

ALLUSIONS in “I Have a Dream”

Five score years ago...	Gettysburg Address: “Four score and seven years ago...” Originally from the Bible: Psalms 90:10 in the King James Version: “Three score and ten years ago...” as the average age of men.
It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.	Bible: Psalms 30:5: “weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning...”
...would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness...	Declaration of Independence
This sweltering summer of the Negro’s legitimate discontent will not pass...	Shakespeare’s Richard III: “Now is the winter of our discontent / Made glorious summer by this sun of York.”
Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.	Bible: Jeremiah 2:13: “For my people have committed two evils: They have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold not water.”
...we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream...	Bible: Old Testament: Prophet Amos 5:24 “But let judgment roll down like waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.”
I have a dream that one day down in Alabama with its vicious racists, with its governor...	Refers to Governor George Wallace
One day every valley shall be exalted...	Bible: Isaiah 40:4-5: Prophet says on the Lord’s Day, the whole Earth and all its inhabitants will reflect God’s glory
My country ‘tis of thee, sweet land of liberty...	1831 song “My Country ‘Tis of Thee” written by Samuel F. Smith to the melody of “God Save the Queen”
We will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands...	Bible: Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.