

# BLACK AUGUST: HONORING RESISTANCE, FAITH, AND LEGACY

Commemorating pivotal figures and  
historic events



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# OUTLINE OF LESSON

- Origins and Significance of Black August
- James Baldwin: Literary Voice and Activist
- Marcus Garvey: Pan-Africanism and Black Empowerment
- W.E.B. Du Bois: Scholar and Social Justice Advocate
- The 1963 March on Washington: Pivotal Event in Black History

# ORIGINS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF BLACK AUGUST

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” (2 Corinthians 3:17)

# HISTORICAL ROOTS AND PURPOSE OF BLACK AUGUST

## Origin in 1970s

Black August began in the 1970s, inspired by political prisoners' acts of resistance against oppression.

## Commemoration of Struggles

The event honors the struggles and sacrifices of Black people, highlighting their ongoing fight for justice.

## Emphasis on Resilience

Black August emphasizes resilience and revolutionary spirit within the Black community against oppression.



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# WHAT IS BLACK AUGUST?

- 
- Month of remembrance and resistance, begun in California prisons in the 1970s.
- 
- Honors freedom fighters and Black leaders who sacrificed for liberation.
- 
- Connects past struggles for justice to ongoing ones.
- 
- Biblical Insight: Hebrews 11 – remembering a 'cloud of witnesses' who endured suffering for a greater promise.



# KEY EVENTS COMMEMORATED DURING BLACK AUGUST

## Uprisings and Resistance

Black August commemorates historical uprisings that highlight the struggle against oppression and fight for freedom.

## Hunger Strikes

Hunger strikes are remembered as powerful acts of resistance advocating for justice and prisoner rights.

## Freedom Fighters' Legacy

The lives of freedom fighters are honored for their sacrifice and inspiration toward community empowerment.



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# IMPORTANCE IN CONTEMPORARY ACTIVISM

## Connecting Past and Present

Black August links historical struggles with current activism to inspire ongoing movements for justice.

## Reinforcing Cultural Pride

It strengthens cultural identity among communities through remembrance and celebration of heritage.

## Fostering Community Solidarity

Black August promotes unity and collective action against systemic oppression among diverse groups.



