life, according to *Time*.” (From: “Interesting and Unique Things About Martin Luther King Jr.” *Insider*.*com*.)

Another fun fact: purely by coincidence, the Hebrew work for “king” is . . . MLK!

Hebrew at the time the Bible was written did not record vowels; those weren’t written down until about the 800s CE. According to the 800s pronunciation, the word MLK was pronounced “melek.” It is found in the name “Melchizedek” (Gen 14): *melek* + *sedeq* = “king of righteousness.”