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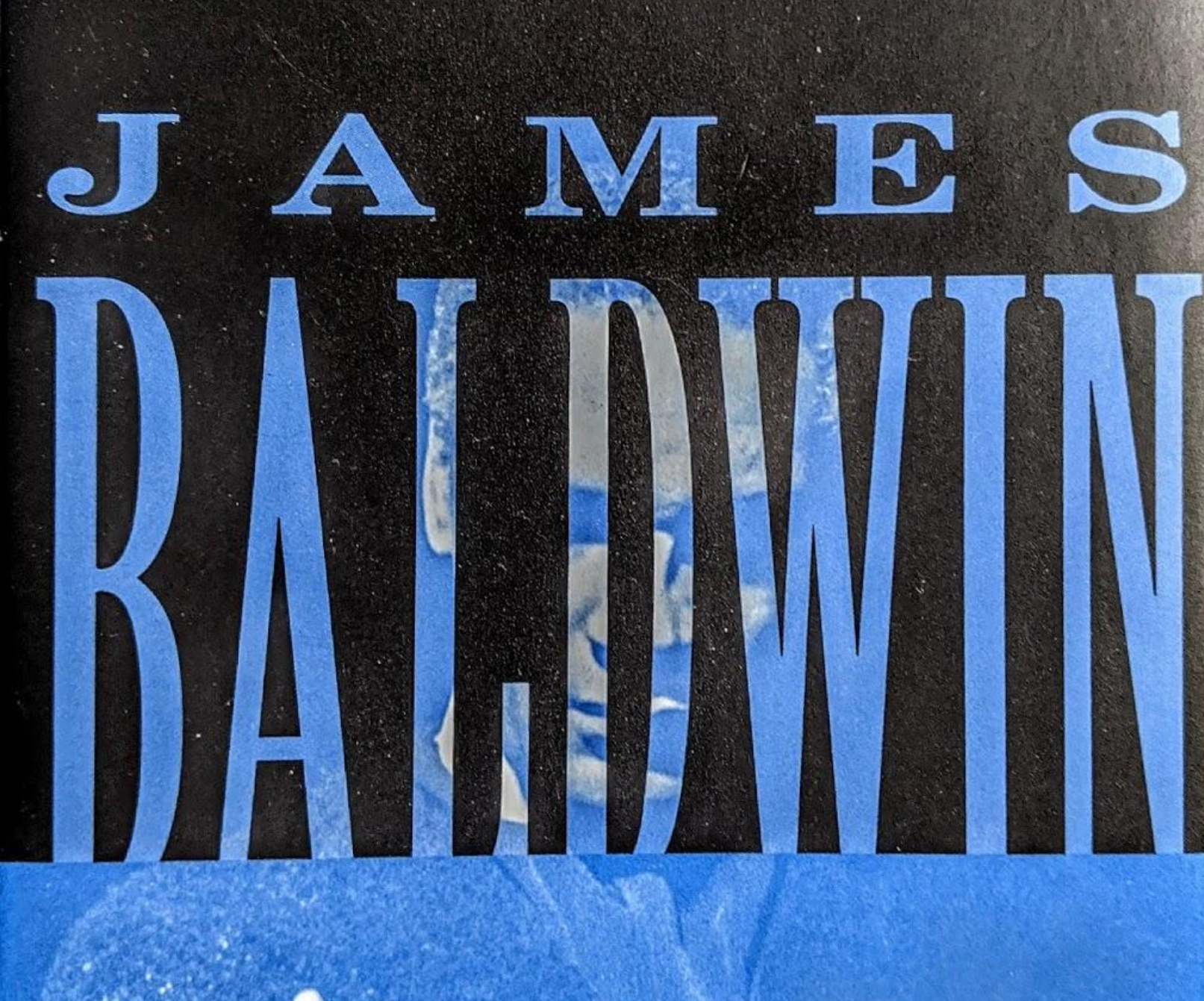
# JAMES BALDWIN: LITERARY VOICE AND ACTIVIST





## JAMES BALDWIN (1924–1987)

- • Writer, essayist, prophetic voice on race and justice.
- • Spoke truth about America's racial hypocrisy, blending art and activism.
- • Emphasized love and honesty in confronting oppression.
- • Biblical Connection: Like the prophets, Baldwin called society to repent and face truth. 'Let justice roll down like waters.' (Amos 5:24)



# JAMES BALDWIN'S MAJOR WORKS AND INFLUENCE

## Major Literary Works

Baldwin authored influential novels, essays, and plays such as 'Go Tell It on the Mountain' and 'The Fire Next Time'.

## Critique of Racism

His eloquent critique of racism challenges social injustices and highlights identity struggles.

## Global Influence

Baldwin's ideas on race and identity continue to resonate and inspire audiences around the world.





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# ROLE IN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENTS

## **Literary Activism**

Baldwin used his writings to highlight racial inequality and promote social justice.

## **Public Debates**

He engaged in public debates to challenge segregation and systemic discrimination.

## **Inspiring Activism**

His activism inspired generations of civil rights advocates worldwide.



# BALDWIN'S LEGACY IN BLACK AUGUST REFLECTIONS

## **Exposing Racial Injustice**

Baldwin bravely highlighted racial injustice, inspiring awareness and calls for social change.

## **Commitment to Freedom**

His work emphasized the importance of freedom and human dignity for all people.



# MARCUS GARVEY: PAN-AFRICANISM AND BLACK EMPOWERMENT



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# LIFE AND PHILOSOPHY OF MARCUS GARVEY

## **Black Nationalism Advocacy**

Garvey promoted pride and unity among Black communities through Black nationalism principles.

## **Economic Independence**

He emphasized the importance of economic self-sufficiency for Black empowerment.

## **Return to African Roots**

Garvey inspired a cultural reconnection to African heritage and identity.

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# MARCUS GARVEY (1887–1940)



- • Founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA).
- • Promoted Black pride, economic self-sufficiency, and Pan-Africanism.
- • Message: 'Up, you mighty race, accomplish what you will.'
- • Biblical Connection: Like Nehemiah rebuilding Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2), Garvey called his people to rise, rebuild, and reclaim dignity.

# GARVEY'S UNIA AND GLOBAL MOVEMENT



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## **Largest Black Mass Movement**

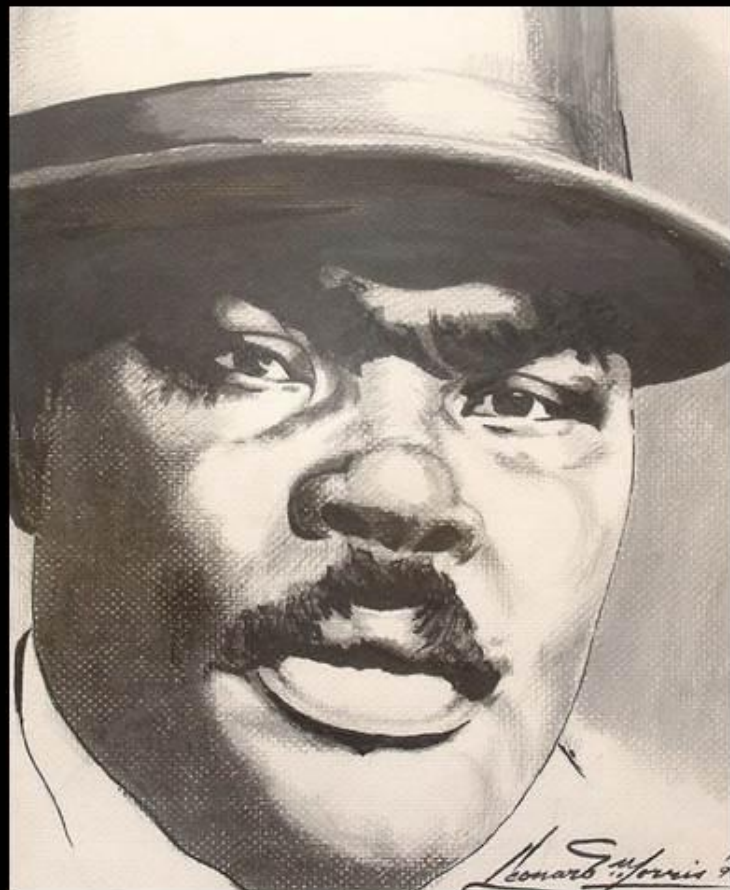
UNIA was the largest Black mass movement of its era, mobilizing people worldwide for cultural pride.

## **Global Solidarity**

The movement promoted solidarity among Black communities across the globe, fostering a shared identity and purpose.

## **Cultural Pride Promotion**

UNIA emphasized the importance of cultural pride and heritage, inspiring empowerment and self-respect.



**"If we as a people  
realized the greatness  
from which we came, we  
would be less likely to  
disrespect ourselves"**

Exonerate Marcus Garvey: <http://bit.ly/KqUrGh>

## COMMEMORATION OF GARVEY DURING BLACK AUGUST

### Garvey's Vision

Garvey's vision emphasized Black unity and empowerment as foundational principles for progress.

### Black August Celebration

Black August commemorates Garvey's legacy, inspiring ongoing social justice movements.



# W.E.B. DU BOIS: SCHOLAR AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATE



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## W.E.B. DU BOIS (1868–1963)

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- Scholar, sociologist, co-founder of the NAACP.

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- Advocated for higher education, leadership, and civil rights.

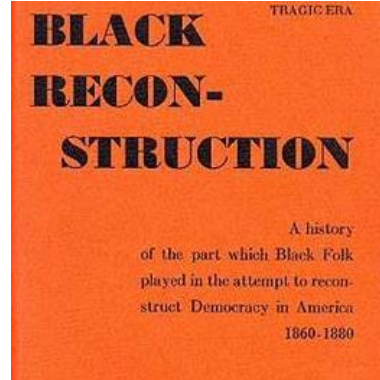
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- Vision of the 'Talented Tenth' as leaders for uplift.

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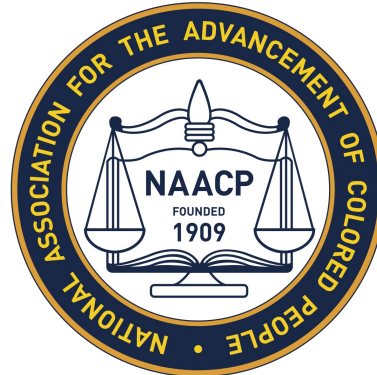
- Biblical Connection: Proverbs 4:7 – 'Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom.'

# DU BOIS'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIOLOGY AND CIVIL RIGHTS



## Pioneering Ideas on Race

Du Bois introduced groundbreaking concepts on race and social inequality that shaped sociological thought.



## Co-founder of NAACP

He co-founded the NAACP, a key organization advocating for civil rights and racial justice in America.



## Advancement of Education

Du Bois worked tirelessly to advance education and political empowerment for Black communities.





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# KEY WRITINGS AND ACTIVISM

## Seminal Literary Work

His writings, such as 'The Souls of Black Folk,' critically addressed systemic racism and social injustice.

## Vision for Equality

He articulated a compelling vision for racial equality that inspired debate and activism over many decades.



# DU BOIS'S LASTING IMPACT AND RECOGNITION IN BLACK AUGUST

## **Intellectual Legacy**

Du Bois's ideas and scholarship have deeply influenced civil rights and social justice movements worldwide.

## **Relentless Pursuit of Justice**

Du Bois dedicated his life to fighting racial inequality and promoting justice for marginalized communities.

## **Inspiration for Future Generations**

Black August celebrates Du Bois's impact, inspiring ongoing activism and commitment to equality worldwide.





# THE 1963 MARCH ON WASHINGTON: PIVOTAL EVENT IN BLACK HISTORY





# THE 1963 MARCH ON WASHINGTON

- • Over 250,000 gathered for Jobs and Freedom.
- • Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech was central.
- • Demanded civil and economic rights, echoing biblical justice.
- • Biblical Connection: Exodus 3 – God hears the cries of the oppressed and calls leaders to deliver His people.



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# BACKGROUND AND ORGANIZATION OF THE MARCH

## Civil Rights Leadership

The march was led by prominent civil rights leaders who aimed to unify diverse communities for social justice causes.

## Unity Across Differences

The event brought together people from various racial and economic backgrounds to support shared goals of equality.

## Advocacy Goals

The march focused on demanding jobs, freedom, and civil rights legislation to address systemic inequalities.



# MAJOR FIGURES AND SPEECHES (INCLUDING BALDWIN'S PARTICIPATION)

## Iconic Civil Rights Speeches

Leaders delivered powerful speeches that inspired change and mobilized supporters nationwide during the civil rights movement.

## James Baldwin's Contribution

James Baldwin added a compelling literary and activist voice, influencing public opinion and energizing the movement.





# LEGACY OF THE MARCH AND ITS RELEVANCE TO BLACK AUGUST

## Inspiration from the March

The march's legacy motivates continued activism and emphasizes the importance of unity in social justice movements.

## Commemoration During Black August

Black August honors the ongoing fight for justice through remembrance and community activism inspired by the march.

## Power of Collective Action

The march exemplifies how collective action drives social change and sustains movements for justice over time.

# THE THREAD OF FAITH

- • Garvey: Building nations with vision.
- • Du Bois: Education as liberation.
- • Baldwin: Prophetic truth-telling.
- • March on Washington: Collective faith in justice.
- • Micah 6:8 – 'What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.'

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# NEXT STEPS

- Study and honor Black August figures.
- Connect faith with activism.
- Stand for justice in our communities.
- Live out Baldwin's courage, Du Bois's wisdom, Garvey's vision, and the March's collective hope.

# CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:1 – 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners.'

# CONCLUSION

## **Honoring Resilience and Courage**

Black August commemorates the strength and bravery shown by Black resistance throughout history.

## **Legacy of Resistance**

The legacy of Black resistance is preserved through historic events and influential leaders.

## **Inspiration for Modern Movements**

Stories from Black August inspire contemporary movements for equity and liberation worldwide.